

# The Parish Council Meeting of Flitcham cum Appleton Parish Council

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

held at The Community Centre, Flitcham

**Present:** R Gray (V Chair) Terry Allen  
Ann Beasley  
Cllr. S Dark  
Gill Welham – Clerk

Members of the Public: Robert Timmins, Denise House

## **06.01.01 Welcome from the Chair**

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Gray chaired the meeting. Before opening the meeting Cllr Gray thanked everyone for their kind and comforting words following the passing of his wife Joan and went on to wish all the attendees a happy and healthy New Year, thanking them for attending the meeting.

## **06.01.02 To receive and consider apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Susan Allen - Chair

## **06.01.03 To receive Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **06.01.04 To approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

As Cllr Gray did not attend the meeting, Cllr T Allen proposed the minutes were accepted, seconded by Cllr Beasley. The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chair.

## **06.01.05 Matters arising from the minutes not already on the Agenda**

01.07.09 b/f previous minutes – RGray to purchase bulk supply of AAA batteries for defib cabinet. The batteries are not required urgently **Action R Gray**

02.09.09 TAllen had purchased Caps required for the Children's playground but would not be fitted until the better weather. **Action: TAllen**

04.11.09 Defibrillator pads had been sourced and purchased and 'The Circuit' updated to advise it was system ready.

04.11.12 A donation to NARS had been made in respect of the CPR training undertaken and a letter of thanks received back.

04.11.13 Cllr Beales would be reminded that the PC were still awaiting further information regarding CIL funding. The contact at Borough overseeing the funding is Amanda Driver. **Action: Clerk**

04.11.14 Cllr Allen advised that having spoken to Robert Walden regarding the requirements of keeping the village sign maintained, it was felt the work required was not appropriate for LA Garden Landscape and therefore would undertake the paintwork etc of the sign himself.

04.11.15 TA had spoken with Robert Walden re the Flitcham History website. The content of the site is all stored on a disc and could easily be used to get a new site up and running, but at a cost. The Clerk offered to look at options and revert back in time for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

## **06.01.06 Public Question Time**

There were no questions from members of the public.

## **06.01.07 Reports from the councillors of NCC**

Cllr Dark advised there was to be a full council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the County Deal. Unfortunately with the change of Government, all progress that had already been made was no longer on the table and negotiations are to start afresh. The initial offer was an additional £600k to assist with funding adult care over the next 10 years which was felt not ambitious enough. No major changes had been made to the running of local government since 1972 and the proposal is to have an elected Mayor covering Norfolk and Suffolk. The meeting was more about understanding what the mood was across the County for this move before giving it the green light. This is likely to delay the county elections due in May 2025.

Cllr Dark will be unable to attend the Sandringham meeting as it is scheduled for the same day as the above discussed meeting. He also advised that Norfolk now have a new Highways Engineer, the name of whom he would forward to the Clerk.

It was reported that there had been no increase in fly tipping since the changes to the Recycling Centre and the new booking system had been put in place. He advised that this was a money saving exercise, managing

staff time more effectively and to ultimately assist with increasing the income from the produce that is recycled. It would also alleviate the queuing on the A149 which was also an issue.

Cllr Richard Gray reported that the Community Centre AGM had not yet taken place and therefore the financial position was unknown. It was noted that the PC have not paid any rent for the use of the meeting room since March 2023. It was agreed that this should be an Agenda item for the next PC meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### 06.01.08 Correspondence

- ~ Email from BCKL&WN from planning re telephone kiosk
- ~ Email from BCKL&WN from planning re former Valley Filling Station change to office use
- ~ Letter of thanks from NARS for parish donation
- ~ Email from Cllr Dark re short consultation time was inadequate
- ~ Email from Stuart Ashworth in response to Cllr Dark agreeing to more consultation time
- ~ Email from BCKL&WN re West Norfolk Community Grants
- ~ Email from BCKL&WN re CIL Funding
- ~ Email from Norfolk Constabulary attaching Crime Prevention Handbook

