

Clerk Mr R Quick 07598702826

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SEDGEFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES 16th MARCH 2022

1. Welcome by the Chair.
2. The Public Session: None present
3. Present: Cllr Crump, Cllr Crosley, Cllr Palmer, Cllr Wilce, Cllr Ward, Cllr Clark, Cllr Miller and County Councillor Chenery who arrived at 19.45.
Apologies: Borough Cllr Dark and Borough Cllr Parish
Absent: None
4. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items – None
5. Confirmation of the minutes – Parish Council meeting 16th February 2022. Cllr Clark proposed confirming the minutes, Cllr Crosley seconded, all in favour and carried.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 Sedgeford – Heacham bridleway update – The Clerk had circulated a letter from the landowner prior to the meeting. In the letter, the landowner stated six reasons why he would not be opening up the bridleway: Large amount of machinery uses the farm road daily; There is no defined route off the farm land once the farm road is reached; Dirt bikes have been a regular issue; Dogs running loose and worrying livestock/wildlife and dog excrement; Litter and waste left to blow around the farm which can be harmful to wildlife/environment; Walkers not sticking to the permissive path when it was previously open, putting themselves at risk. Councillors discussed the reasons given and felt that although this response was disappointing, the points raised were valid. Further consideration will be given to the matter.
 - 6.2 Footpath Warden & Circular walk update - Cllr Palmer advised the meeting that he and the Footpath Warden had walked two of the proposed circular routes. There are 3 or 4 possible walks and Cllr Palmer and the Footpath Warden will continue to work on this matter, including looking at any additional signage required.
 - 6.3 Website – Training to be arranged by Cllr Ward
 - 6.4 Assets of Community Value – Carried forward
 - 6.5 Parking on Borough Council land at Jarvie Close update - The Parish Council were delighted by the response of volunteers to help plant nearly four hundred young trees to form a hedge on an area below Jarvie Close. More than thirty villagers kindly gave their time. The trees have been logged on the Queen's Green Canopy website, as part of the Jubilee celebrations. The Parish Council has agreed to look after the trees, and the new wildlife habitat that will develop, so that all villagers can enjoy this green space for years to come. Fluorescent strips have been added to three sections in the posts, marking pedestrian access routes onto the green so that the young trees are not damaged.
 - 6.6 Churchyard liabilities – Carried forward
 - 6.7 Fring - Carried forward
 - 6.8 Former school proposals – Please see comments item 10.
 - 6.9 Water pressure – The Chairman of Anglian Water has replied to our latest query, via James Wild MP, saying – *“To overcome the issues in the short term, we will be making adjustments to the water network to help improve the pressure into Sedgeford. This will be coming into effect in the next week. We recognise that increased demand is expected in the summer months. Pressure loggers will remain in situ to monitor the impact, to make further adjustments if required and to ensure we meet our levels of service. Whilst making these adjustments will help in the short term, we will continue to investigate the area in terms of leakage investigation, configuration and internal pipe surveys.”* The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation closely.
 - 6.10 Rat Infestation – The Clerk advised the meeting that this matter appears to have improved but will be monitored to try to prevent a reoccurrence of the issue.
 - 6.11 Councillor Community Grant Scheme – The Clerk reminded Councillors that both Borough Cllr Dark and Cllr Parish have funding available. Please see comments under item 10. The Clerk suggested submitting a bid for £500 towards the Trod/footpath project – please see item 13.3. This motion was proposed by Cllr Crosley, seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed by all.
 - 6.12 Tennis Centre meeting – A site meeting has been arranged for the Councillors to meet with the owner in May.
 - 6.13 Docking Road saplings - The Clerk advised that unfortunately, the Highways budget has been fully utilised and they will not be able to flail the saplings until the new financial year and then wait until the Autumn, once the nesting season has finished. Councillors were disappointed and asked the Clerk to remind Highways at an appropriate time to try and ensure the work was conducted later in the year.
 - 6.14 Litter pick. The Clerk informed Councillors that although he had registered the village on the “Keep Britain Tidy” website, there was no specific litter picking date. Cllr Miller advised that he regularly walks through the village with his litter picker and collects waste, as does the Chair. Cllr Clark said he would also carry out some picking over the next few weeks. A parishioner has offered to become involved and the Clerk will contact her.
 - 6.15 Cemetery wall – The clerk told the meeting that part of the cemetery wall is bulging and crumbling. Netting had been placed to highlight the issue to pedestrians but unfortunately this has been removed and thrown in the bin. He will obtain

quotes to get the work completed as soon as possible. The first quote is £1800.00 + VAT. Cllr Ward proposed that the Clerk be authorised to complete the necessary work as soon as possible once two further quotes have been received at a maximum cost of £1800 + VAT. Cllr Clark seconded this motion which was carried unanimously.

