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SEDGEFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES 18th JANUARY 2023

1. Welcome by the Chair.
2. The Public Session: Anthony Moore from Repton Homes, part of Norfolk County Council and Mark Nevitt, Torrington Properties Ltd attended the meeting and provided a presentation of their thoughts and plans for the former school site. Torrington are a Project and Development Management practice brought in by Repton to design this and other housing schemes across Norfolk. As the plan is yet to be presented to the Borough Council Planning Team, little detail was able to be provided. The main school building will be retained and converted into 4/5 one or two bed apartments. Potentially 10/12 houses could be built elsewhere on the site. Parish Councillors advised Mr Moore and Mr Nevitt that there was a need for affordable and social housing for local people and not second/holiday homes. They also highlighted the policy in the Village Neighbourhood Plan stipulating that new open market housing will only be supported where there is a restriction to ensure its occupancy as a Principal Residence. More details will become available once the Borough Council Planning Team have received sight of the plan and the PC will invite Mr Moore and Mr Nevitt back to discuss those details. Mr Moore and Mr Nevitt left the meeting at 19.00. No other members of the public were present.
3. Present: Cllr Crump, Cllr Clark, Cllr Wilce, Cllr Miller, Cllr Coleman, Borough Cllr Parish who left at 19.00 and County Councillor Chenery who left at 20.25. Borough Cllr Dark, who arrived at 19.10.
 Apologies: Cllr Palmer and Cllr Ward
 Absent: None
4. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items – Cllr Clark declared an interest in item 13.3
5. Confirmation of the minutes – Parish Council Meeting 21st December 2022. Cllr Coleman proposed confirming the minutes, Cllr Miller seconded, all in favour and carried.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 Footpath Warden & Circular walk update – Cllr Palmer provided draft copies of the walking leaflet to Councillors prior to the meeting. He also advised through the Clerk that he has received a response from David Mills NCC regarding the marker posts and way markers and will respond to the queries. The Footpath Warden also advised that some photographs will be required for the leaflets and the Clerk confirmed he will action this. The map opposite the King William, next to the PC noticeboard will need replacing. The meeting discussed the draft leaflet and the Clerk will liaise with Cllr Palmer about this. Cllr Clark advised the meeting that he was in communication with the Footpath Warden regarding replacing the walking map.
 - 6.2 Assets of Community Value – Carried Forward
 - 6.3 Churchyard liabilities – Carried Forward
 - 6.4 River Heacham – The Clerk advised that John Bolton, Water Resources Project Manager for Anglian Water will attend our February meeting along with Daniella Montali Ashworth from Five Rivers Environmental, to discuss the recent survey conducted on the River. They have asked if there are any specific questions from the PC. Cllr Coleman has been in correspondence with Jonah Tosney, Technical Director for Norfolk Rivers Trust who said “Low flows at this time of year are a serious concern and seem to be fairly widespread. The springs that feed the neighbouring Hun and Ingol haven't started to flow yet, and we have farmers in south Norfolk unable to fill their reservoirs because river levels are too low, which is a threat to next year's crops. Apparently although the topsoil is now wet and we have had some rainfall, the groundwater remains very low following last year's drought, and any abstraction obviously makes this worse. I'm aware that Anglian Water are looking at ways to reduce abstraction and mitigate the impacts, but not sure what this will mean yet. All I can suggest is a letter to your MP stressing concerns about abstraction”. Borough Cllr Dark advised that the BC are involved in discussions regarding the quality of sea water off Heacham. James Wild MP is party to these discussions as is Anglian Water. Abstraction levels and river silting are amongst the topics in discussion and BC Cllr Dark will keep the PC updated.
 - 6.5 Former School – See above. BC Cllr Dark added that affordable housing is a BC priority for the north of the Borough and he will continue to engage with NCC/Repton regarding their plans.
 - 6.6 Community Infrastructure Levy Bids for 2023 – The Clerk advised that following questions raised at the Village Hall Committee (VHC), it appears there may be a resilience issue with resin for the car park resurfacing project. Both the resin company and the contractor voiced concerns over heavy vehicles turning on the surface and potentially damaging it. Resin surfaces cannot easily be repaired. The contractor and resin supplier both suggested an open grade permeable tarmac, topped off with 40mm of 10mm Stone Mastic Asphalt. The contractor has also offered to add some additional colour by adding resin coated coloured stone of our choice to the top layer. The quote from Buckley Designs is £5500, some £10k cheaper than one quote and only slightly higher than another, which was a far inferior depth of excavation/infill. The VHC were in favour of the Buckley Design quote and had agreed to fund the project with the sum of £500. The VHC had agreed to fund the window replacement project for £350. The most reasonable quote was from Supreme Windows, a local reputable firm. Councillors discussed the projects and the quotes received. Cllr Clark proposed accepting the quotes from Buckley Designs for the tarmac resurfacing and Supreme Windows for the replacement windows and matching the sums invested i.e. £500 towards the resurfacing and £350 for the windows. Cllr Miller seconded the motion which was approved by all. The

