

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

## WOOD DALLING PARISH COUNCIL

*Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, at 7.30pm via Zoom (online).*

**Present:** Kerry Oldfield (Chairman) (KO), Jonathan Rodwell (Vice Chairman) (JRod), Helen Dixon (HD), Jonathan Rawlinson (JRaw), Alex Clark-Rudd (ACR), Jono Wilton (JW), Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk).

Greg Peck (County & District Councillor) (GP)

0 members of the public

### **20/79. Chair's welcome and apologies for Absence.**

KO welcomed everyone, and apologies were accepted for Rory Harrold.

### **20/80. Declarations of Interest.**

JRod - Church.

### **20/81. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### **20/82. Matters arising from the meeting.**

None.

### **20/83. Members of the public register a desire to speak**

None.

### **20/84. Committee reports and recommendations:**

**David McMaster – Village Hall** – DM had sent his apologies and the following report: The committee cancelled all coffee morning & film nights last week until further notice, due to uncertainties about national & local of corona virus case increases, with the Lock Down 2 this is prudent. Since informing residents I have received several emails expressing their concern about being very hesitant to socialise in the current situation. Broadband & phone are now installed at the hall and offering use to residents for study, business & leisure use. It is possible to have several self-contained units if necessary, with appropriate screening. Charges to be negotiated when we have some interest. It is possible that we will be removing the unused toilet & basin in the store room to make it into a separate lockable cupboard with shelves. There are no plans for any functions at the hall until 2021, but with the £10000 grant awarded by the government are in a healthy financial position. I have also taken over from Trevor Hardingham as the contact with the Charity Commission updating all the necessary information. I wish to thank Trevor for all his hard work over the last considerable number of years.

#### **Jonathan Rodwell – Church -**

**Jeff Topp – Newsletter** – JT had sent his apologies, and emailed the following report: I apologise for not being able to attend this Zoom meeting of the Parish Council but would like to thank the councillors for their support of the move to have the Newsletter printed by Cheverton and Son at Cromer. Whilst the printers were initially hesitant to have my Word file sent to them (preferring to work in PDF - a facility I do not have on my PC) they eventually adapted to my request - sending a proof for checking before printing. They were able to ask me to collect the Newsletters for distribution with a few days of my posting the file to them. A speedy service that is most refreshing. I would also like to thank the distributors for their sterling work - delivering Newsletters to the village come rain or shine. Their names for the record are: Becky and Ed Marshall, Gerri Williams, Alice and Jono Wilton, Jon and Kay Rawlinson, Kerry Oldfield, Amanda and Jonathan Rodwell, Tony Karger, Helen Dixon and Alvin and Debby Topp and myself. Finally, I would like to thank Kirsty Cotgrove for assisting in the process of payment for the Newsletter. Cheverton and Son is able to send their invoice directly to her for payment, thus reducing the need for me to pay the printer and claim the funds back from the PC at a later date. Being able to distribute a quality Newsletter on a regular basis allows a means of communicating important news and updates from the

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different sectors of interest within the village. I believe that this is especially important in the current climate of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown practices. Those who live alone or who are deemed to be vulnerable need to know that there are those in the village and elsewhere who are ready to support them if the need arises. As the church and Village Hall have had their routines disrupted by the restrictions, I feel that this is especially important. Incidentally, the cost of the printing is only a little above that which we paid Posters by Design. In the entire time that I have been editor of the Newsletter this is the first increase in costs.

**Greg Peck – District & County Council:** GP read the following report, relating to Covid 19 support: The Government has put in substantial support to children and families through the benefits system and local government's support has been in addition to that. The council's Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which has been in place since 2013, provides emergency cash or food and essential household items such as white goods and beds. Recognising the pressure people of all ages would be under, we set aside £500,000 from government Covid-19 funds to add to the existing £1.150m annual Norfolk Assistance Scheme budget to provide advice and support to people. That was in April. In the period from April to September we spent £625,000 from this fund helping people with food, fuel, exceptional household items and other welfare support. The remainder of the £1.15m core budget and the additional £500,000 is forecast to be spent by the end of March in order to address the increasing demand for those families and individuals in financial crisis. We also increased staffing to provide more people with advice and support, including advice on benefits claims. Covid-19 has meant many people have had to tackle the complexities of the benefits system for the first time, and of the £500,000, £120,000 is being used to pay for this. In addition, we made a £100,000 grant from Covid-19 funds to the Norfolk Community Foundation to support their work and help take their fund to over £1m. That's a total of £1.75m overall. But that's not all. In August we had the £1.016m Emergency Assistance Grant from the government for food and essential supplies. It isn't ringfenced, and this gave the Council the opportunity to use this valuable resource to support our residents and communities in the best way we could. That money was never intended to be used for free school meals. The Government ran a free school meal voucher scheme, the Covid Summer Food Fund, over the summer holidays, and made clear that the emergency assistance grant should not duplicate that provision. If the Government reintroduced a holiday food scheme and provided sufficient funding, we would, of course, support its delivery. There have been and continue to be many calls on this limited fund. Primarily we have used it to support people with Covid-related rent arrears and to help the most vulnerable people buy food and cover household bills. We have also provided laptops to support children and vulnerable adults in financial crisis. So far, we have made payments or provided equipment to 676 people, at a cost of £170,000. This includes £157,000 spent on food, fuel and essential household items, £6,000 for digital equipment for education, and £7,000 to cover rent arrears. We have set aside a further £144,000 for laptops and other digital support, to expand the group of children from disadvantaged families who can access education online and maintain social contact as well as assisting people in financial crisis into work. Inevitably, a combination of seasonal unemployment, likely further Covid-19 outbreaks resulting in people needing to self-isolate and the new restrictions will increase family hardship over the winter months. To address that we have committed £502,000 to cover food, energy household equipment and rent arrears for the period through to March. We have made a further grant of £200,000 to the Norfolk Community Foundation to support vulnerable families this winter. By doing this we can help the foundation to maximise the help it can make available by matching contributions from businesses and charitable donors. We have spent or allocated the whole £1.016m, and the further £1.75m of other funds referred to earlier. We believe this is the right way to support families and communities in Norfolk. Given the changes since Saturday we need to know how the Emergency Assistance Grant and other funds can be extended by central government so that we in local government can use them to help people in hardship.

