

4th May 2021

WOOD DALLING PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 4th May 2021, at 7.30pm via Zoom (online).

Present: Kerry Oldfield (KO), *Jonathan Rodwell (JRod)*, Jonathan Rawlinson (JRaw), Rory Harrold (RH), Jono Wilton (JW), Jeff Topp (JT), Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk).

0 members of the public

21/37. (i) To appoint a Chairperson for 2021-22

JW was proposed by JT, seconded by RH, all agreed. The declaration of acceptance of office will be signed in the presence of the Clerk.

(ii) To appoint a Vice Chairperson for 2021-22

JRod was proposed by JW, seconded by JT, all agreed. The declaration of acceptance of office will be signed in the presence of the Clerk.

21/38. Chair's welcome and apologies for Absence.

welcomed everyone. Apologies were accepted for Alex Clark-Rudd

21/39. Declarations of Interest.

JRod - Church.

JT – newsletter.

21/40. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2021

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

21/41. Matters arising from the meeting.

The SAM2 unit has been paid for so should be delivered in the near future.

JRod arr. 19:35.

21/42. Members of the public register a desire to speak

None.

21/43. Committee reports and recommendations:

David McMaster – Village Hall – DM emailed the following report prior to the meeting:

A meeting of the committee is pending this week, where it is hoped we will agree recommence Coffee mornings in June & Film nights in September. The village Hall has received nearly £28000 in Grants from Broadland district council during the pandemic. We have looked into state of roof of the Village Hall & does need renewing, it is aimed with the committee's approval to undertake this, cost up to £13000 with a 20-year guarantee, using the Grant money to give a secure future for the Hall. D McMaster aims to have a discussion with Peter Perry Warnes after the committee meeting to discuss an Autumn Harvest Event. The proposal for a 2022 celebration of Queen's Jubilee will also be discussed. An AGM will be planned hopefully in June.

Jeff Topp – Newsletter – JT emailed the following report to Councillors prior to the meeting: Despite the Coronavirus Pandemic and the inevitable disruption to services, the Newsletter continued to be produced throughout the year – at the end of May, July, September, November, January and March. The printing Service that I had used since I took over editing in the summer of 2014 ceased to operate (Posters by Design) and a new company Cheverton printer in Cromer were able to produce the same number of copies, to an equal if not improved quality at only a small increase in price. When they temporarily closed in March last year the only recourse was to 'home produce' the Newsletter, and it was thanks to Kerry Oldfield and the NFU in Holt that were able to print the Newsletter – albeit in a larger format with fewer pages. This proved to be an important lifeline to villagers who we were able to communicate the important and comforting news that help was always available in the form of volunteers who could help with things like shopping, picking up medicines and 'just being there' for them. Eventually things returned to a sort of normality and normal printing resumed in September. Despite the challenges, the Newsletter got through. This was in no small way due to the sterling efforts of several key players. I am grateful to Debby my wife who assists at key times with formatting and other technical aspects of production. I am

grateful to those who regularly produce reports to include in the Newsletter – Peter Perry-Warnes for his farming report, Jonathan Rodwell for his Church report and David McMaster for his Village Hall report. These, along with the Parish Council minutes of meetings are the backbone of the Newsletter. In addition, there are volunteer deliverers who have without fail delivered Newsletters to every household in the Parish – some hundred houses – every two months. Those who deserve our thanks are: Jono and Alice Wilton, Becky and Ed Marshall, Gerri Williams, Tony and Eileen Karger, John and Kay Rawlinson, Helen and Alvin Dixon, Jonathan and Amanda Rodwell, Kerry Oldfield and Debby Topp. The Newsletter has proven this year to be an important line of communication – particularly as Village Hall events were postponed and no church services took place – ensuring that people were kept informed of events and updates. Only by such openness and transparency can there be harmony in our small community. Thanks must also go to Kirsty Cotgrove, the Clerk, for her work supporting the Newsletter and to the Parish Council for ensuring that regular funding keeps the wheels rolling. I have two recommendations relating to the Newsletter: ONE: To put a single copy of each Newsletter in an archive in the Village Hall to be kept for future reference. I have managed to obtain many past copies dating back to the first production in 1999. TWO: To introduce a section in the Newsletter titled ‘Re-use and Recycle’. Residents can advertise unwanted items or ask for items they require for free. Contact details would obviously have to be advertised (with a phone number).

