

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2021 AT 7PM HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM MEETING

(In accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels Coronavirus (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020)

PRESENT:

Cllr S Mortlock (Chairman)
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr L Macrae
Cllr S Martin
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Norman
Cllr G Norman
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr S Mitcham
Cllr A Whyte
Cllr M Williamson

Mrs J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
Mrs A Jackson (Assistant to the Parish Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillor K Reynolds
District Councillor J Neish
Mr A Humphries – Sovereign representative
There were 2 members of the public present.

The Chairman advised members of the sad news of the death of Mr H Burgess on Christmas eve and on behalf of the Council extended condolences to the family.

131. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.
Cllr C O'Reilly - Personal

132. Declarations of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Disclosable and/or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item.

Item 141 Cllr E MacPherson - Non Pecuniary Panel Member
Item 141 Cllr S Martin – Non Pecuniary Panel Member
Item 141 Cllr M Williamson – Non Pecuniary Panel Member

133. Minutes.

(i) To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December 2020.

Cllr R Fountain requested that 129 (i) includes his comment that grant funding should be sought for the space net. This was not seconded.

The Chairman advised that this was after the resolution and therefore not recorded, should Cllr R Fountain wish to discuss further a resolution of 6 councillors is required to revisit.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December 2020 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr M Williamson, 2nd Cllr G Norman) 11 in favour, 1 abstention

134. Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council on matters on the agenda.

Time Allowed 10 minutes

No comments

135. District and County Councillor Reports

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillors.

County Councillor K Reynolds wished all members a Happy New Year and reported:

- Aldi crossing will be included in the 2021/22 programme of work.
- Complaints have been received re footpath in Holywell and as a result letters have been sent to all households to maintain the fauna outside of their properties.
- Damaged verges have been reseeded and stakes replaced.
- CCC continues to support the vulnerable during the pandemic.
- Next year's budget is being set, no precise figures yet due to lots of unknowns.
- Recent localised flooding – not within the responsibility of the CCC, e.g., ditches are the responsibility of private landowners.
- Advised members that his CCC email is not working, however any emails are being redirected to his personal email.

District Councillor J Neish also wished all a Happy New Year and reported:

- Floods – District Council are holding 6 forums for people who were affected by the recent floods to review areas of responsibility.
- David Wilson homes advised they will continue to clean the road.
- District Council are releasing more grants in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr E MacPherson commented that Priory Road was flooded and in previous years the drains cleaned (hasn't been done for several years) would this be reinstated?

District Councillor J Neish advised that this is one of many issues being looked at.

County Councillor K Reynolds advised this was stopped 8-10 years ago due to budget cuts and currently drains are cleaned as and when, following complaints.

136. Policing

136.1 Neighbourhood Policing Team – Any Issues and Concerns.

None

137. To receive an overview of outdoor gym equipment surface from Sovereign Play Ltd

Mr Humphries advised members that the subbase was dug out and recompact and a patch repair made to the surface. There is no evidence of movement of the joints and the colour is fading to match the surrounding mulch – will keep monitoring this. The surface has a 5 year warranty.

If Council opt for a mulch surface under the space net Sovereign will skim over the top of the gym equipment surface.

The Chairman queried whether the post installation inspection of the space net is required at a cost of £474. Mr Humphries advised that this is for a 3rd party to check the installation however it would be covered in the annual play equipment check.

138. Clerk's Report

To receive written report.

Meeting Dates: –

2nd February 2021 – Full Council

19th January 2021 – committees

Items to report.

- Mr Gray has acknowledged letter and will arrange for litter to be collected and for skips to be covered. The Barn Overcote Lane
- Coldhams Field Holywell: The open access scheme has finished w.e.f October 2020. Farmer has removed the signs. Public footpath 4 remains diagonally between Back lane Holywell and Mill Way. Footpath signpost remains in situ.
- 16th December 2020 Mr R Fountain advised that he has stood down as General Secretary of Needingworth Village Hall Trust. He is being replaced by Mr M Hebert.
- Cadent gas lease signed by Chairman and Vice Chairman and returned to solicitors 22/12/20. A further licence for 10 week period has been signed and returned permitting a work compound around the site of the gas governor. The Parish Council will receive £500 for this temporary licence.

