

# The Parish Council Meeting of Fritcham cum Appleton Parish Council

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

held at The Community Centre, Fritcham

**Present:** Richard Gray Ann Beasley  
Terry Allen  
Cllr Stuart Dark (NCC) Cllr A Beasley (BC)  
Gill Welham – Clerk

## **05.03.01 Welcome from the Chair**

As the Chair was unable to attend, Cllr R Gray (VC) took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

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

Chair S Allen sent apologies for absence.

## **05.03.03 Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **05.03.04 To approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chair in the Chair's absence.

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

09.01.11 The Rangers telephoned the Clerk whilst on site to establish where the standing water on Abbey Road was. Fortunately TA was available to speak with them and Highways are now aware of the issue.

09.01.14 West Norfolk Falls Project – the PC has registered their interest and will be kept updated.

All other matters were covered under Agenda items.

## **05.03.06 Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

## **05.03.07 Reports from the councillors of NCC and BCKL&WN**

Cllr Beales reported that the BC budget meeting had taken place and an average increase of 4.5% for Band D properties would be added to the Council Tax this year. MP Liz Truss for South West Norfolk is supporting the BC by lobbying Government for assistance as the area is exceptional with costs relating to the Internal Drainage Board.

Cllr Dark reported that County were currently setting budgets and it was likely that the council tax increase would be the maximum allowed. Costs were increasing and budgets were tight but he reassured the PC that Recycling Centres would continue. He was also aware the Police increase on council tax had been set at £10 per Band D.

He advised that in April he would receive his Local Members Fund and could assist the PC with Partnership funding if there was work that might be planned. He would also set aside some funding to assist the PC for proposed work on Abbey Road once agreed with Highways. He would also agree some Key Dates for the planned meeting with Highways.

With regard to Sandringham Concerts; he felt the meeting with Edward Parsons was very constructive. The current plan is to not hold concerts on a Bank holiday and lessons have been learned. They will be planning events for this summer in the very near future and have agreed to include all parties, BC, CC and parishes in reviewing all issues and discussing the extent of road closures. The PC will be contacted directly.

TA stated that at the meeting he recently attended with Terry Parish there was information relating to taxing empty properties that have been empty for more than a year as well as second homes. Cllr Dark confirmed that from 1<sup>st</sup> April, if a property has been empty for more than a year the owner will be liable for 200% of the council tax. Previously this addition did not apply until after 2 years. An increase to payments for second homes will also come into force from April 2025.

## **05.03.08 Correspondence**

~ Email from Gerry Mellough re Heacham Falls Project- the PC have recorded their interest.

~ Email from Lauren Steele re invitation to the Chairs BC meeting – TA attended

~ Email from Garry Marsden re the fact he has replaced James Platten at Sandringham.

~ Email from Sandra Betts re update on Norfolk Parishes Movement re Offshore Transmission Network

~ Email from Cllr Dark updating the PC

- ~ Email from Cllr Beales updating the PC
- ~ Email from BCKL&WN re Planning relating to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- ~ Email from Play Inspection Co regarding the Playground and areas of moderate risk – work is ongoing by councillors.
- ~ Email from Norfolk Police with latest snapshot Newsletter
- ~ Email from BCKL&WN re New planning rules that put nature at the heart of development
- ~ Email from NALC re free portrait of the King – the PC have placed an order

#### 05.03.09 Income & Expenditure / Financial Matters

Despite having an insurance renewal for a 3 year period in place, the Clerk has requested an additional quote from the PC's previous insurers which will be forthcoming in time for the May meeting.

##### Approval of payments as follows:

Cash received since last meeting

Interest received on BP account	£8.88
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Payments for approval at this meeting

BACS G Welham (Clerk's March Salary)	£267.04
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BACS HMRC (Clerk Tax)	£66.80
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BACS The Play Inspection Company (Playground review)	£129.60
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Total Expenditure	£463.44
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Balance in current account c/f	£489.23
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Balance in business saver account c/f	£2,383.18
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Total balance remaining	£2,872.41
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The Budget had been prepared and issued prior to the meeting. However the Clerk pointed out that the precept requested for 2024/25 would not cover all possible costs highlighted in the budget and the PC have to appreciate that future Precepts need to take this into consideration. The PC does have savings as an Emergency Fund but costs are escalating and the councillors should keep this in mind, particularly when making donations.

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

The monthly Playground report had been circulated prior to the meeting, however the annual review had highlighted some areas that need attention. This was mostly for work that is currently being undertaken and planned for the better weather, therefore the PC have no concerns as to the safety of the equipment. However it was felt that a work party would help to get the work done more easily. Cllr Dark reminded the PC that Sandringham want to have more input within the Estate villages and that the PC should approach the Estate Manager to ask for help when needed.

#### 05.03.11 To discuss Reports/Feedback re Sandringham Concerts

Much had already been discussed under item 05.03.07. However TA wanted to understand whether the BC planned to review the licence issued to Sandringham for the events as many infringements to the licence had occurred over the summer. Both BC and NCCC councillors stated this would not. He also wanted to know how a delegated power could amend the number of attendees from 10,000 to 30,000 without discussing this with the PC's this would most affect.

Cllr Dark stated that a company who manage events countrywide were given a 5 year contract for the Sandringham events and Sandringham handed over all the arrangements to this company. They have dealt with this event without any knowledge of the area and Sandringham realise that they will need to do better in the future. Meetings to include BC, NCC and PC's will take place to discuss such items as road closures for future events.

Cllr Beales asked if the PC would like him to take up the concerns of the PC with the BC. Following discussions the PC requested the Clerk to write to Cllr Beales to formally request a review of the licence.

**Action: Clerk**

#### 05.03.12 To establish progress regarding dates for Highways visit

Cllr Dark discussed possible dates for the visit by Highways to Abbey Road. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March (afternoon), Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March (after 10) or Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March were proposed. Cllr Dark will revert once a preferred date has been established. **Action: Cllr Dark**

**05.03.13 To establish progress re Cllr Gray email address**

Cllr Gray has now obtained a new email address and will use the new address for all future PC communications.

**05.03.14 To consider possible change of meeting days**

The clerk explained the reason for wishing to change and following discussions, it was agreed that the May meeting would remain as scheduled, but from July onward, the meeting day would change to the first Monday in the month bi monthly. The Clerk was asked to arrange for details of the date changes to be posted on the website and to forward to relevant personnel. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr Gray would ensure the booking in the Community Centre diary was also amended. **Action: Cllr Gray**

**05.03.15 To review Grass Cutting Contract 2024**

The current contractor had agreed to continue the contract at the same price of £25 per cut. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the contract should be renewed with the current supplier. The Clerk was asked to prepare a new Contract for signature. **Action: Clerk**

**05.03.16 To review requirements for the Library within the Bus Shelter**

As the councillor that requested this item be on the Agenda was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, no meaningful discussion was held. This can be discussed at the May meeting if necessary.

**05.03.17 Business extra to Agenda (no action to be taken)**

Concern was expressed at the lack of new councillors coming forward to fill the vacancies on the PC. AB was asked to put an article together for the next Newsletter explaining Fritcham could lose their voice if the council was no longer quorate.

**05.03.18 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Commencing 7:30pm**

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

**Clerk**

- Clerk to write formally to Cllr Beales regarding a review of the licence and the increase in numbers for attendance.
- Notify all necessary contacts regarding change of meeting DAY.
- Prepare grass cutting contract

**Cllr Dark**

- To confirm dates for Highways visit

**Cllr Gray**

- To amend meeting dates in Community Centre diary

**Items for next Agenda**

- Cllr Beales unable to attend May meeting and sends apologies in advance

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.