Jonathan Rodwell – Church – JRod emailed the following report prior to the meeting

There was a service of Holy Communion in the church on April 16th – the first regular service there for over a year. There will be Holy Communion at 9.00am on 16th May and 20th June, and on the third Sunday of each month until October. There will also be a benefice Evensong on 25th July, followed by some musical entertainment and refreshments, to which all are invited. It is also planned to have a musical recital on 6th December, and of course we plan to have our traditional carol service at Christmas. The improvement works at the church, including the surfacing of the path, have now been fully completed. After completion, there is a balance funds from the Ampleford legacy and the fund raising carried out for the improvements; the PCC intends to meet to discuss whether and how best these funds could be used.

Greg Peck – District & County Council – No report.

Chair of the Council – KO emailed the following report to Councillors prior to the meeting:

The year May 2020-May 2021 has been an unusual one for everyone, being dominated by the global pandemic. The Parish Council has not met in person for the whole year, but instead has conducted all its business on zoom meetings and by email. Thank you to Kirsty for setting up the zoom meetings and ensuring we have kept the show on the road. At the time of writing, it is anticipated that the next meeting in July 2021 will be in person in the village hall. We have carried out our annual litter pick with the help from residents and kept the grass cut at the Church, Church Field, Town House pond area and around the millennium seat at Red Pits. New directional signs have been erected to guide visitors to our village hall, which is very discreetly located! These were half paid for by the PC and half by Norfolk County Council. Regular readers of the PC minutes will know that we will be having a speed awareness electronic sign for use in the 30mph area on the Briston/Reepham Road. This has been in the pipeline since the 2019/2020 year, but like so many things during the covid pandemic it is has taken a long time to come to fruition. The funding for this has come from a budget held by our County and District Councillor, Greg Peck and from Norfolk County Council. We are very grateful for their financial support in this matter and hope that it will encourage traffic to slow down through the 30mph area. Parish Councillors have had a meeting with the head of planning from BDC and received guidance on planning matters within the parish, particularly pertaining to development on agricultural land. The PC objected to two planning applications: One was for an accommodation annex at the old Chapel at Red Pits, which was subsequently approved by BDC. The second was for a new pig building at Foundry Lodge, which is yet to be determined. There are a number of road signs and highway signs that are in a state of disrepair in the village. All have been reported to the Highways department, but as yet most are still waiting for repair/ replacement. The PC will continue to request action. Following the

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cold wet winter there are many potholes in our lanes and much work to be carried out. The PC do report them when they come to our attention, but we would encourage residents to report them also, which can be done online. There are currently a number of applications to build offshore wind farms in the North Sea, which initially may seem unlikely to affect local residents in this parish. However, in order to bring the resulting energy onshore, cabling has to be buried across the countryside to allocated electricity stations. As several of these applications are for wind farms off the coast of Norfolk, the cabling is proposed to come through the County and several are proposed to pass near to our village, two will be crossing between Wood Dalling and Reepham. For one of these applications the working base is proposed to be at Oulton and the impact will mean 1000 lorry movements a week through Cawston and Reepham for a period of 10 years. There is a move to get the Government to rethink the policy of allowing multiple cable burying exercises across the countryside and instead set up an offshore ring main into which offshore energy can be fed and then brought onshore in a much less disruptive manner. With this in mind a resident local to Wood Dalling personally took a judicial review against the Norfolk Vanguard project to force the Secretary of State to reconsider the enormous impact of this, and other wind farm projects, on the environment, lives and livelihoods of the people of Norfolk. An appeal was put out to help fund this Judicial Review and Wood Dalling PC contributed to the fund on the basis that it will impact all local residents. It was a 'David and Goliath' exercise, but was in fact successful. There is still a long way to go and no doubt we will hear more as time goes by. The PC act as Landlords to the Parish owned house "Town House" from which we are fortunate enough to have a regular income from our long term and reliable tenants. This year we have had considerable expenditure repairing breakdowns on the central heating system, but all seems to be working well now. Helen Dixon has been a Parish Councillor for several years and has ably organised the annual litter pick in the past and run the grass cutting contract. During 2020 Helen resigned from the PC and we were very sorry to lose her. She has been a great asset to the PC and done more than her share of work during her time in office. She has assured us that although she is no longer a Councillor, she will still be active in the community, particularly with her litter picker. Jono Wilton has kindly taken up her roles as organiser of the litter pick and running the grass cutting contract. The vacancy on the PC was filled by our new Councillor, Jeff Topp. Jeff will be familiar to everyone as he has been editing the village newsletter for many years. Jeff and his wife Debby, with daughter Beth, live near Norton Corner and are very active residents of the parish. There is no doubt that Jeff will be a great asset to the PC and we welcome him 'on board'. The Parish Council is in a sound financial position thanks to the income from the Town House and as a consequence it is able to fund the salary for our Parish Clerk, sundry costs for Clerk, insurance for Town House, insurance for PC, village hall hire for PC meetings, a one-off contribution to the wind farm judicial review, the grass cutting, repairs to Town House, printing of village newsletter and part purchase of village hall signs. It also means that the parish precept, a cost to each household in the parish which is displayed on every council tax bill, is kept low. Looking forward to the year 2022 the nation will be celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee, which after the difficult time we have all experienced should be an occasion for us all to enjoy. I know that residents in the parish are already thinking of ways to have village celebrations and there will be a 'Jubilee Committee' whose plans I'm sure the PC will wholeheartedly support. I do hope that everyone in Wood Dalling will join together for this great event. I have been Chairman of the PC for the past 10 years and feel it is time someone else took up the reins, therefore I am standing down as Chairman at this meeting. There have been many highs and few lows in my time in the Chair and overall I have enjoyed my time in office. I would like to thank both Beryl McMaster and Kirsty Cotgrove, who have both been Clerks to the council over the past ten years and have supported me all the way. Without them my job would not have been possible to manage. I would also like to thank Greg Peck who as District Councillor and then also County Councillor has shown Wood Dalling great support and has attended the vast majority of our PC meetings and offered valuable advice and help when asked. Thanks must go to all Councillors, past and present on WDPC, who have shown me great support and help through the past 10 years. As Councillors we don't always agree,

