



## **MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 10 October 2019 at 1930**

**NB** This meeting was postponed from 19 September

**2019/12**

**Those Present:** Polly Hanson-Smith, Jonathan Smith (Chairman) Kirsty Vaughan-Jones, & Steve Vickers.

Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC) Michael Martin (HfW) after 2000

- 1) Apologies** Richard Kershaw (NNDC)
- 2) Declarations of Interest** None
- 3) Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11 July 2019 - Approved and signed**

### **4) Reports**

#### **a) Norfolk County Council**

Wells Library had recently had their 70<sup>th</sup> “birthday”. Celebrations included a visit by 60 children. The library now has a world-wide magazines and newspapers “e-service” where publications can be read online and translated if necessary. Email scams seem to be getting worse - people are warned to take extra care. The broadband survey of the village is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Local residents believe that the current service is even worse than it used to be. MS advised that people should complain to their provider, as in some cases they can improve matters.

#### **c) Parish Clerk**

Yet another large cycling event will be coming through the village on Saturday 2 November. Marshalls have been instructed that they have no power to stop or direct motor traffic. A recent letter from John Pennell of Norfolk ALC was passed to Councillors, who may respond personally if they wish to. The latest police priorities in the area are a) Anti-social behaviour over the Halloween and Firework night period. b) Oil tank thefts. c) Marine thefts.

**Michael Martin (HfW) arrived at this point**

### **5) Planning Matters**

Application to build a single-storey rear extension at 16 Chapel Street.  
Resolved that Warham PC had no objections.

### **6a) To discuss the latest position on affordable housing site**

Changes had been made and submitted to planning following objections from the landscape officer. A Section 106 agreement now has to be agreed, and this is the only thing stopping permission being granted. The agreement will ensure that the homes stay affordable in perpetuity, which has always been the intention of Homes for Wells. However, this will delay matters and add (legal) costs.

Funding has been agreed by *Homes England* and the various contractors have been appointed. Mark Harrison will cut the hedges around the site. It is hoped that a start can be made on the groundworks in November. The various utility companies have all been contacted, including water and sewage, electricity, and telephone and broadband services.

#### **6b) Affordable housing site – subsidiary matters.**

Holkham had agreed that a pathway could be made from the edge of the site to a point opposite the White House. This would need stock fencing, and because of this perhaps gates would not be needed at each end. This would provide safe passage for pedestrians at the north end of Chapel Street. JS would speak to Dew Fencing and ask them to provide a quotation for the fence. Once we had this, KL could attempt to get the NCC Highways to contribute 50% of the cost under the *Parish Partnership* scheme. However, *Homes for Wells* would pay for this (via the Parish Council).

With regard to the children's playground the site would be provided with fencing and bark surfacing. The Parish Council would attempt to obtain grants to pay for the equipment. It was thought that this would cost in the region of £25k, although some items might be phased. Councillors believed that the equipment should be "traditional", mainly suiting primary-school aged children.

Both Homes for Wells and the Parish Council agreed that the site should not be provided with street lighting.

#### **7) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement**

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors.

The following amounts had been paid since the last meeting:

a)	Street lights – June account	27.56
b)	Grounds maintenance – July	150.00
c)	Annual lighting maintenance contract	121.80
d)	Street lights – July account	28.48
e)	Grounds maintenance – August	100.00
f)	Parish Clerk – 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter salary and expenses	490.29
g)	HMRC – PAYE on the above	116.60
h)	Street lights – August account	28.48
i)	Quarterly bank charges	18.00

The following cheques were written at the meeting:

a)	Grounds Maintenance – September	190.00
b)	Holkham Estates – annual rent of village green	20.00
c)	Transfer of funds from Barclays to Unity Trust deposit account	1000.00

#### **8) Minor Matters**

None

#### **9) Date of next meeting**

Confirmed as Thursday 28 November 2019 at 1930 (NB: One week later than usual)

**The meeting closed at 2032**