Clerk will submit CIL bids for both projects.

6.7 Trod and deer signs – The Clerk said that it was deeply disappointing that the Trod had been damaged so soon after installation. He has contacted Highways who will program their contractors to repair the damage. At last month's meeting, Cllr Palmer had raised the issue of high numbers of deer being killed by traffic, particularly on the Heacham Road. Highways advised that there was no budget available for signs. BC Cllr Dark will try to find out numbers and locations of the dead animals from the BC team that remove the carcasses.

6.8 Community "Hot Spot" – The Clerk advised that sessions commenced on the 3rd January and apart from a few initial teething problems, things were steadily building in terms of attendances.

6.9 Centre Port – BC Cllr Dark advised that this was a potential major infrastructure project involving huge sums of finance. Some experts were stating that the potential benefits were positive, some other experts that the environmental results would be very negative. He said that the project would take several years before coming to planning, if ever, and that the BC would view the plan if a planning application was ever made. The BC are alive to community concerns.

Elected County Leader - BC Cllr Dark advised that this was connected to the Government's devolution of power to local areas and that that the Government wish to appoint an elected Leader with whom they can deal directly. Cllr Dark said that Borough/District Leaders like himself were involved in this process. KL&WN BC have some "red lines" on the issue which they will continue to monitor and the consultation process will proceed with caution. NCC Cllr Chenery concurred with these thoughts.

6.10 Changing email address – Carried Forward

6.11 Precept – As agreed at the December meeting the Clerk has submitted the appropriate forms for a precept of £10145.45

6.12 Coronation Mugs – Cllr Ward had previously queried whether Coronation mugs could be ordered for children in the village. The Clerk advised that the net cost of a box of 36 would be £246.00. Councillors discussed the matter and thought it was a good idea. Cllr Clark proposed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a box of mugs. This motion was seconded by Cllr Wilce and agreed by all.

6.13 Funding for walking schemes and Defibrillators – The Clerk told the meeting that the Government had announced new funding to help councils develop better designed walking and cycling schemes. Details will follow in due course. The Clerk also asked Councillors if another defibrillator would be of benefit to the village as funding is regularly available. BC Cllr Dark advised that there may be an announcement regarding BC funding in the next few weeks so it was agreed to carry the item forward until next month.

6.14 Quarterly Risk Assessment Reports -

Cemetery, Washpit and Council Property – Cllr Ward provided the following report prior to the meeting - I confirm that the risk log is up to date and all aspects of the log have been looked at. There are no major issues to raise except the river which the Parish Council is already aware of. The flow of water past the Washpit and under the bridge has stopped and this has been the case for the last 2/3 months. It is amazing that there is not a flow considering the large amount of rain that has fallen. All items of council property remain in good order. With the winter roads the Village gates are getting dirty and will require a working party in the spring to clean them again, but this is to be expected.

The cemetery is looking Ok, the clerk will be inspecting this month when he removes old wreaths after the Christmas period. He has confirmed that this is in his diary. The Council still need to give some thought to the ever-growing spoil heap on the hedge side of the cemetery. This would require a digger and trailer to remove. I am sure it could be used for paths or dirt tracks, but it is a matter of finding the people to remove it. I wonder if it is worth contacting the local farmers to find out if it is of use to them. The original dog bins may need replacing this year, but I will do a further inspection for my next report.

Finance – Cllr Miller reported that all assessments were up to date. Apart from a small clerical "typo" of £0.06, all financial paperwork was in order, duly authorised and filed correctly. The error was rectified in December.