Cllr R Fountain requested that the repair work to the Village Carpark is added to an agenda for consideration whilst the gas governor work is underway.
Cllr S Martin offered thanks to Mr Gray for removing the litter and clearing the ditches around his site.

139. Finance and Risk

- 139.1. To approve accounts for Payment as at 5th January 2021
Cllr A Whyte advised that VAT of £13.80 can be claimed on the Christmas tree.
Resolved: That the accounts for payment totalling £14,999.45 as at 5th January 2021 be approved. (Prop Cllr M Williamson, 2nd Cllr S Martin) All in favour.
- 139.2 To approve the following payments within the clerk's delegated powers:
- (i) N Parr roofing £144.00 repairs to Millfields guttering
 - (ii) CAPALC New Councillor training £75.00
 - (iii) Community Heartbeat - £104.40 New pads for AED.
- Resolved:** That the payments totalling £323.40 made within the Clerk's delegated powers be approved. (Prop Cllr M Williamson, 2nd Cllr S Martin) All in favour.
- 139.3 To note the bank reconciliation as at 7th December 2020
Noted
- 139.4 To note the budget report dated 14th December 2020.
Noted
- 139.5 To note the WPS insurance Low claims rebate of £127.28
Noted
- 139.6 To receive report on village sign refurbishment and agree actions.
Resolved: To remove the post and take with the village sign to Mr Mould, Peterborough as soon as is permitted under current Coronavirus restrictions, for a quote for repair or replacement. (Prop Cllr S Mortlock, Cllr M Williamson) All in favour.

140. Planning

- 140.1 To note the following applications that have been **withdrawn**.
- (i) Application ref: **20/01171/HHFUL & 20/01172/LBC** Demolish a kitchen and shed and replacement with a linked two storey extension. Structural reinforcement of an outbuilding for the installation of solar panels and an air source heat pump.
Reed Cottage Holywell Front Holywell
Noted
- 140.2 To note the following applications that have been **approved**:
- (i) Application ref; **20/02054/TRCA** To pollard willow tree (no. 895) to reduce severe lean to prevent total collapse of tree
To reduce crown of Hawthorne tree (no. 897) by approx. 30% to reduce weight of crown to alleviate lean as root system is poor
Both trees are located in the nature garden in the church grounds
St John The Baptist Church Holywell Front Holywell
Noted
 - (ii) Application ref: **20/02256/NMA**
Non material amendment to permission 20/01317/HHFUL: Juliet balcony removed and replaced with window
Greenbank 2 Kestrel Court Needingworth
Noted
- 140.3 To note the following application that has been **declined**:
- (i) Application ref: **20/00036/FUL** Erection of three dwellings
Land West of Barley Croft Back Lane Holywell
Noted

141. Complaint

To receive a report of the findings of the Grievance committee 15th December 2020 re the complaint from Needingworth United Football Club regarding use of showers and changing facilities Millfields Pavillion.

The Chairman advised members that as she and the Vice Chairman had reviewed this complaint under delegated powers, they were unable to sit on the panel.
Cllr M Williamson advised members that the panel had a lengthy debate about the situation and concluded with the recommendation that the current regulations remain in place.

Cllr M Williamson attended the next match and reported there were no breaches, the pavilion was open for the toilets and all went well.

Resolved: That the recommendations of the Grievance committee re the complaint from Needingworth United Football Club regarding use of showers and changing facilities be approved. (Prop Cllr C Pearce, 2nd Cllr J Neish) 9 in favour, 3 abstentions.

142. COVID 19 matters.

- (i) To receive a report on current matters relating to Covid 19.
 - Updated information has been shared via the Parish Council Facebook page.
 - Needingworth Football Club and the Colts have been notified that Millfields is closed.
 - Closed notices have been placed on Millfields gate.
 - Office staff will continue to work - the Village Hall is closed to users and the cleaner is on furlough.

