

**Minutes of the Meeting of Lessingham and Hempstead with Eccles Parish Council
held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall**

Present: Peter Peruzzi (Chairman)
Steve Bennett
James Holden
David Reynolds
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

Also present: County Councillor Richard Price, District Councillor Lucy Shires and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Cull.

2. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda

None.

3. Co-option to Vacant Positions

Jennifer Boardman was co-opted to the Council, proposed by Steve Bennett, seconded by James Holden, all in favour. Alan Shields was co-opted to the Council, prop by Steve Bennett, seconded by David Reynolds, all in favour. The two new councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their seats for the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed**, proposed by David Reynolds, seconded by James Holden, all in favour, and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Appointment of Parish Clerk

The Chairman confirmed that Catherine Moore had been appointed as Parish Clerk on a fixed term contract until 31st March 2023, after the employment term would be considered subject to salary review. This would be on the next agenda to discuss during budget setting.

b) Hedge Cutting - Bridleway

Steve Bennett reported that the hedge was considerably overgrown and a resident had spoken with the farmer who owned the field. The hedge had been cut and it was suggested that the Council should formally write to request that this was done annually. County Councillor Richard Price said that he would deal with this directly alongside District Councillor Lucy Shires, as this was a problem for the bin lorries. It was noted that Seaside Lane and Bush Drive, particularly on the corner, were the main issues.

ACTION: RP/LS

6. Public Forum

a) Public

A member of the public introduced himself as a representative of the Eccles Beach Caravan Park. He noted that regarding Church Lane, he had worked with the parish council to put a letter out to residents, and that resurfacing of the road had been completed in June. Approx 30M of Bush Drive had also been resurfaced. It was noted that the road had been improved in the past, and that previous parish councils had worked with the district and county councillors to try to get Church Lane adopted,

however the road was not made to the correct specification underneath the surface which was why it had not been adopted in the past. Contributions had been requested from the Bush Estate. 246 households had received letters asking for a £35 contribution, and this had been received from 66 households, totalling £2,332.50. This represented 14% of the total costs. He thanked those who had contributed, and asked the Parish Council to put up a thank you notice to go onto Facebook and the notice boards, as well as the newsletter. The member of the public asked the Parish Council to add a funding process for Church Lane to the Parish Council precept so that all residents would equally contribute. It was noted that the Parish Council could not raise a Special Expense just for the Bush Estate, and that all council tax payers in the parish would have to contribute. It was also unlikely that the Parish Council had the power to maintain a private road. Steve Bennett gave an update on work within the parish by the residents community group, noting that 27% response was a good result. He suggested that not stipulating a contribution rate could help as some could afford more, and he also suggested that an annual contribution rather than five yearly was more affordable.

The Council was asked whether they would support a letter going out on an annual basis, it was felt that in principle that this was supported on the basis of voluntary contributions. This would be on the agenda for the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) County Councillor

Richard Price reported that the County Council had put together a £750,000 fund for community projects, with £250,000 going into the foodbank. The County Council was looking at their budgets and trying to close the £60M funding gap. The County Council was trying to make efficiencies between and within departments.

The MP for the area would be participating in the London Marathon and was raising money for North Norfolk charities. He had attended villages in North Norfolk, spent a week working in a care home, and spent a week with the ambulance service.

Richard would be attending an environment group, and noted the problems with the salt water surge and decisions not to close the surge gate at Potter Heigham, resulting in a large number of fish being killed which had a knock on impact on other wildlife species. Richard's main campaign related to speeding, and he had attended a road safety conference taking the opportunity to speak to others about speeding issues. Richard noted that there were over 300 SAM2 devices in Norfolk which provided valuable speed data which could be utilised far more. The SAM2 shared in the area was being upgraded by the Police as a trial and was currently with Westcotec, allowing the data to be downloaded remotely by the Police. It was felt that this could be rolled out across all SAM2 devices so that the worst times and locations could be identified for targeted policing.

