



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 18 October 2018 at 1930

2018/12

NB This meeting was re-arranged from 20 September when it was not possible to obtain a quorum

Those Present: Richard Cole, Polly Hanson-Smith, Jonathan Smith (Chairman)
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Steve Vickers (potential new Councillor)

1) Apologies Kirsty Vaughan-Jones, Marie Strong (NCC)

2) Declarations of Interest None

3) Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 18 July - Approved and signed

4) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

Marie Strong had sent a report that KL distributed to Councillors and Steve Vickers. This is also appended to these minutes and appears on the website.

c) Parish Clerk

Barclays Bank had informed us that they intended to close Wells Branch on 1 February 2019. Other local branches were now open less than five days a week. NNDC had sent some packets of poppy seeds in commemoration of the centenary of the ending of the First World War. These were distributed to Councillors. KL had chased up British Telecom and they had at last repainted the telephone box. KL attended an interview in Fakenham in August to discuss marsh access. A transcript had been previously distributed to Councillors. It was not expected that a decision would be made on this matter for some months.

5) Planning – any matters to hand

None

6) To discuss the possibility of providing affordable housing in Warham

KL had previously distributed copies of correspondence between himself and the housing enabler at NNDC. They are aware that our preferred option for a site is the field opposite Park Road. NNDC have said that they understand that the land is currently changing hands and that there is little they can do until this has taken place. JS believes that the sale may now be complete. KL will advise the housing enabler of this fact.

7) To discuss the need for a replacement Parish Councillor

Steve Vickers had attended the meeting, as he was interested in filling the vacancy for a Councillor. Members agreed to co-opt him with immediate effect. Necessary paperwork was completed at the conclusion of the meeting.

8) To discuss banking problems

As well as the fact that they were closing the local branch, there were several other problems with Barclays. There had been no acknowledgement of the acceptance of the last signatory, although they seemed to be accepting cheques signed by her. Despite completing two forms at different times, they still refused to accept that the Parish Clerk administered the account and refused to speak to him, as he is not a signatory. This is not a problem when he deals with other Parish Councils. They are very slow to answer correspondence and their records are not complete/correct as regards the signatories to the account, despite the fact that we hold old correspondence acknowledging changes.

KL had undertaken some research and believes that we should open a new account with Unity Trust bank. They have an account that is specially tailored for Parish Councils. This allows the Parish Clerk to signify online when a payment needs to be made, and this is then sent automatically as soon as two Councillors have gone online and confirmed their agreement. The disadvantage is that there is a £6 a month charge for the service. Councillors agreed that this was acceptable and it was resolved that we start work to transfer our banking business from Barclays to Unity Trust

9) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors.

The following accounts had been settled at the time of the originally planned meeting

a)	Landscape Gardening Contractor	Grass Cutting	150.00
b)	Parish Clerk	2 nd quarter salary/expenses	477.66
c)	HMRC	PAYE on above	114.00

10) Minor Matters

There was still considerable unhappiness about the speed of broadband in the village. It was believed that it is now even slower than it used to be. The matter is made worse by the fact that neighbouring Parishes seem to have a good service. However, it is believed that work is continuing to bring fibre-optic cable to the village, and it can only be hoped that the work can be completed as soon as possible.

11) Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Thursday 15 November 2018 at 1930

The meeting closed at 2015