6.16 Speeding – The Clerk has been successful in getting the Police to officially recognise speeding in the village as one of their priorities. The Clerk will continue trying to arrange more regular speed control visits by the police, especially in the peak speeding times of 6.30-7.30am. Cllr Palmer advised that two replacement batteries for the original SAM sign would cost £240. Cllr Palmer will monitor the existing batteries for a further month to ensure replacements are required.

6.17 Operation London Bridge – The Clerk confirmed he has reviewed the policy and the Parish are adequately prepared.

6.18 Norfolk Community Foundation – The Clerk noticed an article advertising potential assistance for households suffering from the rising cost of living, especially in relation to fuel and food. He contacted the Mire Close Fuel Charity, who provide fuel subsidies to vulnerable people in the village. The Charity Trustees were able to identify thirty-two households in need of fuel/food assistance and the Clerk successfully submitted a bid to the Foundation, funded by Norfolk County Council. Each of these households will receive £50 towards their electricity bill or food vouchers. The Councillors thought this was an excellent opportunity to assist households in the village. Cllr Clark proposed that the Clerk be able to work with the Charity Trustees to apportion the funds, £1600.00, appropriately. Cheques will be required and will be signed by two Councillors, on production of the appropriate documentation from the Clerk. Cllr Palmer seconded this motion which was carried unanimously.

6.19 Councillor Resignation – Cllr Crosley has provided the Chair with a letter of resignation with effect from 31.03.22. The Chair thanked Cllr Crosley for her service on the Council, which was echoed by all the other Councillors, as well as the Clerk. The Clerk will notify the Borough Council on 31st.

6.20 Marsh Harriers – The Clerk has written to SHARP and they will ensure their dig team are aware and vigilant to the situation.

County Councillor Chenery arrived at 19.45.

7. Standing Agenda Items:

7.1 Police report – Circulated by the Clerk as and when received.

7.2 Village Hall Rep Report – The Village Hall Committee met last night. The South Essex Caravan Club are using the recreation ground over 6 days at Easter. There will be 45 caravans but this will only take up half of the playing field so there will be plenty of room for dog walkers and people using the children's playground/adult gym. There will be two more caravan rallies, in May and September. These rallies are an excellent revenue stream for the Village Hall. The Queen's Jubilee celebrations will start with a function at the hall on Thursday 2nd June. There will be a hog roast and folk band, followed by the lighting of the beacon at 9.45pm, as part of the national programme. Tickets will be subsidised and cost £5 for adults and £1 for accompanied children. Tickets are required for the hog roast and folk band and will go on sale mid-April.

7.3 Meetings Attended written/verbal – Cllr Ward attend a monthly zoom meeting hosted by NALC County officer, Jeremy Burton. Jeremy promoted the district meetings for councillors and clerks, as well as the AGM and conference. MP lobbying week starts 21st March. He and exec members will be lobbying Norfolk MPs on three things, reinstatement of online meetings; Civility and respect agenda at meetings; and Planners not listening to Parish Councils.

7.4 Clerks training written/verbal – The Clerk has attended an online course – Future Management of Cemeteries, which he found very useful.

7.5 Councillors training written/verbal - None

8. Planning matters:

8.1 Applications – None

8.2 Planning outcomes – None

To consider plans since publication: None

9. County Councillor update: County Councillor Chenery advised that many County meetings are still being held remotely and he has been involved with the following over the last two months: Community Rail Group; Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust; Board of Governors and Directors; Norfolk Records Committee; Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority; Various Parish Councils.