Richard noted that there were ten days left for applications to the community road safety scheme, and asked for schemes to be submitted. He noted that he would be holding over part of his Member Allowance for the following year. This could also be combined with the Parish Partnership Scheme.

Richard noted that Sea Palling was progressing with setting up a Speedwatch scheme, and this could be extended to Lessingham parish as a combined Speedwatch initiative.

c) District Councillor

Lucy Shires reported that she had attended Grange Farm and recommended a visit. There was a nature reserve as well as the caravan area and the owner had shared his vision with some North Norfolk District Councillors. Lucy would pass on contact details so that a visit could be arranged.

Lucy noted that costs were rising at the district council however the council was financially sound and did not expect to cut services or staff. She noted that the cost of living was rising and was an extreme concern, especially with the type of construction and heating of the homes in some areas. Lucy noted that foodbank vouchers would be delivered to those who needed them, as well as fuelbank vouchers for any methods of heating. Grants were available to those who needed them and they only had to ask. There would be changes to Universal Credit to help people. Free school meals should be promoted as there was no stigma, and supermarket vouchers would be made available during school holidays. Parish Councillors were asked to do welfare checks on neighbours.

There had been changes to bin collection days, and this should now have settled down. If there were any issues, this should be reported to Serco.

It was noted that foodbank and fuelbank were not means tested and was designed to give a helping hand with a short term problem. The household support fund was not means tested, but information was requested to ensure that it was distributed to those who needed it. Free school meals and other benefits were means tested.

Property ownership was not considered a barrier as it was about the situation today. There had been a significant increase in referrals to the foodbank. More information was available on the district and county council websites, and Citizens Advice / Social Prescribers were raising awareness. Some issues were not in 'normal working hours' so there were efforts to engage out of hours.

Lucy agreed to send the information which would be put onto notice boards, website and Facebook.

ACTION: LS

It was noted that the County Council could offer help with water rates.

7. Planning

a) New Applications

PF/22/1704 Tangoucha, Abbotts Way, Eccles-on-Sea: Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding and construction of replacement single storey detached dwelling.

The application had been withdrawn.

PF/22/1811 Grange Farm, Ingham Road, Lessingham: Change of use of the land to caravan site with a maximum of 10 pitches.

It was noted that there was currently five pitches, and this was looking to be extended to ten. Screening would be put in place, and nutrient neutrality was an issue. It was **agreed** to support the application, proposed by David Reynolds, seconded by James Holden, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

PF/22/2034 Whispering Trees, The Street, Lessingham: Conversion of attached garage and bedroom to annexe to dwelling; associated external alterations.

The plan was to replace a garage door with a wall, there would be screening from a fence, and there would be internal room layout changes. It was **agreed** to submit No Objections.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Applications considered between meetings

None.

c) Decisions

None

8. Finance

a) Finances 2022/23 To Date

The Clerk reported that no current account bank statements were available since 29th April 2022 as the address had not been updated from two clerks previously. The Clerk would be able to update the accounts once she had been added. The outline accounts were presented and noted.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Bank Signatories

The Clerk requested that a signatory ring Barclays to update the address, it was **agreed** that this would be done by Andrew Cull and that James Holden would speak with him about this.

ACTION: AC

It was **agreed** to move to Unity Trust Bank at a cost of £72/year, proposed by Steve Bennett, seconded by James Holden, all in favour. It was agreed that all councillors would be signatories.

ACTION: Clerk

c) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following, proposed by Jennifer Boardman, seconded by Alan Shields, all in favour:-

C Moore	Salary August 2022	£106.20
HMRC	PAYE August 2022	£26.40
C Moore	Reimbursement - Insurance Premium	£300.97
Norfolk PTS	Chairman / Induction Training	£118.00

9. Correspondence

a) Eccles Sea Wall Repair Fact Sheet

The fact sheet was noted.

b) Refurbishment of Village Sign

An email had been received suggesting that the village sign should be refurbished. It was noted that the sign was in memory of a former resident. It was noted that the village sign was not on the parish council asset register and was probably still owned by the Meale family. The Clerk was asked to reply saying that it was privately owned so the Council could not do any work to it.