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which I'm sure is a good thing, but we always show each other respect and go with the democratic vote, which is just as it should be. My final thanks must go to all the residents of Wood Dalling. When I took on the Chairman's job, I only knew a few residents, but now I feel I know so many of you and can count many as friends. A village is just a group of houses; a community is a group of residents who work together. The recent pandemic has shown us how important a supportive community is and I hope that we will all continue to support each other into the future.

JW thanked KO for ten dedicated years as Chair of the Parish Council.

KO thanked the Clerk for all her help.

21/44. Highways/potholes/hedge cutting

Potholes are building up again, especially Crabgate Lane North. The Clerk will report.

21/45. To update on grass cutting

The March invoice has been paid, and cheques will be signed this evening for April and May.

21/46. An update on the Town House, and to agree any payments necessary

No issues.

21/47. To update on the Vattenfall & Hornsea 3 windfarm projects

Ray Pearce's action was successful, and this part is going back to the Secretary of State. This is unlikely to affect the final outcome, but could delay the permission long enough for the Offshore Transmission Network to be a possibility.

21/48. Planning

(i) To ratify response to planning application 20210540, decided between meetings

An objection was submitted by the Parish Council between meetings. There are concerns that there is a large amount of run off from the existing unit. Photographic and video footage should be gained to send on to the EA. The Parish Council will continue to monitor.

21/49. Finance and Payments

(i) Copies of the current cash book were given to all councillors prior to the meeting, and were approved.

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

K Cotgrove – Apr & May salary	£244.14
P Collins – March grass cutting	£352.00
Westcotec- SAM2 unit	£3480.00
J Boxall – internal audit fee	£50.00

Cheques will be signed for the April and May grass cutting invoices.

(iii) To declare the Parish Council exempt from external audit in 2020-21.

As the payments and receipts for the Parish Council were under £25,000 in 2020-21, it was agreed to declare the Parish Council exempt from external audit (prop. JW, sec. KO). The Certificate of Exemption was signed.

(iv) To receive the internal auditor's report and recommendations

The internal auditor's report was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting, and the recommendations were noted and will be actioned.

(v) To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed, (prop. KO, sec. JRaw, all agreed)

(vi) To approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2020-21

The Accounting Statements were approved and signed, (prop. JT, sec. JRod, all agreed).

(vii) To approve an internal auditor for 2021-22

On a proposal by KO, seconded by RH, it was agreed to appoint Jo Boxall as Internal Auditor for the 2021-22 AGAR.

21/50. Matters for further discussion

None.

21/51. To close the Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th July 2021, 7:30pm, in the Village Hall.

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

Approved as a correct record

Date