

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm via Electronic Conferencing on account of the Government social distancing requirements.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Freestone (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Cole, Freeman, Hicks and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk), PC Brad Wilson and one member of the public.

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1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

There were none.

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2. Declaration of Interests on Items on the Agenda or changes to the Members Register of Interests:

There were no declarations of interests.

There were no changes to the members Registers of Interests.

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3. Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Bradshaw

Seconded Cllr Freestone

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4. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda:

The Council noted that the donation of £100 had been sent to the Northamptonshire First Responders Team.

The Chair informed the Council that as agreed, she had written to Terry Begley with the Council's response to the consultation on the Part II Local Plan. The letter had commented on the proposed methodology for identifying future Traveller sites and proposing a change to the modifications to the Part II Local Plan in favour of prioritising brown field sites and discouraging inappropriate extension of traveller sites in unsustainable rural environments. As yet no response had been received from Mr Begley.

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Item 10 was brought forward at this point.

The Chair welcomed PC Wilson.

PC Wilson introduced himself and gave an overview of his role and policing during the pandemic.

He informed the Council of the police team currently in place and advised that the number of police officers was set to increase. He reported that the police had been heavily involved with Covid enforcement but were now starting to send out speeding patrols which were issuing prosecutions rather than warnings. The Council requested speed enforcement on Main Street and Mill Road particularly during times of the car boot sale at weekends and the Monday to Friday school run.

PC Wilson detailed the mechanism for reporting incidents using the preferred method of the Northamptonshire Police online tool for reporting antisocial and dangerous driving and reassured Councillors that the personal details of those reporting incidents would not be shared with the perpetrators. He confirmed that details of untaxed vehicles are a matter for the DVLA. For information on crime statistics, PC Wilson directed Councillors to the Police.Uk website.

The Chair thanked PC Wilson who duly left the meeting at 8.25 pm

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5. Meeting open for public consultation.

There was nothing further covered under this item.

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Signed.....Chair

Date.....

## 6. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council **agreed** a request from The Mill Project Group to hold a pop up 'Attic Sale' in the Orchard on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April to raise monies for the new Community Hub.

A number of loose paving slabs were identified at both entrances to the Orchard. The Chair will inspect them before undertaking a risk assessment and if necessary, will contact Welland Valley Landscaping for a quote to repair these (*action SB*).

The Council noted that the Orchard was generally looking in good condition.

## 7. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

**Lighting** – Cllr Freeman was pleased to inform the Council that the faulty light at the entrance to Glover Court had been repaired. He will pursue the faulty light outside the cycle club (*action TF*).

**Refurbishment of Middleton Sign** – The Chair was pleased to report that Cottingham Parish Council was currently planning to refurbish its village sign and George West-Robinson had very kindly offered to include the refurbishment of the Middleton sign for a share in the cost of materials which was expected to be around £50. The Council thanked Cottingham Parish Council and those involved in the refurbishment and **agreed** to proceed.

**Speeding** – The Council noted that letters had been sent to the Head Teachers of the two local primary schools highlighting the issues of speeding and requesting that they alert parents to it as part of their regular communications. A response had been received from Mr Scott of Cottingham School who also expressed his concern at the speeds of cars approaching the zebra crossing. He had asked whether the Council could assist in procuring a school/speed warning system to include a 20mph limit before and after school. The Council **agreed** to lend its support in pursuing this alongside the school and undertook to talk to Cottingham Parish Council before approaching the New Unitary Authority.

**TVAS, The Hill** – The Council noted that it was still awaiting a quote from NCC Highways Engineer Steve Barber for the installation of a post to which the TVAS could be attached, before any progress could be made with the funding application. Cllr Freeman will pursue this with Mr Barber (*action TF*).

**Jurassic Way Spring and Blocked Drain** – The Chair informed the Council that the new drain at the entrance to the Jurassic Way footpath, which had already blocked, had been reported to the County Council. She also advised that the road surface on the junction of The Hill and Ashley Road was due to be repaired imminently.

## 8. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole reported flaking varnish on one of the benches in the Orchard. The Clerk will ask Steve Morphy to have a look at this (*action JM*), otherwise all Parish assets were in order. The Clerk had checked the defibrillator and recorded the inspection on the Webnos site.

## 9. Annual Accountability and Governance:

### **a) Approval of Certificate of Exemption 2020/21**

The Council noted that neither its gross income nor gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 in the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and therefore **agreed** to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Proposed Cllr Bradshaw    Seconded Cllr Freestone

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

The Certificate of Exemption was then duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer and will be returned to the External Auditor (*action JM*).

