

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 10 October 2022, 7.30 pm, held at the Village Hall.

1. **Welcome.**

The Chair of the Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey) welcomed those present at the meeting, which included all 6 Parish Councillors (Jacqui Harrison (JH), Rod Apps (RA), Penny Ward (PW), Colin Ward (CW), and Lea Ingham (LI). There were three members of the public present for at least part of the meeting: Chris Roberts (CR), Tony Brown (TB) and Matthew Godfrey.

2. **Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence. The Parish Council noted that since its last meeting, Andy Spinks had resigned and therefore there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor that could be filled via the co-opting process. The Parish Council was not aware of anyone in the village wanting to become a Parish Councillor, and also noted that the next elections were due in May 2023 anyway.

3. **Minutes from the last meeting.**

The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of 25 July 2022 were accepted and were signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 25 July 2022, and Parish Clerk's update.**

1. Rod Apps noted that Wave 3 and Wave 4 of the "Quiet Lanes" project were proceeding, and that the Parish Council should soon get an invitation to collect the remaining signs for installation in the village shortly.
2. Rod Apps noted that the Thermal Imaging Camera Project is continuing, and that he had opted for January 2023 as the preferred month for hosting the camera.
3. Rod Apps noted that he had met the owner of Number 3, Big Common, recently. The front garden of the property had been cleared, and the intention is to get the contractors back in order to clear the rear garden, including the large conifer that was causing concern for neighbours. The owner intends to keep the property and to use it, and therefore it was appropriate to no longer regard it as a long-term empty property. The Methodist Chapel on Tooks Common Lane remains empty, and the Parish Council decided to review that at its next meeting.
4. Following on from a query at the previous meeting regarding "Section 106 payments", Rod Apps reported that it appears that "Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place." The provision therefore appears to relate particularly to new housing or commercial developments, housing estates, etc.

5. **Village Hall.**

The Minutes of meetings of 16th August and 13th September 2022 were received and noted by the Parish Council.

Rod Apps confirmed that he had written to B& B Skips regarding the continuing location of the two skips in the Village Hall car park. No response had been received at the time of the Parish Council meeting.

Following discussion, Rod Apps undertook to contact Environmental Protection at Suffolk County Council to obtain their advice as to the way forward.

[Action: RA]

6. Speeding/HGV issue on Top Road.

Rod Apps reported that he had looked at the possibility of a sign similar to the one in Stanton to deter HGVs. It appears that such signs **can** be obtained, but an issue is the location of such signs. To be meaningful, they would be at the junctions with the main roads at either end of the 'rat run' – neither of which are within the parish (one in St. Lawrence, the other in Beccles?). There would also need to be suitable poles in position to put them on.

Rod Apps had previously circulated detailed of the quote from Suffolk Highways for road paintings on Top Road (comprising "30" roundels on the road, along with other markings at either end of the 30mph section of Top Road). The quote, including VAT, was for £2,116.17. Although the VAT would be received back eventually, the cost would still be £1,763.48, but the cost would be £2,116.17 up front. The Parish Council had previously been informed of the summary financial position of the Parish Council (detailed in Item 8 below), which would mean that if the Parish Council went ahead with the proposal, it would be left with around £350 until the end of the financial year, barring any unforeseen expenditures. It was noted that this figure was massively different from the figure suggested by the Design Engineer who met with Rod Apps and Gerald Godfrey previously of "a few hundred".

The Parish Council agreed to **not** go ahead with the road paintings at this stage, given the cost, but to affix any remaining 30mph wheelie bin stickers at appropriate points (e.g. telegraph poles) within the 30mph zone on Top Road, and also to investigate additional signs (such as warnings of speed cameras). The possibility of road paintings would be kept under review in the light of Parish Council finances.

It was reported to the Parish Council that one of the 30 mph repeater signs had been knocked down and then repositioned approximately 10 metres away from the previous position, near the postbox. It seems that a nearby resident was unable to manoeuvre his vehicle and trailer into his property with the sign in its original position. The Parish Council agreed to request Rod Apps to write to the resident, and also to contact Suffolk Highways with a request to reinstate the pole, and request a **taller** pole to enable the VAS to be installed without obscuring the 30mph sign.

[Action: RA]

Rod Apps reported that he had heard from the Parish Clerk for Redisham and for Ringsfield & Weston to the effect that Redisham had found a sufficient number of volunteers to form its own Community Speedwatch team, and that there were two volunteers in Ringsfield & Weston who would be prepared to form part of a team provided they would not be required to undertake monitoring within their parish. It was identified that there were 4 individuals within Ilketshall St. Andrew who would be prepared to join a Community Speedwatch team, and therefore there would be the minimum number of 6 required for the creation of a team. Tony Brown undertook to forward the names of the St. Andrew volunteers to Rod Apps, and Rod Apps undertook to contact the Ringsfield & Weston Parish Clerk in order to take things forward.

