**Minutes of a Meeting of Paston Parish Council**

Held on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.00 pm in St Margaret`s Church, Paston.

**Present**: Nick Bardswell (Chairman), Boo Tumber (Vice-Chairman) Maggie Brett, Pip Clabon, Ashlee Cotter, Jessel Manricks, Denise McKeough, Dee Holroyd (Clerk), Cllr Ed Maxfield NCC. Rebecca Barringer, Architect.

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**1** **Apologies for Absence**: Cllr Pauline Porter NNDC

**2** **Declarations of Interest:** MB item 11

**3** **Ed Maxfield** (NCC): EM reported that the NCC had been working on its budget, which was almost complete. Council tax would increase. The majority of their budget would be spent on adult mental health and childcare. NCC had been cautious in its spending, but there would inevitably be cuts elsewhere. The most complaints received concerned Highways. After 25th May there will be a directly elected leader of the Council.

A question was asked about cabling to be started in the North Norfolk area. EM confirmed that this would come under the remit of either District Council or Government.

**4** **Minutes** of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th January: were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed BT, seconded DM.

 **7. Planning: Hiberian Place , Edingthorpe PF/24/0167.** This item was brought forward as Rebecca Barringer, architect to the scheme, had come to speak to the meeting. She confirmed that plans had been revised and showed drawings of the current plan. Members had expressed unhappiness with the original plans which incorporated a gable that was out of character with the rest of the building. All agreed that they had no objection to the revised plans with roofline aligned with the roof of the house.

**Holiday Village:** The clerk had written to Robert Alton, Planning Enforcement Officer NNDC who had made a site visit. He had unfortunately looked at the wrong area and would continue to pursue the matter` .

**5.**  **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** BT would contact Denise Revell, Knapton and Mundesley PCs, who had offered guidance on playground inspection. BT would first contact all PC members to find a suitable date and time. Probably early evening on a week day.

Following the visit by Duncan Baker MP and his offer of help with offshore windfarm cabling, NB had spoken to Denise Revell in her capacity as clerk to Witton and Ridlington PC as the cable route was through their parish, to let her know he was seeking a meeting with Orsted the cabling contractors

**6. Paston Charity trusteeship:** Trustees are appointed by the PC for a four year term. Currently there were technically no trustees as Jonathan Care’s and Nicky Emberson’s four year appointments had expired. They were willing to continue if re-appointed. Robert Digby, who lives in Paston, was offering to act. They had been invited to meet the PPC to answer questions but had been unable to attend this meeting so a meeting was sought before the May meeting. A particular matter was that the charity’s purposes as set out in the governing document, the 1925 Scheme, could no longer be met. In these circumstances the Charity Commission guidance is that the trustees must review and if necessary amend and update the governing document. This had been pointed out to the trustees several times over recent years but so far as the council was aware they had taken no action. NB was willing to be appointed and could deal with this. EM too was willing to be a trustee. Both NB and EM have experience of village charities.

The cottages are let but there are problems with damp due to faulty building work. The trustees had been informed. An informal quote for repair of £200 - £300 had been received. The only financial info the PPC have is the income and expenditure summary on the C C website, But rents for the two cottages were known to be just under £800 per month and it was confirmed that the clifftop field, now lying fallow under a grant scheme would also be generating an income, so there should be money available.

Cllr EM left the meeting at 7.55pm

**8. Contractors doing work for the Council – requirements and checks:** It was agreed that prior to appointing any contractor, checks should be made that they had insurance and any permits needed for the particular work to be done and if possible a reference obtained from a customer for whom they had previously done work All agreed.

In the course of the above discussion reference was made to a minor problem that had arisen with the zip wire. Action Play had been notified, with photos and confirmed it held no danger for users. AC would make the small repair needed at the weekend.

**9. Updating Standing Orders:** Norfolk Parish Training and Support had brought out a new Standing Orders. These had been circulated to the Parish Council, with the necessary inclusions of time spans and figures. The only amendment asked for was to the meeting length, which should not be more than two hours. All agreed and the Standing Orders were adopted.

**10. Parish Councillor`s Reports:**

 BT reported that the latest figures from the SAM machine showed an average speed of the approximately 1000 vehicles a day driving through Paston, was 28 mph. Top speed recorded was 55mph. The results would be published on the Paston website. BT would move the camera to the other end of the village.

BT read out a letter from a resident, expressing his thanks for all the PC did and asking for an old sign by the Paston Barn crossroads to be removed. He also mentioned dumped pipes. MB would try to see where these were, so they could be moved.

DM had spoken to the new resident of No 1 Dutch Cottages who confirmed she would be happy to have the camera replaced on the post in her garden. The problem was that the flag movement set off the camera, making it ineffective.

DM reported that the polytunnel was in place and thanked all the helpers. She and MB now had lots of plants available to sell.

MB reported that the pavilion still awaited painting and confirmed (after the meeting) that she and DM, with their husbands, would be happy to do the work.

MB’s canvass of Bears Road residents was ongoing for their view on building speed bumps in Pond Lane and Bears Road. Most spoken to so far were in favour.

NB reported that on Sandy Lane the County Council had further cut back trees and branches on either side. Riding down it on horseback would now be possible

NB reported that a Knapton resident had asked whether the council or any member of it had had any dealings wtih MADRA over the last 5 years. All Parish Councillors present confirmed that they had not.

NB would take a meter reading of the electricity used during the meeting and issue an invoice on behalf of the PCC. Even with the cost of heating the church It was cheaper to hold meetings in the church than hiring a hall.

**11. Quote for Mowing from Gordon Brett:** A quote for £925 had been received. All agreed. Proposed DM, seconded JM.

**12. Financial Report:** the clerk reported a current credit balance of £10,481. The bank reconciliation had been approved by the internal monitor and circulated together with the cash book and current bank statement.

Payments since the last meeting:

ICO (standing order) 35.00

Npower: 58.59

Shaun Moon (playground) 490.00

Clerk/office (February) 287.50

Jones Electrical (Street light) 187.14

Norfolk PTS (subscription) 72.64

**13. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 2nd May at 7.00.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm