

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7p.m
St Nicholas Church, Fundenhall, Norwich

Present: J Ives (Chair)
Nick de Spon
Roy Burridge
K Peake
G Williams
C Eastwood
S Allen
Mrs T Higlett (Clerk)
District Cllrs G Francis and N Legg

1) To consider apologies for absence.

District Councillor Vivienne Clifford-Jackson passed on her apologies due to health reasons

2) Declarations of interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.

None. An open discussion was had around whether councillors who are Trustees to Thorpe Hall should declare an interest. They will abstain from voting should there be the requirement otherwise as representatives, they are updating the Parish Council as per formal agenda.

3) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October and 16th November 2021

October minutes were approved. November minutes were not approved.

4) To consider matters arising from the minutes.

Nothing

5) Public Open Forum

Member of public spoke of concerns around communication from the parish council to residents, including the village magazine, which has not been published lately.

Cllr Legg spoke of the closure of the district office over the Christmas period and that the review of accommodation has still to be decided upon. Envisages the decision being made at the next cabinet meeting. GNLP village clusters will go to public consultation in June/July 2022. Possible increase of 5% on council tax.

County Councillor not in attendance.

6) Planning

a) Consider response to following applications:

i) 2021/2655 Location: Land West of Bakers Cottage New Road Ashwellthorpe Norfolk

Proposal: Erection of new bungalow.

Members had no objections to the previous application 2020/2347 which was granted almost a year ago. This application shows minor changes to the roof and the internal layout. Application also appears to meet all regulations that were put in place by District Planning office. It was also noted

that the plans show that the rear of the bungalow has moved away from the edge of the Development Boundary.

Vote no objection to this application.

Proposed by Cllr Peake – seconded by Cllr Allen – all in favour

ii) 2021/2693 Location: Land Adjacent To 11 The Street Ashwellthorpe Norfolk

Proposal: Erection of 1.5 storey dwelling, utilising existing vehicular entrance and garage building

Members reviewed the application and noted it sits outside the development boundary and proposed they would not support the application.

Vote to not support application

Proposed by Cllr Peake – seconded by Cllr Allen – all in favour

b) Update on planning decisions

2021/1876 Land south of Wood Farm, erection of a single dwelling – Approved with conditions.

c) Discuss proposed planning procedure.

Cllr De Spon asked for this to be forwarded to councillors to enable them to advise on their comments to the clerk. Discussion followed as to whether there is a requirement to have a policy for dealing with planning applications and does how we currently deal with applications need reviewing. Draft policy was felt to be too complicated and further discussions should be had.

7) Finance

a) To note councils current financial standing

Community Account £20,467.90

Business Account £3447.58

b) To approve payments

Payee	Method	Description	Amount
EON	Direct debit	Streetlight electricity	32.91
T Higlett	Cheque	December salary	306.25
HMRC	Cheque	Clerks Tax	62.60
Autela Payroll	Cheque	Payroll Services	52.20
KBS Depot	Cheque	Noticeboard	598.80
TT Jones Electrical	Cheque	Street light maintenance	93.37
Adrian James Acoustics	Cheque	Acoustics testing	762.00
T Higlett	Cheque	January salary	306.45

c) Receipts since last meeting South Norfolk Council Grant £100.00.

Chairman spoke of purchasing new noticeboard for outside the old village store on the Street. There are still issues with accessing the Village Hall noticeboard. Left hand door has a lock fault, which means it cannot be accessed. Cllr Allen will see what needs to be done and advise council accordingly.

8) Budget 2022/23

Clerk had previously presented members a draft budget for 2022-23, for consideration prior to this meeting. It was proposed to accept the budget.

Vote to accept budget

Proposed by Cllr Eastwood – seconded by Cllr de Spon – all in favour.

9) To agree Precept for 2022/23

It was agreed that there would be no increase in the precept for 2022/23. Precept will be £10,205.

Vote to accept precept

Proposed by Cllr Peake – seconded by Cllr Williams – all in favour.

10) To receive a report on Thorpe Hall.

Discussion took place around the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council.

