



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 19 March 2020 at 1930

2020/03

Those Present: Richard Cole, Polly Hanson-Smith, Jon Smith (Chairman), Kirsty Vaughan-Jones
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), David Fennell & Michael Martin (Homes for Wells)

1) Apologies Steve Vickers, Marie Strong (NCC), Richard Kershaw (NNDC)

2) Declarations of Interest None

3) Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020 - Approved and signed

4) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

Marie Strong had sent a report which is appended to these minutes and appears on the website.

c) Parish Clerk

KL apologised for the considerable number of emails which he was passing to Councillors at present. Almost every organisation seemed to be sending daily emails, most of which contained the same or similar information regarding the Coronavirus. KL, however, felt it was up to Councillors, not him, to decide which they wanted to read, and which they didn't.

5) Planning – any matters to hand

No matters to discuss

7) To consider appeals from local organisations

It was considered that in the present circumstances the Burnham Market Community Car Scheme was a worthwhile recipient of a donation. This was partly because it was considered that their work was possibly greater than usual, and partly because as a small organisation they could benefit more from our small donation than some of the larger ones.

8) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors.

The following accounts had been paid since the last meeting:

a) Eon -	electricity for street lights	26.64
b) Zurich Insurance	annual policy	438.98

In addition the following would also be paid by the end of the month:

c) Unity Trust Bank -	Quarterly Bank Charges	18.00
d) Burnham Market Area Community Car Scheme –	donation as above	100.00

9) Minor Matters

JS said that this meeting was the last function to be held at the Reading Room for the time being, all others being either postponed or cancelled.

He had received a quotation for grass cutting from two local people who had been made redundant by Norse. He had told them that we would keep them in mind, but at the moment we would be staying with our existing contractor.

6) To discuss any outstanding matters regarding the affordable housing site

Everything was now in place for the project to go ahead. The previous nervousness of the HfW board was because of the limited timescale in which they had to complete the project in order to get the required funding from *Homes England*. This was not now the case, as the (new) grant would be payable provided that the project was finished by March 2022.

However, there was now a problem in that many of the HfW tenants were working in occupations that were likely to stop paying them in the near future (hospitality, school cleaners etc.). It was also thought that the government might impose a rent freeze for some time after the present crisis is over. Although HfW had reserves for such events, the current situation was unprecedented, and it may make the board nervous once again.

There would be a board meeting on Wednesday 25 March, at which a final decision would be made on whether to go ahead or not. If the scheme was given the “green light” then, it was likely that there would be tenants in place by the end of the year.

10) Date of Next Meeting

Should be - Thursday 21st May 2020 at 1930. However, it was not currently known whether this would be able to go ahead or not.

The meeting closed at 2004