

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 19.45 at Felmingham Village Hall

Present

Vice Chairman Neil Thrush, Cllr. John Newstead, Cllr. Syd Arksey, Cllr. Mike Pepperell and County Councillor Saul Penfold.

Apologies

Chairman Tim Papworth, Cllr. John Gouldsmith, Keith Dally, District Councillor Greg Hayman

- **Minutes from the previous year's events**
 - Signed by Vice Chairman Neil Thrush
- **Matters arising from Minutes**
 - None
 - Cllr Saul Penfold updated the meeting on the North Walsham West extension and encouraged people to visit the consultation website and comment on the proposal.
- **Heaths**
 - **Bryants Heath**
 - Liz Wilson and Pam Neile were thanked by the Vice Chairman for their support and help working on the Heath together with the other volunteers
 - Natural England continue to be happy with progress on work on the Heath and approve the BMX track.
 - The Clerk was asked to send the County Councillor a copy of the council's public liability insurance.
 - The orienteering club has been using the Heath
 - A 14 year old is helping with the conservation work on the Heath for their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award and has to do 26 weeks of 1 hour per week to qualify for the award.
 - No progress on the hydrological lease. Neil Thrush is continuing work on this.
 - **Stow Heath**
 - No update
- **Allotments**
 - No vacant plots and all rents up to date.
 - 1 name on the waiting list.
 - Mr Witham will be giving up his allotments from October 2021. The Parish Council needs to decide what it is going to do with the significant number of plots which will become available. Options suggested included horse grazing,

community orchard, some additional smaller allotment plots, returning some of the land back to Norfolk County Council. There will be a deficit of £358 per annum in the Parish Council income and unless this shortfall is not found through reletting the vacant allotments, an increase in the parish precept will be on the cards again for next year. The Clerk asked for all suggestions to be emailed to her for consideration at the next meeting in August.

- **Highways**

- Potholes etc can all be reported directly to Highways via their website.

- **Planning**

- The planning application submitted for the old rectory has been withdrawn. There was a good parish response to a badly thought through application. Hopefully an improved application will be submitted to retain a historical building in the village.
- North Walsham West extension project is now open for first stage consultation. A significant development of 1000+ dwellings, school, shops, industrial units and new southern bypass around North Walsham.

- **RFO and Clerk's Report**

- Bank balance - £3888.17 as at end of April 2021.
- Internet banking was discussed. It was accepted that while adoption of internet banking would bring the Council up to date with modern working practices, the council has so few transactions it probably isn't worth doing.
- The annual audit exemption certificate paperwork has been received and acknowledged by Littlejohns.
- Insurance was renewed with Zurich at an additional cost of £3.

- **Any other business**

- Cllr. Sid Arksey had received no further comments on the draft risk assessment document. It was suggested that a sub-committee was created to finalise this document and also create the Emergency plan since progress has stagnated.
- The Village Hall committee was thanked for the work being done. There was a lot more still to be done to provide an asset for the future of the village. A lot of the work was being done by the committee members themselves.
- The Village Hall will be added as an agenda item on the Parish Council Agenda as a regular item.
- The Clerk was asked to send an email to the County Councillor about the poor broadband and mobile phone service in the village.
- Cllr Mike Pepperell proposed upgrading the SAM camera to record the times that people have been speeding at a cost of £300 plus an additional bracket to enable easier repositioning of SAM. This was seconded by Cllr Neil Thrush.
- The Clerk to investigate the links on the Parish website to the Village Hall site

- The Clerk was asked to write to 4 Highfields about cutting their hedge back.

The meeting closed at 21.30.

The next meeting and AGM will be held on Tuesday 24th August 2021 at 7:45 in Felmingham Village Hall

Signed by Chairman

Date