ACTION: Clerk

c) General Correspondence

The Highways Inspectors would be visiting week beginning 10th October 2022 and councillors were asked to forward any highway maintenance issues to the Clerk. A number of issues were highlighted, and the Chairman would send the Clerk details of these to be forwarded onto the Rangers.

ACTION: PP/Clerk

A complaint had been received regarding the hedge planting on Church Road / Heath Road however this was on private land. The visibility splays would be monitored.

An email had been circulated regarding the Supporting Rural Communities Princes Countryside Fund. It was noted that the timescale was too short, however schemes could be considered for future years if it was repeated. It was suggested that projects could be worked up to be 'on the shelf' in the event that funding became available. This would be discussed on the next agenda, and the Clerk was asked to enquire whether the fund would be repeated.

ACTION: Clerk

An email had been received from Potter Heigham Parish Council requesting interest in a joint meeting between local parishes and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was **agreed** not to participate. **ACTION: Clerk**

The SNAP policing update was summarised, and the Chairman noted that he may attend the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to request the Beat Manager to attend a future Parish Council meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

An email had been received from the County Councillor asking that the Parish Council considers how to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 1953 floods in 2023. It was **agreed** not to actively do anything but to support centralised events. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that there were problems with the Anglian Water pumping station flooding and spilling raw sewerage onto the road. The Clerk was asked to report this. **ACTION: Clerk**

10. Other Matters

a) Eccles Road Sign

Steve Bennett reported that the Eccles Road sign was outside a residents house and it had previously been agreed in principle that this would be reinstated. The neighbouring resident should be consulted, and conversations had been had with the County Council regarding the status of the road. Permission had been given to put the signs up, but they would have to be funded by the Parish Council. It was felt that one should be at the bottom of Church Lane, or the top where it became a bridleway, or at the Cart Gap car park. It was noted that the sign at the top of Bush Drive would be in the parish of Happisburgh so they should be engaged with that one and asked whether they could offer some funding. It was possible that existing posts could be used with the owners permission. Steve would conclude his work and bring this back to the next meeting. **ACTION: SB**

b) Planning Policy

A policy for dealing with planning applications between meetings was presented. It was **agreed** to defer this to the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

c) Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24

It was noted that the Parish Partnership Scheme was open for applications, with any projects needing to be priced and built into the budget at the November meeting. It was suggested that speed roundels could be applied for under the Road Safety Community Fund at all the 30mph entry points in the village. The Clerk was asked to contact Richard Price to apply for this. **ACTION: Clerk**

d) Telephone Box

It was noted that the phone box was Grade 2 listed, and permission was required from the planning department. Lucy Shires had been involved and would be requested to follow this up. **ACTION: Clerk**

e) SAM2 Sign

Covered earlier in the agenda. It was noted that there wasn't anyone trained to move it, the Clerk was asked to get dates from Westcotec for the training which would be attended by Peter Peruzzi. **ACTION: Clerk**
The Chairman of Sea Palling would be contacted to ask for feedback on the data collection changes.

f) Defibrillator, Bush Estate

A request had been received to install a defibrillator on the Bush Estate due to the demographic of the people living there. There would be ongoing costs for insurance as well as consumables. Funding could be considered for this such as Tesco Bags for Help, this would be researched further.

g) Civility and Respect Pledge

This would be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

11. Reports from Councillors

James Holden reported that a member of the public had been entering peoples gardens and driveways trying gates, and it was an issue in Lessingham. It was noted that this was a police matter, not Parish Council, and the police would refer this to social services.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall. The meeting closed at 10pm.

CHAIRMAN