7. Standing Agenda Items:

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

7.2 Village Hall Rep Report – Nothing to add to the report made in December.

7.3 Meetings Attended written/verbal - None

7.4 Clerks training written/verbal- None

7.5 Councillors training written/verbal - None

8. Planning matters:

8.1 Applications – None

8.2 Planning outcomes -None

To consider plans since publication:

22/00238/TREECA - Church Barn 5 West Hall Farm Barns Church Lane - T1 - Lime - Fell in a Conservation Area – Tree

Application - No objection - 10 January 2023 - Delegated Decision

9. County Councillor update: NCC Cllr Chenery advised that he has been busy particularly on two topics – He is NCC Champion for Older People and Chairman of the Norfolk Records Committee.

10. Borough Councillors update: BC Cllr Dark provided information on the following BC issues:

Precept and Charges will be kept as low as possible in face of rising costs. Last year council tax for a Band D property in the borough

was £2014, of which the BC received £89 – 7p for every £1 collected. This meant £1.54 was available to provide the BC services to each property in the borough.

Four hundred Ukrainian refugees are being supported by the BC

£9m has been provided by the BC in fuel subsidies.

£200 grants are available for community coronation events

Foodbanks and charities continue to be supported - £50k was used to support Hot Spots, like the one here in Sedgeford.

BC continues to support community events – Christmas Lights in King's Lynn; Firework display at the Walks and Hunstanton's Soap-Box Derby.

BC Cllr Parish provided a report via email - The Borough Council has acquired various funds from government to proceed with work on the Guildhall and the library / study development on the site of the Argos building. The South Gates proposal has also been agreed. An announcement has been made about £200 grants for coronation parties. The public enquiry into the Local Plan review was terminated by inspectors to allow time for more information to be obtained by officers. The Local Plan Task Group will be called upon to help answer the queries raised. Following concerns about the proposals to build a Wash barrier, I did some research. As a result, I have a motion in Council next week which asks, amongst other things, that the Borough recognises that such a proposal is being pursued by a private company. I visited Fring on Monday and met with a parishioner. One of the matters we discussed was the state of the Heacham River. He is more than a little aggravated with Anglian Water about extraction. I suggested he might like to talk to yourselves and now suggest you might like to talk to him. I raised the matter of the, now, non existent footpath between Sedgeford and Heacham with planning officers as your neighbour, who has the power to create one, has a second planning application to convert farm buildings to holiday accommodation in. The Heacham Neighbourhood Plan says that such applications should demonstrate wider benefits to the community. I suggested a footpath might do that.

11. To approve accounts and payments this month:

11.1 Approval and payment of invoices: Proposed by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed by all.

Name	Business	Net	VAT	Gross	Recoverable VAT
K and M Lighting (STO)	Street Lighting Maintenance January	13.29	2.66	15.95	All
CGM Group (STO)	Grounds Maintenance January	276.77	55.35	332.12	All
npower (DDR)	Electricity – Street Lighting January	31.23	1.56	32.79	All
Parish Clerk	Payment January (See Log)	0.00	0.00	0.00	None
HMRC	January (See Log)	0.00	0.00	0.00	None
Parish Clerk	HP Ink	3.74	0.75	4.49	All
Parish Clerk	Expenses	34.53	0.00	34.53	None

11.2 Financial Statements for December 2022 – issued during month - Noted

12. Correspondence, to consider any correspondence/communication received: None

13. To consider any Correspondence received after publication:

13.1 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan – Hearing adjourned – BC Cllr Dark advised that the Local Plan Task Group will be called upon to help answer the queries raised.

13.2 Open gardens – Cllr Palmer asked for manual help regarding Open Gardens. Cllrs Clark, Coleman and Miller all offered their assistance.

Cllr Clark left the meeting at 20.30 whilst the next item was discussed.

13.3 Paddock rental agreement – Cllrs had agreed the budget at December's meeting, part of which included at £20 rise in the rent for the Paddock. Cllr Miller proposed that the Clerk write to Mrs. McGinty and Mr. Clark advising them of the increased rent and asking if they wish to rent the Paddock for a further 11 months. This motion was seconded by Cllr Coleman and agreed by all remaining Councillors.

Cllr Clark returned to the meeting at 20.35

13.4 Barclays Bank – The Clerk told the meeting that the Barclays Bank branch in Hunstanton would be closing in April 2023. He advised that most payments and receipts are now online so hopefully there should be little impact.

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 – 15th February 2023 – 18.30 start

17. Close – 20.38