10. Borough Councillors update: Borough Cllr Dark provided the following by email: *"The school site. I have spoken directly with Simon Hughes the Director of Property at NCC and expressed the PC's interest. He has assured me that whilst the site is now surplus to the LA's school requirement, it has not yet been signed off by the DFE allowing disposal. Furthermore there is currently no intention by NCC to offer the site up to the open market, their preferred route is to move it across into their property company Repton Homes and work with a bespoke company they partner with to evaluate the viability of developing sympathetic local homes for rental or sale or a combination of the two (such as the scheme at Hunstanton school). Simon believes that with their likely to be shared space features this would potentially lean towards a resident 'management company' which would also better enable restrictive covenants with regard to 'second homes, businesses etc'. All in all this indicates NCC are very early in the process of disposal and Simon is keen to work with the Parish Council and the Borough to shape the scheme as it moves forward. I am pleased to have been able to use £200 of the new Local Member Fund to support the Sedgeford Women's Friendship Group. I am aware that I have a request from the church for their open gardens event and will also be assisting with this."*

Borough Cllr Parish advised by email that he still had money left in the Local Member fund. He was very disappointed to read

the landowners response regarding the bridleway from Sedgeford to Heacham. Planning enforcement remains an issue with many Parishes. He congratulated the Parish on the tree planting project.

11. To approve accounts and payments this month:

11.1 Approval and payment of invoices: Proposed by Cllr Ward, seconded by Cllr Crosley and approved by all.

Name	Business	Net	VAT	Gross	Recoverable VAT
K and M Lighting (STO)	Street Lighting Maintenance March	13.29	2.66	15.95	All
CGM Group (STO)	Grounds Maintenance March	260.71	52.14	312.85	All
npower (DDR)	Electricity – Street Lighting March	49.93	2.50	52.43	All
Parish Clerk	Payment March (See Log)	405.19	0.00	405.19	None
HMRC	March (See Log)	101.20	0.00	101.20	None
A10 Pest Control	Pest Control	105.00	21.00	126.00	All
Parish Clerk	Expenses	39.45	0.00	39.45	None
Parish Clerk	Cane top protectors	33.28	6.68	39.96	All
NALC	Annual Subscription	183.46	0.00	183.46	None
NALC	Training	40.00	8.00	48.00	All
KL&WN BC	Dog bin emptying	418.00	83.60	501.06	All
ee-scape Ltd	Website hosting	195.00	0.00	195.00	None

11.2 Financial Statements for February 2022 – issued during month. Noted

12. Correspondence, to consider any correspondence/communication received:

12.1 **Careline Community Service**, managed by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, has launched two new products. **Careline Go** and **Careline Eva**, are digital alarms that use a roaming SIM to connect to the strongest cellular network, so a land line is no longer required. **Careline Go** is a mobile device which promotes independence both inside and outside of the home. It connects to a 24/7 monitoring centre via the cellular mobile network and uses GPS satellite technology to find the location once activated. The Go has falls detection technology and can be worn in the shower as it has an IP67 waterproof rating. **Careline Eva** is a base unit which can be used within the home and garden. Both products support customers with staying safe while allowing them to still be independent. Grants may be available to cover the cost of installation for those living in west Norfolk and in receipt of a qualifying benefit, or those experiencing memory loss. For more information visit [Careline Community Service \(careline-cs.org.uk\)](http://careline-cs.org.uk) or contact them on **01553 616200** and select option 1.

12.2 NALC Summer Conference & AGM – 6th July. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the Conference and AGM

12.3 Highways Rangers visit April. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Rangers would be visiting in April. Clearing the pavement on Snettisham Road will be requested.

12.4 Could you foster? Nexus Fostering are advertising for foster carers.

12.5 Collecting for Ukraine – A wide variety of collections for Ukraine are available for individuals to contribute towards. The Council will monitor the situation to see if there is anything specific it could help with.

12.6 Able Community Care – Free safety door stickers. The Clerk will order a supply of stickers, with a view to making them available to parishioners.

13. To consider any Correspondence received after publication:

13.1 Norfolk Superhero charity Quadrathlon 18th June 2022. The Council noted that the cycling leg of the event will pass through the village.

13.2 Anglian Water – **Anglian Water** are offering support to their customers. Anglian Water offer a wide range of financial assistance that may be able to help those in financial difficulties. This includes discounted tariffs, assistance schemes for those who have fallen behind with payments, as well as flexible and affordable payment plans. More details are available by visiting anglianwater.co.uk/WaterCare or calling 0800 232 1951.

13.3 Parish Partnership – The Clerk was pleased to advise Councillors that Norfolk County Council have agreed the Parish Council's bid for funding to instal a trod (a low- cost footpath using unbound material instead of asphalt), along the verge on Snettisham Road. The Trod will join up the footpath from the church to Snettisham. The Clerk will liaise with Highways regarding the start date for this project.

14. Any other business (for information only) and any items to carry forward to next month for the decision of the council: None

15. Any further public contributions to the meeting - None

16. Proposed Date of Next Meeting – 20th April 2022

17. Close – 20.30