The Chairman advised members that she wrote to the Colts to cancel their friendlies last weekend due to the increased cases in the village and the pressure on local hospitals.

The Chairman advised Cllr R Fountain that the Earith musicians who recently hired the Village Hall were not wearing masks within the communal areas and were looking for the kitchen. Cllr S Mortlock requested the VHT to oversee users of the Village Hall to ensure they are adhering to the Covid guidelines.

Cllr R Fountain advised that the kitchen is closed and due to the VHT being volunteers it is difficult to oversee users at each instance.

143. Community Infrastructure Levy

To receive an updated report on projects and agree any actions:

Village Hall Stage Extension:

- Structural engineers need to give details of the proscenium arch to enable any plans to go forward for an estimate.

Play equipment:

- Check requirement of the post installation inspection for space net – whether required for insurance.
- Updated quote received for space net and mulch surface of £22,919.98 (less than previously accepted quote for grass tiles)
- Clerk to confirm quote of £22,919.98 with Sovereign and that the gym surface will be skimmed at the same time as installation of the space net. Also, the guarantee for the gym surface to commence from the completion date of skimming the surface.

Resolved: That a plan with the location and size of marquee noted with 2-3 preferred locations for the space net be referred to the Planning & Finance Committee on 19th January 2021 for a decision. (Prop A Whyte, 2nd Cllr E MacPherson) All in favour.

144. Policy

- (i) To adopt the Investment policy dated December 2020

Cllr S Mitcham suggested the following amendments:

- Capital not at risk
- Clerk to have delegated powers to invest if following the policy.
- Any deviation from the policy to be referred to the Full Council for a decision.

Resolved: That the Investment Policy be accepted with the above amendments. (Prop Cllr M Williamson, 2nd Cllr S Mitcham) All in favour.

- (ii) Register of member's interest

All responses were no change except Cllr J Neish who will complete an amendment form. Clerk to advise HDC accordingly.

145. Correspondence

To receive correspondence and agree any actions: -

- (i) This Land concerns - a message on behalf of Cllr Mark Goldsack

Noted

- (ii) To note the Census 2021.

Noted

- (iii) To note dates for the Great British Spring Clean and agree involvement.

Provisional date for community event set for Friday 11th June 2021.

(iv) To note the RSC December update.

District Cllr J Neish commented that there is a lot of work going on to find a resolution and that the references to the County Councillor were in his opinion unrepresentative of the situation.

Noted

(v) To consider request for naming of streets Bluntisham Road development.

Suggestions included: Meridian Way/ Drive for the main road and linked names to the Parish.

Councillors to email suggestions to the office by tomorrow and a list be compiled to be shared on the Parish Council Facebook page for a vote.

(vi) To consider response to Sunnica Energy Farm: statutory consultation.

Noted

146.Items to Report (for information only and not for resolution)

- Cllr S Mortlock and Cllr E MacPherson thanked Cllr S Martin and Cllr A Whyte and their partners for putting the Christmas tree up and taking it down.
- Cllr G Norman suggested Eileen Gray for the naming of streets on Bluntisham Rad development.
- Cllr J Neish advised that he is investigating the reasons for the 4-way traffic control on Silvaco roundabout.
- Cllr S Mitcham requested the grass verge be repaired near the Bluntisham Road development.
- Cllr Macrae reported:
 1. A frame swing on Bluntisham Road still there – Clerk advised this has been reported as fly tipping.
 2. More plants have been planted at the end of Silver Lane and concerns have been raised over the intentions of the neighbouring resident.
 3. A dog poo bin has been installed on private land at the back of the water recycling plant that is overflowing.
- The Clerk advised that Hill Farmhouse, Holywell are having house rethatched from the 2nd week of January. Thatch will be put on the bank each morning. An application to close the footpath has been submitted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman

Date