

SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Napier

Vice Chairman: Andy Thornton

MINUTES OF THE MEETING SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL on 30 November 2021 at 7.00pm at SHROPHAM VILLAGE HALL

Those in attendance: David Napier, Andy Thornton, Lesley Brown, Amy Negus, Ed Howe, Cliff Allen, Peter Bush

Also present: District Cllr Phil Cowen, District Cllr Sarah Suggitt and 11 Members of the Public

Before the meeting began on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant, Deputy Lieutenant Kay Fisher presented a blue commemorative plaque to Sandra Chapman, as Chairman of the Village Hall, in recognition of the efforts made by the community during the pandemic.

1. Apologies

None.

2. To approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 29 September 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29 September 2021 could be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by P Bush and seconded by L Brown, all voted in favour.

3. To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members

None.

4. Guest Speakers

None.

5. Planning Applications

- a. **3PL/2021/1435/F** - White Horse Rocklands Road NR17 1DU - Change of use of our annex from domestic family use to Air B&B accommodation for some of the year. **No objections raised. Undecided.**
- b. **3PN/2021/0045/UC** – Home Farm Bradcar Road NR17 1EQ - Prior approval for conversion of two agricultural buildings to two dwellings and change of use of agricultural land to domestic. General Permitted Development England Order 2015 as amended by Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q. **Prior approval given.**
- c. **3PL/2021/0843/F** - Stephen's Field Shropham NR17 1DZ - The erection of a permanent agricultural workers dwelling, to include landscaping and parking. **Permission.**
- d. **3PL/2021/0079/F** - Lingar Hill Farm Harling Road NR17 1EE - Erection of one clear span, steel framed poultry house on existing poultry farm and relocation of two existing feed bins. **No objections raised. Undecided.**
- e. **3PL/2021/1547/F** - Land to South side of Swangey Lane NR17 1XJ - 8no. poultry houses with associated admin blocks, feed bins and ancillary development. This is a Rocklands planning application but given its proximity to Shropham is likely to have an effect on the village. P Cowen advised that farming has changed out of all recognition and there has

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

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been an intensifying of practices and the production of chickens and pigs has become an industrial operation. There have been a number of similar applications throughout Breckland and the downside is the effect it has on rural communities in terms of vehicular movements and to the environment. P Cowen advised that he has raised objections to this application. The location is on a South West facing slope where water will drain towards the fishing lakes which in turn runs into the River Thet. The site is on a single track road which is unfenced and the fields run up to the verge. There are no passing places and there is a sharp angular ford which is prone to flooding and sometimes difficult to navigate in a car and will be extremely difficult for HGVs. The site will house in excess of 2.7 million birds per annum which will have a significant odour issue together with fly infestations, both of which have been experienced from nearby chicken farms. P Cowen considers this is an inappropriate location for such an industrial scale operation, it is in close proximity to similar sites which increases the risk of disease such as avian flu. P Cowen suggested that Rocklands, Shropham and Ellingham should work together on this application as it will have an adverse effect on all three Parishes.

Individuals can also support or object to the application but any comments need to be objective not subjective.

A Thornton suggested that a lot of vehicles will not travel through the ford and as a consequence, will travel through Shropham.

Light pollution and its proximity to the river also need to be considered.

The landowner owns other sites which are more suited to this type of operation. It is reported that there would be approximately 92 movements per week.

D Napier to contact Chairman of Rocklands and Great Ellingham to discuss.

E Howe enquired whether there were any other sites of this scale in the vicinity. There are no other sites of this scale or in such an elevated position.

P Cowen advised that Planning have to accept what they are told in an application, is true. They rely on the community who know and understand the problems and are able to explain where they are incorrect or untrue.

6. Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure:-

- a. To approve salary payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, from 1 November 2021 to 24 November 2021 (incl holiday pay) in the sum of £318.73.
- b. To approve donation payment to the Poppy Appeal in the sum of £100 (in budget).
- c. To approve payment to Shropham Village Hall for hire charges 30 November 2021 in the sum of £10.00.
- d. To ratify salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, from 23 September to 30 October 2021 (incl holiday pay) in the sum of £429.14.
- e. To ratify expenses payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for travel to and from the Village Hall meeting 24.5 miles in the sum of £22.05.

The above payments were proposed by D Napier and seconded by A Thornton. All voted in favour.

