ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 21st November

 2023 at 7pm Meeting held at Thorpe Hall Ashwellthorpe

 Present: J Ives (Chair)

 M Williams

C Leggett

S Allen

R Burridge

 Alan Arber (Clerk)

District Councillor Bob McClenning

4 members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Serge Engamba. All agreed to accept

1. Declarations of Interest None.

No declarations of interest

1. Minutes of the Meetings on 24th October 2023

The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: Cllr Allen**

1. Public Open Forum

County Councillor Catherine Rowett’s report detailed as Appendix 1

District Councillor Ian Spratt sent the following report as Appendix 2

District councillor Bob McClenning gave the following report

A process of one size fits all to all councils and to assist the councils on Flooding and yet no response has been coming forward from the county council when the report is known. South Norfolk House is being knocked down with new housing going on the old site with many councils wanting to use the buildings and their uses of various schemes.

Horizon House is a worry as the building is not suitable for use and the district councillor felt strongly on this and that the move from Long Stratton should never have happened.

National grid is still providing sites for pylons that will spoil our countryside and the worry is they are more intrusive and bigger than the current ones.

Community benefits seem to suit the bigger communities seem to be getting a bigger slice of the pie than smaller communities

Grants are still available via such schemes are being used such as Pride in place and the council was urged to use this system to get any new schemes to help the village moving forward.

1. Planning

2023/3112 Supported by the Parish Council

2023/3113 Supported by the Parish Council

2023/3432 Supported by the Parish Council

2023/3433 Supported by the Parish Council

1. Matters Arising from previous Minutes.

a). The clerk has ordered the Defib pads and Bleed kits (critical Injury Kits) and payment will be made asap.

7) To hear an update and consider any necessary action regarding the following

Speed Awareness Machines and Faults

The clerk reported that he had submitted the Parish Partnership application and we await the news in early March if we are successful for the new SAM 2 machine under the grant scheme

All three district and council councillors have agreed to help the parish councils in their area with these schemes and a contribution will be made to all were possible from their Highways Budget

8). Finance

1. To note the following payments made since last meeting

None

1. To consider payment of the following:
2. A Arber October Salary £384.09
3. EE Mobile Internet for Clerk’s office Oct £41.18
4. Npower Street Lights October £59.97
5. HMRC Tax and NI October £81.80
6. TT Jones Street Light maintenance £130.68
7. W Hodgson Grass Cutting at pond area £230.00
8. Broxap Adult Play equipment £7487.40
9. Monarch New Play area signs £378.00
10. VINCENT-BUNN Footpath maintenance £394.60

1. To note any payments received after the agenda is posted

None

Xi Receipts since last meeting

None

**Proposed Cllr Williams Seconded Cllr Ives**

Xii Councils current financial standing

Community Account: £8280.22

Business Account: £1471.67

Total of both accounts £9751.89

The Chair signed the bank statements as a true record of this minute.

Xiii . To agree note transfer of £2000 from savings account to help with Adult Gym payment

**The clerk commented that this has taken place and can be seen with the totals of the savings account this month reduced by £2000**

Xiv . To agree the appointment of Sonya Blythe as the Internal Auditor for year end 2023-2024

**Proposed Cllr Leggett Seconded Cllr Williams**

xv. The clerk made comment that at the end of November he will be reclaiming £1645.99 in vat

**The clerk also brought to the councillor’s attention that the clerks pay increase has been agreed at £1 per hour and is back dated till April 2023 meaning that the clerk is owed 30 weeks at 6 hours a week back pay totalling £180 which will be paid at the dec payment schedule.**

 9) Update on Thorpe Hall and other issues.

a) The Chair reported on the recent trustees meeting and actions to be undertaken asap. Some of the 24 items raised will be dealt with as a matter of course. Xmas fayre will be held on 2/12 with other fundraising events and social activities for all to enjoy. A live Xmas tree will go up and will be light up for xmas. The village hall sign is not very noticeable and a neon type sign is needed to highlight the hall’s location from the road. The rental of the Parish office was also brought up and this is ongoing. Questions were raised on access to the office and who has access which was raised along with only trustees and the caretaker has access and they would be contacted if in an emergency arose.

It was felt the chair goes back with costings for the hire of the office and meeting room to the trustees to agree a charge of £300 for the office and meeting room.

1. Footpaths

The clerk and the chair had held a meeting with Mr VINCENT-BUNN to understand better how the footpaths are cut and when and this was very helpful and it was agreed that the footpaths cut would be shown on the invoice. The clerk will also get copies of the maps printed for the council plus the footpath warden.

1. Village maintenance

The clerk commented that the new signs had been received and need erecting asap. They are a good size and should really help people understand the issues we have faced. New noticeboard for Fundenhall to be ordered

 The area really looks good and it shall be kept as such moving forward

*Standing Orders suspended to allow parishioners to speak on this matter*

1. To review the data from the SAM 2 machine including New Road

The Sam data had been downloaded from the recent site on New Road and the information was very interesting with only one speeder at 60 mph found on 20/11 at 3.35am. it was agreed we would keep the SAM 2 machine in the same location to get further information before we can make a claim to Norfolk County Council to request a speed limit reduction coming from Tacolneston but as the County Councillors report at the start of the meeting this, Unfortunately looks a difficult proposal to move forward but the council will continue to ask the questions on this.

Comments were made on this and the worries on this and the level of traffic that now uses New Road as a rat run and although the clerk has written to Highways, they have refused the request at present.

The clerk will build a case to submit to highways again including details of the damaged notice board and planter moving forward.

A question was raised on talking to Mr Dring and Highways to cut his hedges back

*Standing orders reinstated after parishioners finished speaking*

* 1. To look at current providers for contractors to the parish council for services

Already dealt with.

The clerk will work with Cllr Leggett to get new quotes from news suppliers to see if the match the current ones.

* 1. To agree how the Mardle moves forward

To be discussed in 2024

* 1. To discuss the purchase of a new litter bin for the play area

Once the signage is up the clerk will investigate this asap

* 1. To discuss the issue with the Wood farm development

Cllr Williams is awaiting a reply from Mr Muskett on this

* 1. Memorial event

 It was agreed the date for event would now be in early 2024

1. Correspondence.

SAM 2 machine downloaded and reports detailed at this meeting

New adult play equipment installed

Asset register to be updated asap

Planning application 2023/3432 received

Planning application 2023/3433received

Planning application 2023/3112received

Planning application 2023/3113 received

Parish partnership application submitted

Website updated

Email sent to website contractor to look at producing a new website

Insurance claim submitted

More work on the budget

Emails sent to Cllr Engamba on Bleed Kits but they are easier to get ourselves

Research done on Defib batteries

Quote for New notice board and planter received from KBS depot

New clerks pay scales and back pay information received

Back Pay calculated for payment in Dec meeting

Community hot spot information received but due to bad take up last winter it will not run as no volunteers to run the project

1. Items for the Next Meeting:

Clerk’s appraisal

Internal Control

Blacksmiths Lane and updated signage.

1. Date and Place of the Next Meeting:

12th December at Thorpe Hall at 6.30pm

Meeting closed 8.15 pm