**b) Approval of Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**

The Council considered and **approved** the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.

Proposed Cllr Brant                      Seconded    Cllr Cole

This was duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer

**c) Approval of Annual Accounting Statement 2020/21**

The Clerk had prepared the 2020/2021 Financial Accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Council considered and **approved** the Annual Accounting Statement 2020/21.

Proposed Cllr Hicks                      Seconded    Cllr Thomas

This was duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer.

The accounts will now be presented to the Internal Auditor (*action JM*).

**11. CPRE Designation of Welland Valley:**

The Chair informed the Council that the CPRE had contacted its members to ask whether there were any areas in the County which could potentially be designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Chair advised that she had written to local parish councils to ascertain whether they would support a case to promote the Welland Valley as such an area. Once responses have been received from all the local parish councils, the Chair will refer back to the CPRE (*action SB*).

**12. Copyholder's Field:**

There was nothing further to report on this item.

**13. Planning:**

**NC/21/00036/DPA    Peasdale Hill Field    Residential Site for 5 Travellers Pitches**

It was noted that the deadline for comments on the appeal against the enforcement notice is 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The Chair stated that the planning consultant John Groves would continue to advise the Council on any aspect of the appeal if required. The Council noted that Ashley and Cottingham Councils had offered to contribute to these costs and **agreed** to request a contribution of £200 each towards the planning consultancy and advice provided by John Groves to date (*action SB*).

The Chair informed the Council that she had met over Zoom with representatives of Loddington and Broughton Parish Councils who were experiencing similar issues with unauthorised Traveller sites in their localities. She had subsequently also communicated with Braybrooke, Harrington, Ashley, Cottingham and Stoke Albany PCs, all of whom have sites locally and a meeting had been set up with Rob Bridge, Chief Executive of North Northants Unitary Authority to discuss the enforcement of unauthorised sites, the increasing trend for caravan sites to be established for commercial gain and the matter of their licensing and management and the five-year land supply for gypsy and traveller accommodation. Three prospective NNC Councillors (election notwithstanding) had also been invited to attend the meeting.

Signed .....Chair .....Date.....

14. Finance:

a) The following cheques were presented for signature and unanimously **agreed**:

101639	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	340.24
101640	NEST – Clerk Pension	24.08
101641	Cottingham Parish Council – Rechargeable Expenses	558.24
101642	S Morphy – Grass Cutting	230.00
101643	Northants CALC – Subscription	283.49
101644	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00
101645	Groves Town Planning – Planning Consultancy	400.00

Receipts:

None

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,282.86
Business Reserve	167.22
Community Account	3,054.57

Total: **£8,504.65**

b) The Council **approved** the bank reconciliation which was then duly signed by the Chair.

c) The Clerk informed the Council that there would be a monthly charge of approx £6 per month for the Unity Trust Bank account. The Council **agreed** to proceed as the benefits were considered to outweigh the cost and Cllrs Brant, Bradshaw and Cole signed the new mandate form instructing the transfer and subsequent closure of its two current Barclays accounts.

15. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items, all e-mailed:

NCALC – eUpdates

CBC – Election information

NCC Highways – Weekly eBulletin

Wilbarston PC – Update on Community Bus Service

Licensing of Polo Club - The Council referred to communication from CBC regarding the application by the Polo club for a drinks license. The Council **agreed** to seek further information on this matter before the consultation deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Freestone will contact the Central Licensing Admin Unit for advice on how to proceed (*action AF*).

The Council noted an uncontested parish council election for Middleton with all seven seats filled. At this point it was noted that Cllr Freeman would not be standing again. On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Cllr Freeman for his inspiring energy and unflagging enthusiasm during his significant term of office. Councillors expressed their regret that he was standing down and stated how much they had enjoyed working with him as part of the team. The Chair commented on Cllr Freeman's considerable commitment over many years and confirmed that he would be sorely missed.

16. Dissemination of Information:

It was agreed to share with residents and Cottingham Parish Council the information provided by PC Wilson on reporting incidents of crime and dangerous driving.

Those residents who don't already and wish to receive information by email, please contact Jane Smith on [jane@le.com](mailto:jane@le.com).

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

17. Business for next meeting:

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

**Occupation Lane** – Cllr Hicks raised the question of the access to the river by the bridge and asked that the possibility of repairing the field hedge by the bridge be followed up with the farmer. The Chair will write to Mr Beaty with regards to blocking up this access before the better weather brings an influx of young people and the resulting litter (*action SB*).

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The Clerk gave her apologies for this meeting.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....