Cllr Williams apologised to the developer for sending out a letter to the residents of the Wood Farm development requesting information to assist Parish Council with the section 106 agreement and future ownership. Clerk advised a letter had since been sent advising residents that the letter was not sent or endorsed by the Parish Council and the information was not required. Cllr de Spon took the opportunity to explain why the Parish Council had not taken over ownership of Thorpe Hall on occupation of the 20th house. Nobody foresaw the global Covid 19 pandemic which caused difficulties for everyone and the restrictions which were imposed by government. This affected the developer with manpower and materials. The Parish Council were not prepared to take on an asset when it was not complete, this included waste land around the hall and the tennis courts.

If the hall had been built to original plans it would have given the village a sports hall. The Parish Council involving residents for their views were able to change the plans to the community centre we now have. Residents had called for, somewhere people could meet to socialise.

The village will have an asset which is valued at a £1,000,000 and were prepared to wait for completion. Thorpe Hall has been operating under license since the 6th May and has been in continuous use since then. It is hoped that more people will use it.

Cllr Peake will carry out a snagging exercise to advise what still needs to be addressed before ownership. Cllr de Spon asked for the list to be circulated on completion

Previous to this meeting Cllr Peake and Cllr Williams had made a request to the Chairman to call an extraordinary meeting to discuss the hall. Cllr Williams advised he would like to now rescind this request after the explanation given by Cllr de Spon.

For documenting Cllr de Spon and Cllr Eastwood are both Trustees of the hall.

11) Reports

a) Footpaths- Cllr Peake. Footpaths are really muddy which has been caused by the weather and the volume of footfall. It was proposed that the field edge paths around farm land should be staked to show the 1.5 metres width, which needs reinstating and to be left undisturbed. Footpaths or bridleways should not be ploughed. Norfolk County Council Countryside Access Officer (CAO) has in the past contacted the landowners regarding the ploughing of FPs 7, 8 & 9. Resident on The Street has contacted the Clerk about the amount of mud that is being left on the pathway outside their property, from people stamping it off their footwear. Clerk advised that the CAO has also after

viewing the barbed wire fence on FP1 has sent a letter to the landowner. Latest update on Hudmans Lane Fundenhall is the CAO has sent a letter to the landowner regarding the damage caused by tractor towing a trailer. Footpaths are being churned up by equipment using it with farm traffic probably using them once every few weeks.

b) Village maintenance

Mardens Gardens have advised they will be increasing their labour rates from £14.75 per hr to £15.00

Council voted to go ahead with increase

Proposed by Cllr Eastwood – seconded by Cllr Allen – all in favour

c) Community Speedwatch – Cllr Williams advised supplier should have dispatched two new batteries today for the speed awareness machines. Proposed agenda point for next meeting to discuss ongoing issues. To include, if possible, a timeline showing how long previous councillor had been corresponding with supplier.

12) Matters raised by councillors and members of the public (for information only)

Due to unforeseen circumstances Minutes had not been displayed as per standing orders.

13) To update on Ashwellthorpe Village Hall

The village hall had issues with the flooring but this has now been rectified. The original flooring which had been covered with a vinyl flooring was beginning to lift due to damp. This was investigated and it was decided to take out the old floor boards, and put down a damp proof membrane and a new floor and put down a new vinyl floor. This was all done during the summer 2021 during the school holidays. The perimeter of the hall has been dug out to see if everything is ok with the foundations, no issues found.

Cllr de Spon advised the hall is hired solely to Bramble Bears as it meets their risk assessments in safeguarding the children who use the nursery. It also enables them to leave the equipment out rather than putting into storage prior to the hall being used by other hirers. These hirers now have the use of Thorpe Hall.

14) Consultations

a) Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-Submission Consultation – Council duly noted

15) Correspondence

a) Correspondence noted regarding displaying of council minutes.

b) Letter received from resident offering assistance in the planting of wildflowers around the pond, Thorpe Hall and sports field. Council duly noted. Cllr de Spon advised 190 trees and hedging have been sourced for planting around the grounds from NCC. A request for volunteers to assist with the planting. Will also look for professional advice on drawing up a planting plan.

16) Date of next meeting.

15th February 2022, Thorpe Hall Ashwellthorpe.

Meeting closed at 21:10

