

The Parish Council Meeting of Fritcham cum Appleton Parish Council
Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.45 p.m.
at the Community Centre, Fritcham

Present: Mr Richard Gray – Chairman Monica Mortensson
Mr Geoff Kilham Joey Smithson
Cllr. Stuart Dark (part time) Gill Welham – Clerk
Member of the public: John Blyth

06.03.01 Welcome from chairman

The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.

06.03.02 To receive and consider apologies for absence

Cllr. Tim Tilbrook

06.03.03 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

06.03.04 To approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd January 2018.

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

06.03.05 Matters arising from the minutes

07.11.05 The BT phone box was still not working. Unfortunately GK had reported the matter several times but agreed to try once again to get the matter dealt with.

02.01.12 As all councillors were now aware, the cost of the defibrillator for the community was going to be subsidised by the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. Voting will be in place in all local Tesco stores from 1st March until 30 April 2018. It was unfortunate that the PC application was also up against Fritcham School and might therefore detract from the parish council campaign. In any event, as a result of the Tesco scheme, Cardiac Science have withdrawn their offer of help.

02.01.14 The housing scheme that MM had reported last meeting: RG advised that the Sandringham Estate were actively looking to build various properties on the estate land.

06.03.06 Public question time

John Blyth had attended the meeting to discuss the Starling Invasion that had overtaken the village. Although this was an item on the Agenda, it was agreed to bring this forward in order to discuss the matter openly. The council had received photos from residents complaining about the abnormal volume of starlings in the village as a result of a pig farm in a field behind many of the village properties. The resultant mess was having a negative impact on the village. The volume of starlings in the village had reached such great proportions that it had reached the ears of the BBC who showed a short clip video on the News.

The clerk had written to Sandringham Estate prior to the meeting to raise the matter with them and they responded that the pig farm was run by a third party but was in the process of being moved and the problem should resolve itself by early Spring. They also advised the flocks would disperse as we get closer to spring and the starlings start to pair up for nesting. This with the pigs moving would hopefully solve the problem.

There was still some concern about how long this was likely to take. Cllr Dark stated that this was the first he was aware of the problem but felt it should be escalated. He requested that the clerk forward the photographs, emails etc to him in order that he had the information to take the matter further on behalf of the parish council. **Action: Clerk**

06.03.07 Reports from the councillors of NCC and BCKL&WN

Cllr Dark advised the budget had been set for NCC which would result in a council tax increase of 5.99% to help cover the 3% increase agreed nationally for adult social care. This would result in a better link between hospitals and adult social care. The additional 2.99% would be used for front line services. This should

ensure the rural bus subsidy will stay and the gritting routes would not be diminished. The government had also removed the pay cap on public sector workers to try and resolve the pay gap. There was still the need for £20m saving over the next 4 years but this in real terms was not a huge amount of money when you consider the budget for Children's Services alone was £130m.

With regard to the PC concerns about the bridge on Hillington Road, Cllr Dark had requested the County Safety Officer carry out a report. As a result of this, the minimum we could expect to happen was extra signage further out. If the report highlights that more than this is required, the County would pay for it, otherwise the cost of extra signage would come from Cllr Dark's own budget.

He also stated that Stagecoach were pulling out of supplying bus services across the county, however there were discussions going on that he could not disclose as they were commercially sensitive at the moment, but he was confident that another organisation would provide bus services in their place. Children's school bus services had already been taken over by Lynx.

Libraries were being brought up to 21st Century. Plans were still in the consultation stage but were likely to be more like an Amazon operation which would save money compared to the large library buses being manned and maintained etc.

Cllr Tilbrook was unable to attend the meeting but had emailed some points for discussion. One was regarding Stagecoach and the other was the starling invasion both of which had been dealt with by Cllr. Dark. He did also mention the point that the Borough have changed the rules regarding objections from the parish council automatically going to the planning committee. They will be reviewed first by a panel to see if they have merit. Cllr Tilbrook did not support the idea but it had been passed. He stated that if Flitcham have any planning applications that are considered totally wrong by the parish council either being declined or accepted he could still take them to full committee.

