

**Minutes of the Meeting of Lessingham Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th March
2024 at 7.40pm at Lessingham Village Hall**

Present: Peter Peruzzi (Chairman)
Sue Allen
Jennifer Boardman
Andrew Cull
James Holden
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

Also present: County Councillor Richard Price.

1. Apologies for Absence

None. District Councillor Luke Paterson had also sent his apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda

Andrew Cull declared an interest in item 10d as a Trustee of the Village Hall.

James Holden declared an interest in item 10d as his partner was a Trustee of the Village Hall.

3. Co-option of Parish Councillor

There had been no applications for co-option to the two vacant seats.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed**, proposed by Andrew Cull, seconded by Sue Allen, all in favour, and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Environment Agency Sea Defence Works

Peter Peruzzi reported that there had been an issue with the gates at Seaside Lane being reopened before the storm tide had passed, this had been reported to the relevant agencies who would review their threshold for opening and closing the gates. The gates had been checked for structural rigidity and looked quite rusty. This matter would not be progressed until the new sea defences were funded. This item would be taken off the agenda for future meetings.

ACTION: Clerk

6. Public Forum

a) Public

A member of the public reported that past the Church in Hempstead towards Bush Estate had been flooded due to overflowing ditches. The hole had been filled but had now been eroded by the water, and was very deep. It was noted that the ditch had not been maintained and felt that this needed to be done. The Clerk asked for the location and would report both the flooding from the ditch and repair of the crater.

ACTION: Clerk

Richard Price noted that Highways did have enforcement powers but that it was a long process.

b) District Councillor

No report.

c) County Councillor

Richard Price reported that the Broadland Futures Initiative had been going for around 5 years and was a multi agency approach to look at coastal erosion, coastal

flooding, and Broads flooding. He gave an overview of their work, noting that modelling was taking place to look at water levels in the Broads and work that was required to mitigate this.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections would be taking place in May 2024.

7. Planning

a) New Applications

PF/24/0347 Barn Owl Cottage, The Street, Lessingham: First floor rear extension to rear of dwelling.

It was **agreed** to support the application, proposed by Andrew Cull, seconded by James Holden, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Applications considered between meetings

PF/24/0056 Anchor Park, North Gap, Eccles-on-Sea: Erection of four holiday lodges.

NOT SUPPORTED

PF/24/0155 Field View, Beach Road, Eccles-on-Sea: Demolition of existing dwelling; erection of two storey plus basement replacement dwelling.

NO VIEWS OR COMMENTS

c) Decisions

None.

8. Finance

a) Finances 2023/24 To Date

The accounts were noted. Since the last meeting the following had been received:

- SAM2 Repairs - £370.50

b) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following, proposed by James Holden, seconded by Andrew Cull, all in favour:-

C Moore	Salary Jan – Feb 2024	£337.70
HMRC	PAYE Jan – Feb 2024	£81.80
Westcotec	Repair to SAM2	£444.60
Norfolk PTS	Subscription 2024/25 (to be paid 01.04.24)	£55.00

9. Correspondence

a) Letter from Broadland First Responders

A letter had been received requesting a donation. It was **agreed** to make a donation of £50, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by Sue Allen, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Ditch on The Street, Lessingham

Correspondence regarding damage to the verge by an HGV was received and noted. It was noted that Anglian Water had repaired the infrastructure, and that the matter was now between the haulier, Norfolk County Council and the home owners.

c) Hornsea 3 Community Fund

It was noted that the parish was within the funding area for the Hornsea 3 Community Fund. There was nothing to currently apply for.

- d) General Correspondence
None.

10. Other Matters

- a) Dog Waste / Litter Bins

The Clerk noted that the Duffields Gap location was not registered on the Land Registry so was unsure who to ask permission from; and that the church footpath needed the location clarifying, which could be Norfolk County Council. It was suggested that signage should be placed at other locations on the footpath saying where the bin was. It was **agreed** where the Church footpath location would be, and that the landowner would need to be approached for permission to place it. It was **agreed** to speak with the Environment Agency for permission as it was at the top of the sea wall, and noted that this must not impact on the gates, and needed to be heavy enough if the sea did breach.

ACTION: Clerk

- b) Councillor Portfolios and Risk Assessments
No further progress.

- c) Biodiversity Policy

The draft Biodiversity Policy was **agreed**, proposed by Sue Allen, seconded by Jeni Boardman, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- d) Contribution towards Playing Field and Play Area

Figures from the Village Hall Committee were considered, and it was **agreed** to make a donation of £300 from the 2023/24 budget, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by James Holden, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- e) Shared SAM2 with East Ruston Parish Council

The draft agreement with East Ruston Parish Council was considered. It was noted that there would be a cost associated with insurance; and that two councillors would be required to move the device, due to the weight and working on the roadside. It was confirmed that repairs would be funded from Richard Price's Highways budget but that if he was not re-elected the repair costs would fall to the parishes. Councillors were also asked to consider whether a contribution should be made for the electric to charge the device, and the fuel to transport it between the parishes.

Sue Allen volunteered to be the second Councillor to assist with moving the device. The effectiveness of speed reduction were questioned, and it was noted that there had been a 10% reduction in speeds, and felt that it was important to have full enforcement which was not yet in place.

Peter Peruzzi was happy to continue with charging and moving the device.

Concern was expressed about the future maintenance costs together with insurance costs.

It was **agreed** to accept the SAM2 device and MoU with East Ruston Parish Council, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by Sue Allen, all in favour. The Clerk was asked to put together a risk assessment, and to add this to the insurance.

ACTION: Clerk

11. Reports from Councillors

None.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 14th May 2024** at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

CHAIRMAN