**Police – None**

**20/85. Highways/potholes/hedge cutting**

Despite chasing Highways, the hole in Corpusty Road remains, and the Give Way sign has not been replaced. The Clerk will chase the signs again, and copy in GP. GP has asked about the hole on Corpusty Road, but as it was caused by a tree, the landowner is responsible for repair. Highways have asked the landowner, and if they do not rectify, Highways will deal and recover costs from the landowner. A scaffolding lorry has damaged the verge outside the church. J Rod has spoken to the homeowner, who has agreed to rectify the damage and re-seed the area. A telephone cable, which has been repaired, has been left laying along the verge at Redpits. It was agreed JW will forward details to the Clerk, who can chase Openreach to repair fully. Action: Clerk

**20/86. To update on grass cutting**

The final cut has been done, and an invoice received. The contractor has sent a new quote through. It was agreed that this will be put onto the January agenda.

**20/87. An update on the Town House, and to agree any payments necessary**

The electrician is still to carry out the work recommended in the electrical check. The NS&I account will be closed when restrictions are eased.

**20/88. To update on the SAM2 Parish Partnership application**

The Clerk is waiting for the invoice from Westcotec, then she can send it to Highways for 50% reimbursement.

**20/89. Planning**

KO, JW, GP, a member of the public and Philip Courtier (PC) met regarding planning issues on the plots of land on Red Pits. The structures which have been erected are not considered permanent, and planning permission would need to be sought for any permanent structures. It is thought that the owners stayed on the land for longer than permitted this summer, but it cannot be proven retrospectively, so advice was given by PC for future breaches. KO has asked Broadland District Council to regularise all dwellings in the Parish, so people can see if planning permission is required in the future. GP will chase to ensure this is done.

**20/90. Finance and Payments**

(i) Copies of the current cash book and budget update were given to all councillors prior to the meeting, and were approved. JRaw usually carries out a bank reconciliation check with the bank statements each meeting, but has been unable to do this due to meeting virtually. It was agreed the Clerk will drop the statements to JRaw, to enable a bank reconciliation.

(ii) Payments were approved and cheques were signed by KO & RH for-

K Cotgrove – Oct & Nov salary	£244.14
P Collins – August grass cutting	£326.00
P Collins – September grass cutting	£326.00
P Collins – October grass cutting	£326.00
Cheverton & Son Ltd – newsletter	£40.00

It was agreed to sign an additional cheque for the printers, so they do not need to wait until January for payment.

(iii) To agree the budget for 2021-22:

Following discussion, it was agreed to approve the budget for 2021/22 (prop. JW, sec. ACR).

(iv) To agree the precept for 2021-22:

Following discussion, it was agreed to keep the precept at £1888 for 2021-22 (prop. JRaw, Sec. HD).

**20/91. To update on the windfarm projects and to consider a donation to the crowdfunding appeal for the judicial review**

The applicant has been allowed to apply for a judicial review relating to the Vattenfall permission, and is crowd funding to pay for it. A number of Parish Councils have donated. Opinion was split within the Parish Council

*ACR left the meeting at 8:34pm.*

Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillors will contact Alison Pearce at Oulton Parish Council for more information, and a decision will be reached at the January meeting.

**20/92. Correspondence**

(i) NCC have sent a budget consultation out. The clerk has forwarded to Councillors for comment.

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(ii) Broadland District Council have confirmed that the Parish will not receive any Community Infrastructure Levy money this year.

**20/93. Matters for further discussion**

KO reported that she will stand down as Chair at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, although she is happy to remain as a Parish Councillor.

**20/94. To close the Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7:30pm. Either in the Village Hall or via Zoom, restrictions depending.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

**Approved as a correct record**

**Date**