

# RINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm, at Ringland Village Hall

## WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting and explained that the clerk is absent due to a family bereavement.

### 1. Apologies

Louise Cooper  
Jill Baker  
Sophie Baker

### 2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

### 3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021

All approved.

### 4. Matters arising - from the previous meeting **not** covered elsewhere in this agenda. *All matters arising are covered later in the agenda*

### 5. Police communications – NA

None received. Five local crimes in this area in the last month.

### 6. Correspondence from County & District Councillors

#### Greg Peck

- No correspondence received at the point the agenda was published however Mr Bulman & Mr Peck both attended the meeting/
- G Peck confirmed that the County Council will subsidise power points for Electric Cars on public buildings such as the village hall. The detail of this policy is still in development and Mr Peck will inform the parish council once it is possible to apply for a grant.
- The County council environmental policy since 2017 has reduced the County councils carbon footprint by 68%. Gas consumption across all Council properties has been reduced by 75%.
- A £1500 allowance for environmental improvements is available – tree scheme. SA to liaise with GP.
- The 2022 County Council Budget has identified the need to find £5 million to balance the books. 2% Council tax rise is proposed – average £40 per year per household increase. Consultation in January 2022.
- Safety Railings near the Ringland River bridge – the contractor is struggling to get materials. The railing repairs will now not happen before Christmas, but hopefully by the end of January 2022.
- Highways Engineer Ben Rainer is leaving. Suggest a meeting with his replacement as soon as he starts.
- Discussion took place on the quality of road repairs in Ringland.
- NA to send photo of tractor collision with railings to Greg Peck.

#### P Bulman

- Around 4000 houses at Honingham Thorpe are proposed with a view to build within 20 years. Peter and Greg both oppose these plans.
- Food Enterprise Park , a solar farm has been proposed – PB is trying to mitigate this, to lessen impact to local villagers.
- Weston Longville – extension for Dinosaur Park – dialogue at the moment with Weston Parish Council.
- Broadland and SNC considering offices being together on a single site.

## 7. Planning applications and Enforcement Notices

No new applications received at the point the agenda was published. It was noted that work has commenced behind pub at cabin site. Enquiries with Broadland planning have confirmed that the planning permission for 5 holiday homes remains valid

## 8. Finance

- The bank reconciliation as at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 was approved
- The Schedules of Receipts and Payments was approved
- Bank Account for reserves – update - **Lindy C.**

## 9. Parish correspondence/administration - action and/or response to:-

- **A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling & NWL –**  
Discussion took place about progress. Nothing new to report. National Highways have contacted Nick about the A47 progress and compulsory purchase of land belonging in part to the Parish Council. NA has asked for a meeting to better understand the requirements. Start date for the A47 remains late 2022.
- **The Parish Clerk as account signatory. AH and LC –** no further progress yet. NatWest bank are proving very difficult and it was proposed that we leave NatWest and go to Barclays. NA, seconded SA.
- **A simpler agenda format – NA, LC and AH** have actioned
- **The Commemorative Plaque – AH** e-mailed residents and the majority voted in favour. The plaque has been applied for – no news yet.
- **Offshore Windfarm Project –** We have signed up to the campaign “A Perfect Storm”- we are the 82<sup>nd</sup> council to sign up. Hopefully, that group will succeed in pushing for the offshore ring main approach. – **NA**
- **Invitation to bid for Parish Partnership – update – MT –** Parking at river green, near recycling bins. Estimate of cost £5000 – extend area and push bins back. MT spoke to NCC with our change to the plans. It is confirmed that the funds can be transferred. We have until March 22 to commit to it. We can also include the Village Hall parking costs in the application (£9000). NA proposed that we continue with the application by the recycling bins, subject to safety issues being investigated. Seconded by L Cooper.
- **Transport for Norwich/Electric Vehicle Strategy – update NA. – Greg Peck** to let us know when this will go ahead- subsidised by NCC.

## 10. Commons Management Matters

- **The Environmental Stewardship Scheme** – update of initial assessment – **SA met with Natural England** and an agreement has been – agreed= we carry on with the current scheme.
- **Bracken clearing volunteer session** – update SA – August best time to do this. January – weekend scrub clearing to be organised. We need to do rotational scrub to prove that we are doing the criteria. 20% per year approximately. Low common could have more stock to keep down the grass. We can publicise this to the village.
- **Schedule of inspections** and record keeping programme - update -**SA** to do this in order to satisfy the stewardship scheme criteria. SA will put something together along these lines.
- **Fly tipping report** – **SA** Ringland Hills rubbish has been removed already. SA would like to organise another litter picking day in the new year.
- Chris Cooper was volunteered to survey the boundary between the Sheep Dip and Peggy's pastures to determine if they are encroaching on Common Land – **Lou C** – not yet happened. Progress update for the next meeting.

#### 10a. Grass cutting on Church Common and the Ringland Hills

- **Ringland Hills grass cutting** options – update **NA and SA** – no further progress at this point. Will need strimming manually as it is too far to take the village mower and too far for Ringland Estates to cut it.
- **Volunteers for grass cutting** within the village boundaries. Neil Spinks and Stuart George, Keith ?? have volunteered.
- **New lawnmower storage** – container cost update - **NA**. – 8' x 10' container- £3300 including delivery second hand. P Bulman suggested we investigate the cost of contracting out the grass cutting. It was agreed that NA will get some quotations for a contractor to do the grass cutting and review at the next meeting.
- **Email sent to residents requesting storage** - **AH** – no one has volunteered any storage space.
- **1 Million Trees for Norfolk** – update **SA** – Flooding areas are excluded so cannot do the river edges. Tree species available are not what we need at the moment, so unable to locate any suitable areas.

#### 11. Highways and Parking Matters

- **Bridge Railing Repair** – already updated **NA**.
- **Speed signs** – repair completed– Lou has not erected them yet, should go up this weekend.
- **Re-painting of the slow sign and Junction Lines** - no response from Highways yet. Greg Peck will request this again.
- **River Green parking update** – **MT** – updated already previously in the agenda. We will ask Chris to also survey the area where the recycling bins are located.

#### 12. Village Hall Matters

- **Driveway** – we thanked Malcolm and Bernie on the works. It has been very successful. **MG** pointed out that it is on a slope which may be difficult for disabled people.
- **Village Hall Website** - update – nothing heard from Sophie Baker. NA will ask if she wishes to stay on the council. NA will approach the locals in the village.
- **Fire exit door** - **NA** has put a notice on the door.
- **Insurance Certificate** has been replaced. **AH/NA**.
- **Electrics upgrade.** – Update – in on Wednesday this week- NA has scheduled the works.
- **Re-instating the village hall committee** – meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November in the Village Hall. -**Lou C**
- **Time Machine – Roving Theatre Company Enquiry** - booked for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – **NA**
- **Craft Fayre and Christmas Bazaar** – to be confirmed by **Hall Committee**.

### **13. General Parish Matters**

- **Recycling Revenue** – cost and revenue figures - **AH** – next meeting – maybe a clothing bank would be beneficial?
- **Parish Council Website** – update - **SB** – postpone to next meeting.

**14. Public Participation** – Discussion took place about the state of the highways in Ringland.

**15. Byelaws Working Group** – update - **NA** and **SA** – no progress yet.

**16. Environmental Policy** – update LindyC will email around to councillors to review and adopt at the next meeting.

**17. Exchange of Information and any other business.**

Ringland Half Marathon will not take place in March 2022 due to costs.

US Air Force apologise for noise – F15's from Lakenheath.

**18. Time and venue of next council meeting – To be agreed**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – 7.30pm