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7. To discuss, propose and vote on the following subjects:-

a. **Budget 2022-23 and agree Precept**

The Council had been provided with a draft budget for consideration. L Brown raised the donation to the Poppy Appeal and felt that this was a personal choice and not the responsibility of the Parish Council. D Napier advised that he does not share the same view and would like this to continue as the Parish Council's sole donation. E Howe could see the point being made by L Brown. A Thornton agreed that the donation should continue. P Bush wanted to understand why the Parish Council would not make a donation to charity. C Allen accepted the common sense view of L Brown but was in support of it remaining.

D Napier proposed a continuation of the donation of £100, seconded by C Allen. Vote carried 6/7 in favour.

After discussion, it was agreed that Shropham would not request a precept for the 2022/23 financial year.

b. **Access to the Village Hall from the Hargham Road – enquiries are being made**

E Howe suggested that it was not for the Village Hall to fund this idea but a matter for the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that this was never in question and would always fall under the remit of the Parish Council, it was merely agreement to the suggestion that had been sought. P Bush asked whether there would be a walkway across the fields. It was advised that there would not be. P Bush said that a walk track would naturally be made. This was not considered a problem. There could be a potential problem with regards to safety and D Napier confirmed that communications has to be with Highways on this point. The Clerk will continue to establish whether this is viable.

D Napier advised that it was important that the Parish Council has a good working relationship with the Village Hall and whilst differences will occur it is essential they work together for the benefit of the community.

c. **Clerk Salary Review**

An 88p per hour salary increase was proposed by D Napier, all voted in favour.

8. Matters to Report

a. **Financial Balances**

The Clerk advised the current balance is £12,581.33.

b. **Parish Land**

A Thornton is in discussions with solicitors on this matter and will report further in due course.

c. **Defibrillator**

The Clerk advised that the defibrillator has been ordered and will be gifted to the Village Hall. The Village Hall will be responsible for maintenance, insurance and training.

d. **Telephone kiosk**

Works will commence once the weather improves, it is too damp at the moment.

e. **Parish Partnership Funding application for flashing deer sign**

An application has been submitted and a decision will not be known until March next year.

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f. **Rangers matters**

Several matters have been reported and are being addressed.

g. **Operation London Bridge**

D Napier and the Clerk to work through.

h. **Fireworks**

D Napier expressed concerns about extensive damage which had been caused to some pipes at TNP. It is acknowledged that fireworks are not illegal but next year a notice will be placed in the Shropham Grove to encourage people to be careful and to consider their surroundings.

i. **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Nothing to report.

j. **Trees**

Two reports had been received from Breckland Council in relation to trees which required attention. Owners identified.

k. **Village Hall Constitution**

P Bush had reviewed these documents and reported as follows:-

- The document is a foundation document, not a Constitution.
- The Parish Council is not permitted to change details on the foundation document.
- The new proposed document alters the original.

S Chapman, Village Hall Chairman, advised that she is fed up with it. The Charities Commission had already approved the changes, it was passed to the previous Clerk several years ago and ACRE support the changes to the document.

P Bush advised that the Parish Council have no idea what discussions took place but the question has to be as to why it is necessary.

D Napier advised that the previous Chairman also saw no reason why the document needed to be changed.

The Parish Council are the sole Trustee and the Charities Commission would look to them.

D Napier proposed that the document is left as it is, A Thornton seconded. Three voted in favour, two abstentions and two conflicts of interest. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the current documentation would remain in place.

P Bush advised that the only thing that could be changed is the structure of the Committee but this would need to be done at the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee and a resolution passed.

S Chapman left the meeting.

9. **Any items to be noted for the next Agenda.**

As above.

10. **Correspondence**

None.

11. **Public participation**

An objection was made as to how P Bush spoke about S Chapman. P Bush advised that he was not talking directly about anyone in particular. The reason the document was looked at in the first place was that ACRE suggested the document was old.

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A Member of the public enquired why we do not have a food waste collection. S Suggitt advised that it is complex matter. The District Council are responsible for collecting waste and the County Council is responsible for disposal. It would require an additional container for householders and additional and different vehicles on the roads. It is expensive and logistically difficult to achieve. For example, Norwich may collect waste differently to Breckland. Breckland is a huge district and it is difficult to achieve in rural areas and within budgets. It is however being discussed at central Government level.

12. To agree date for next meeting: Tuesday 25 January 2022.

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