EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

7.00pm Thursday 11th November 2021 at Village Hall

Minutes

In Attendance – DG, MR, TJ, AG, CC, NW, PR, AP and Elaine Bryce – ES District Councillor.

1. Apologies for absence.

Lucy Murrell – The Parish Council would like to wish a speedy recovery to both Lucy and her husband Roger.

1. Declaration of interest.

For the allotments – CC, TJ, DG, AG

For Bruce Hinton – NW

For Jubilee Wood – TJ

1. a Approval of minutes from 2nd September 2021.

Approved unanimously.

b Matters arising from 2nd September 2021

DG wrote to Flagship, and also spoke to them. They are now aware of the problem and are working on a solution, but difficult as they don’t own enough land to resolve it easily.

GH looked into oak tree mildew, and advised it is not a problem.

1. Public Comment.

No comments were made.

1. District Council Report Elaine Bryce

This report was sent to all Councillors

A question was raised about the Mill Hill Street junction, and after a discussion Councillor Bryce said she would send ideas that had been made by highways. AP made the point that this had been discussed historically but the current solution was always deemed the safest.

NW asked EB what it would take to put in a 40mph limit by Yew Tree Business Park?

AG asked EB how to improve the 20mph speed limit area around the school.

EB asked the council for feedback on proposed lorry routes, and it was stated that the lorry routes could go on the website.

1. Planning Application DC/21/4705/P3MA

The Parish Council held a meeting to discuss the above planning application and by a majority voted to object.

The basis of this vote was that the ESDC Local Plan says that employment sites should be protected. By changing the existing planning permission status from employment to residential goes against this objective set out in the Local Plan, and therefore this application should be resisted.

Our understanding, as noted in previous objections to applications on this site, is that the GPDO quoted does not override or change the ruling as laid out in the Local Plan.

Parish Council vote: Object.

The other 2 applications on the Agenda were not discussed as they were lapsed

1. 2022/23 Precept budget preparation for January 2022

A proposed Precept was handed out to all and a line by line assessment was carried out by the Council. Points of particular discussion took place around Website funding, the cemetery plan – TJ said he knows a company that does this and would contact them and get a quote. Also, pinch gates maintenance, ditch clearance and the village Christmas Tree was discussed. These items to be concluded at the January PC meeting. All other items agreed as proposed.

It was also agreed a bulletin on training courses would be sent out and the position regarding electrics to the telephone box would be confirmed.

8) Internal audit report and actions

1. Financial Regulations
2. Confirm Financial Officer (Guy Harvey)
3. Adopt Standing Orders
4. General power of competence
5. Risk Assessment
6. Effectiveness of internal controls
7. Income received report
8. Confirmation that clerk has opted out of pension scheme
9. Asset register
10. Adopt new bank reconciliation to new format
11. Approval of Auditor for 21/22 accounts (SALC)

All the above items were discussed and unanimously approved.

1. PC projects update Speed Indicator Device, Finger Post for another one on green, Telephone Box, Double curb on village green, Pinch gates Brandeston road and Quiet Lanes, Jubilee wood Plaque

SID – grid references for the locations were approved. Finger Post - £2040 approved, Telephone Box – waiting to see if we can take out the electrical cables, Double height kerb on the green – highways looking into it and awaiting further feedback, Pinch Gate (Brandeston Road) - £1633 approved, Jubilee Wood plaque - £40 approved also it was agreed to get a quote to cut the JW hedge from F. Precious

11) Website Update

John Spall can help with setting this going, but needs photos and a commentary for each section. Therefore, the following requests for this to be done were made :-

Allotments and Green Page – Candida Cook

Bowls Club – Tom Johnson

WI – Christine Pooley

Village Hall – tbc

Tennis Club – Chris Hoare

School – tbc

Any others ?

11) Sizewell C update

Report sent out – ongoing

12) Allotment water supply

After further discussion the Council felt that the Allotment Society need to come up with a feasible plan that the Council would feel it could contribute to the cost of. Until this is received it was agreed this item would stay off the Agenda.

13) Neighbourhood Plan

The latest update on this was that Ian Poole would be free to get back on course in the next 2 weeks.

14) Finance report

The latest spreadsheet was discussed. No issues or questions.

15) Cheques to be signed

All signed as required

16) Correspondence since last meeting

None

17) Any other business

Warnes Seeds are planting more items to shield their buildings – CC.

Park Promotions will donate 4 sacks of daffodils which can be planted around the Village Green, CC has volunteered to get another planting party together again.

Bin on the Village Green was discussed, but it was decided that one was not needed at the moment.

AG asked for articles for the village Newsletter.

The Village Green benches were to be added to the PC asset register.

It was agreed the next PC meeting would be on Thursday 13th January

Signed David Grose chair