06.03.08 Briefholders Reports

GKilham asked if the Rangers did visit at the due date as the leaves were still on the paths. The Clerk advised that Highways had stated they do not carry out sweeping of leaves as they are just left to rot and disperse naturally.

RG reiterated Cllr Tilbrooks message regarding planning changes.

06.03.09 Financial Matters

Noelyne Fuller had agreed to carry out the Internal Audit once again this year. This was approved by the parish council.

The clerk was due to attend a NALC training course next week regarding end of year accounts and the new audit regime. It had been agreed previously that the PC would fund the training cost.

The insurance schedule had been circulated prior to the meeting as it was felt that much of the cover given as standard was not required by the PC. Unfortunately it had not been possible to go through the schedule and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk should ask the insurance companies at the time of renewal whether there would be a reduction in premium if parts of the standard schedule of cover were removed.

Action: Clerk

Financial Report

The following cheque had been approved for payment at the January meeting prior to receiving the actual invoice.

489 Fentech Ltd	£240.00
Cheques for approval at this meeting	
490 Clerk's Salary (Gill Welham)	£136.22
491 HMRC (Clerk tax)	£32.80
492 BCL:&WN (Dog Bins)	£164.74
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Total Expenditure	£573.76

Balance in current account	£1,151.31
Balance in business saver account	£362.30
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Total balance remaining	£1,513.61

06.03.10 Grass Cutting Tender

The Clerk had tried by email, phone and text to contact Adam Fenn regarding grass cutting for 2018 but had no success. GK felt sure that AF would wish to continue doing this work for the community and would try and make contact with him. In the meantime it was agreed that should he wish to continue, the council would have no objections to him being awarded the 2018 contract assuming it was at the same rate as previously supplied. **Action: GW/GK**

06.03.11 Playground Inspection/Play Equipment

The report had been received and fortunately there were no major issues that required attention although there was some low level maintenance that needed work. The Clerk was asked to contact the playground equipment supplier to establish what paint they would recommend to use on the equipment in order to lengthen the life of the items. **Action: Clerk**

Adam Fenn would be asked to price the work that needed attention and put forward a tender for consideration.

The Clerk was asked to complete the documentation for the repeat inspection next year at the agreed renewal fee of £95 plus VAT. **Action: Clerk**

06.03.12 Norfolk Playing Fields Membership

RG had located the correspondence from Sandringham with regard to use of the playing field. This was passed to the Clerk to obtain an electronic version for the memory stick. Following discussions about the benefits of becoming a member of the association, it was agreed that Fritcham would not go ahead at this point in time.

06.03.13 Emergency Plan

It was agreed that a table top demonstration for the community should be held. JS suggested this should take place in September. This would give her the time to get it set up and advertised to ensure the community could be involved. **Action: JS**

06.03.14 Starling Invasion

This item had been covered at 06.03.06.

06.03.15 Correspondence

Tesco bags of help scheme – discussed under 06.03.05

E mail R Young regarding rural communities in danger. This was discussed but felt it was a sign of the times and there was very little more the PC could do. Much of the report would be covered by being neighbourly and looking out for each other. However no matter how many events were put on, you could not make people attend. As was often the case, it was the same people doing all the work for the PC/Social Club etc and attending the functions.

BCKL&WN WW1 Centenary Grant Fund. The council were not aware of any events taking place in the village to celebrate the event and therefore would not be applying for a grant.

02.01.16 Business Extra to the Agenda

A student social worker had contacted the clerk keen to know of any social events covering elderly people as she was trying to get information out to the service users she was working with. The Clerk had advised about Good Companions but she had been unable to establish who actually runs the group. MM agreed to find out from her contacts and would forward the email to the appropriate individual for the clerk.

02.01.17 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7:30pm (Note earlier time)

Action to be taken by the next meeting:

Clerk

- Send Cllr Dark information re Starling invasion
- Arrange insurance quotes
- Grass cutting tender
- Contact Playdale re paint to use for playground equipment
- Playground Inspection renewal forwarded
- Reminder for September 2018 meeting regarding Remembrance Day Wreath presentation

JS

- Organise table top demonstration for Emergency Plan

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

DRAFT