**Minutes of a Meeting of Paston Parish Council held by video link on Thursday 3rd September 2020 at 7.00pm**

Present: Nick Bardswell (Chairman), Boo Tumber (Vice-Chairman) Maggie Brett, Pip Clabon, Chris Emberson, Jessel Manricks, Denise McKeough, Dee Holroyd (Clerk).

1 Apologies for Absence: None.

2 Declarations of Interest: None.

3 Cllrs Ed Maxwell and Clive Stockton: Cllr EM was not present but had sent in a report. CS reported that he had not yet been into Council Offices as he was shielding.

Bacton Car Park was now up and running.

NB asked about cabling for the proposed wind farm. CS confirmed this would come in near Cart Gap. No further information currently. CS was to meet with Steve Blatch (NNDC) but the licence was newly issued by the government and the shown route could be subject to alteration. Cllr CS left the meeting.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 2nd July: were agreed. Proposed DM, seconded MB.

5 Matters Arising:

Vas Machine: BT reported all money now in place and the machine was being manufactured, PC to be advised when it was ready.

Community Speed Watch: two volunteers plus MB, DM and BT were in place and awaiting training becoming available.

Almshouses: the roof timbers are in place, awaiting a five day rain-free period for installation. The charity was now financially sound and loans had been repaid.

Notice Board for Paston Green: this was complete, made of solid oak and with a very handsome, hand carved sign. The cost of £500, which was the lowest quote received, was agreed. Proposed MB seconded DM. DH to get a quote for erecting the sign. CE asked about insurance, this was in place. CE suggested written approval from the land owner where the board would be sited. MB to obtain this. CE pointed out that the sign should be well back from the road. MB confirmed that it would be.

Fencing round pond: Highways had confirmed this work was in hand.

Red phone box: No progress. DH to get email addresses to circulate parish councils in case any were disposing of theirs. PC`s would also try to find one.

Rubbish bins for playground: had been ordered and would be fixed to posts and labelled for rubbish and re-cycling. Currently the bin was being emptied by NNDC contractor.

Signs depicting children: BT had received no response to her enquiry to the North Walsham Town Council. All agreed CE`s quote (£108 + VAT) should be accepted proposed BT, seconded DM. CE would produce a design. The VAS machine posts could be used for the signs, as the machine had to be moved regularly.

6 Finance:

The clerk reported a current credit balance of £15,000, including the £4,000 VAS machine grant, the £1,000 Covid 19 grant and the playground reserve.

It was agreed that the mainly unspent Covid grant should be retained, at least until the end of the year, as a “second wave” now looked certain and it may yet be needed. Proposed JM, seconded BT. All agreed.

7 Highways: JM said some of the drains had been blocked during recent resurfacing. NB had exchanged e mails with EM about flooding by Pond Road and by Hall Cottages DM confirmed the street lights had been repaired.

8 The Pond Generally: All agreed it was looking very good. PC had sprayed the invasive weed twice while the water level was low and a digger had removed weed and branches. NB suggested a website mention. PC believed interested parties already knew of the challenges. He asked for any comments on the pond to be made to him directly so he was aware. The PPC recorded gratitude to PC for making the pond look so good.

9. Parish Councillors` Reports:

MB asked PC whether he could cut the hedge inside the playing field. PC would get this done next time the hedge cutter was out.

DM asked about adding more items to the playground. The swing chains need to be replaced. DM reported very high usage of the playground. It was suggested that a donation box (sunk into a post in the ground, with a retrievable bucket) could be placed in the playground, hopefully encouraging visitors to donate. CE to quote for this and an explanatory sign. DM would apply for Big Society funding in November. People were ignoring the `no dogs` sign. It was agreed new and large signs needed.

BT reported that the winner of one section of the Art Competition had been very pleased with her Amazon Voucher prize. The competition should be repeated next year.

10 Planning: , Jubilee Barn (PF/20/0049) and Stow Hill Farm (PF/20/0586) had been approved. Hollow Tree Barn (PF/20/0436), had been withdrawn.

11 Correspondence Received: had all been circulated.

12 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 7th November.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.