#### 06.01.09 Income & Expenditure / Financial Matters

##### Finance

|                                                          |                                               |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 02.12                                                    | Interest received on Bus. Premium account     | £8.98     |
| Approval of payments as follows:                         |                                               |           |
| Payments made between meetings not yet formally approved |                                               |           |
| 18.11                                                    | BACS - LA Garden Maintenance (October)        | £50.00    |
| 18.11                                                    | BACS - G Welham (Defib4Life replacement pads) | £71.94    |
| 27.11                                                    | D/D – Information Commission Office renewal   | £35.00    |
| 17.12                                                    | BACS - LA Garden Maintenance (November)       | £50.00    |
| Payments for approval at this meeting                    |                                               |           |
| 06.01                                                    | BACS - G Welham (Clerk's Salary & expenses)   | £280.22   |
| 06.01                                                    | BACS - HMRC (Clerk Tax)                       | £70.00    |
| 06.01                                                    | BACS – Donation to St Mary's Church           | 350.00    |
| Total Expenditure                                        |                                               | £907.16   |
| Balance in current account                               |                                               | £937.31   |
| Balance in business saver account                        |                                               | £2,410.02 |
| Total balance remaining                                  |                                               | £3,347.33 |

The proposed 2025/26 budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to hold the donation to St Mary's Church at the same level as last year. The clerk was granted permission to make a payment of £350 to the church via BACS. **Action: Clerk**

Further discussion took place regarding the precept and it was agreed the PC had no choice but to increase the Precept by £300 to £4,400. The Clerk would complete the request and forward to the BC. **Action: Clerk**

The 2025/26 budget was formally agreed.

The memory stick was exchanged.

#### 06.01.10 To Review the Playground/Defibrillator monthly Inspection Reports

TA had circulated a report from the latest playground inspection. No one from the village had come forward with offers of help to assist with the maintenance of the playground and the Clerk had obtained a quote from a company that could provide a labourer to assist with the work, but this would still entail assistance from councillors. It was agreed that as the repair was not an immediate safety concern, the PC would wait for the formal annual inspection to take place which was due in February. Decisions regarding repairs will be taken following that. The Clerk would also investigate means of funding such repairs. **Action: Clerk**

RG had circulated the latest Defibrillator check list. All in working order. Batteries for the cabinet would be purchased in good time.

#### 06.01.11 To review items for discussion at Sandringham Meeting

The Chair was the invitee to attend the meeting but was now not well enough. Of the remaining councillors, only TA was available. The Clerk was therefore asked to write to Sandringham to advise the change of personnel attending the meeting. TA was well acquainted with the issues surrounding the events in 2023

and would be able to explain the impact of the events the residents of Flitcham had to endure. **Action: Clerk**

**06.01.12 To Review/Update the Emergency Plan**

This item was on the Agenda on behalf of the Chair, as she was not at the meeting, it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**06.01.13 To discuss proposals regarding the BT phone box**

BT have applied to remove the telephony of the phone box within the village and lock it. Flitcham village is within a conservation area and the phone box is an iconic piece of history that the village would not wish to lose. Data supplied by BT shows that the telephone within the box has not been used at all in the last 12 months, therefore the PC do not have any ammunition to fight against the decision. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond that the PC are unhappy about the decision to lose the telephony and would not wish for it to be locked, but it was felt it was probably already a fait accompli. **Action: Clerk**

**06.01.14 To discuss footpath on Abbey Road**

AB advised that the footpath was disappearing and becoming completely overgrown and very slippery with moss having covered the tarmac. The footpath commences from the junction on the RH side leading to Abbey Farm for a distance of c. 100 yards to number 78 Abbey Rd. It was agreed this was an area of work the Rangers should undertake. The Clerk was asked to email Highways with a copy to be sent to Cllr Dark. **Action: Clerk**

**06.01.15 Business Extra to the Agenda**

TA pointed out that Terry Elyard had mown the grass around the Memorial in time for the Remembrance Day services. It is something he has carried out for many years and it was thought it appropriate for the PC to send a letter of thanks to him for his years of service. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to him. **Action: Clerk**

**06.01.15 Date of next meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. Commencing 7:30pm**

**Action to be taken by the next meeting:**

**Clerk**

- Contact Cllr Beales re CIL funding
- Look at options for Flitcham History website
- Pay donation to St Mary's church
- Request precept
- Look at funding for repair of Playground
- Advise Sandringham re change of attendee
- Revert to BC&BT re phone box
- Contact Rangers
- Letter of thanks to Terry Elyard

**R Gray**

- Purchase AAA batteries for defibrillator cabinet

**T Allen**

- Purchase Caps for Playground

**Items for Next Meeting**

Flitcham Community Centre

Emergency Plan

Playground Maintenance

The meeting closed at 8:53 pm.