[Action: TB, RA]

7. Planning Applications

1. The Parish Council had previously been notified of a Planning Application for the installation of a solar array at Great Common Farm, ref DC/22/3760/FUL. Given that the Chair of the Parish Council had an interest in the Planning Application, he left the room for the duration of the discussion relating to this application. Matthew Godfrey outlined some of the details of the proposal, and in particular the fact that solar panels could not be fitted to the roof of the farm buildings due to the construction of the roofs. The Parish Council agreed that there was no reason for the Parish Council to object. Rod Apps undertook to submit a response expressing support for the proposal.

[Action: RA]
2. The Parish Council had previously been notified of a retrospective Planning Application for a garage at Lakeside, Ringsfield Road, ref DC/22/3329/FUL. After discussion, the Parish Council, agreed to request Road Apps to submit a response to East Suffolk Planning noting its objection to the Application, on the basis that the structure is a large and tall structure in front of the building line that will be very visible from Ringsfield Road.

[Action: RA]
3. Although not a Planning Application, the Parish Council discussed some works taking place at Three Ways, Ringsfield Road. Most of the property had recently been sold, but the previous owner (Paul Nichols) had retained part of the garden, constituting a piece of land with Becks Green Lane on one boundary and Ringsfield Road on another. There is an existing access, with a white gate, onto Ringsfield Road. The owner appears to have created a **new** access onto Becks Green Lane. The Parish Council has not received any Planning Application for such an access, and the Parish Council therefore decided to request Rod Apps to notify East Suffolk Planning of its concern. The Parish Council also discussed the issue of an additional access point that has been created at Tithe Farm, Mill Lane, that did not appear on the Planning Application for the renovation of property. The Parish Council agreed to request Rod Apps to also raise this with East Suffolk Planning, noting that it would be inappropriate to highlight just the one at Three Ways.

[Action: RA]
4. Shipmeadow Solar Farm. The Parish Council noted that it had been informed of the possibility of a Planning Application being submitted for a solar farm at Shipmeadow, with a relatively small element of that farm lying within the Ilketshall St. Andrew parish boundary. The agent (Pauric McCloskey) acting for the developer has requested a meeting with parish councillors, and this is due to take place, via Zoom, on 7th November. This meeting will **not** be a formal meeting of the Parish Council, but a meeting with Councillors. The Parish Council noted that there is due to be a public exhibition regarding the intended development later in November.

8. Finance

The Parish Council noted the summary financial position of the Parish Council as:

Community Account, after allowing for reimbursements due:	£1,359
Total anticipated payments by end of financial year:	£306
Business Premium Account:	£911
Active Saver Account:	£515
Owed by Village Hall Committee	£1,000

Total Funds therefore £3,479.

The Parish Council noted that it had written cheques for the Village Hall insurance premium (cheque number 406 for £871.59), and for the Burial Ground (cheque number 407 for £250). The Parish Council further noted that the TOTAL of the Village Hall insurance, Parish Council insurance, website maintenance, Burial Ground maintenance, SALC subscription, Data Commissioner, Play Area Safety inspection and Zoom subscriptions amounted this year to approximately £2,200, relative to a precept income of £2,400. Its unallocated income therefore constitutes approximately £200.

The Parish Council approved the reimbursement of £706.64 (cheque number 408) to Rod Apps, comprising the following payments made by him on behalf of the Parish Council since its last meeting:

Play Area Safety Inspection (David Bracey)	£102.00
30 mph stickers for wheelie bins on Top Road	£89.00
TiaGrace website maintenance	£150.00
Insurance premium for the Parish Council	£308.08
Zoom subscriptions for July, August, September & October 2022 @ £14.39 per month	£57.56
Total:	£706.64

9. Play Area

The Report of the safety inspection of the Play Area undertaken by David Bracey had been circulated previously to members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council noted that there were a number of recommendations within the report, but none that included any significant risk that required urgent attention. Rod Apps undertook to make a number of repairs and modifications to the gates when time permitted.

[Action: RA]

The Safety Inspection Report noted specifically the state of the wooden 'train', and recommended that it either renovated, replaced or removed. Pieces of the existing train were now missing or in a poor state of repair. The Parish Council agreed that the existing train should be removed, and Gerald Godfrey agreed to arrange to do so.

[Action: RA]

A suggestion was made that a seat could usefully be positioned **outside** the Play Area, away from the road, so that people (and particularly people with dogs) could seat themselves **outside** the Play Area. Rod Apps undertook to contact Melanie/Village Hall Committee with regard to this possibility.

[Action: RA]

10. Dog Poo Bins

Rod Apps reported that the Parish Council email inbox had received an e-mail from a Nicky Noodles of Norse regarding the dog poo bin near the Village Hall. The email noted that the bin had been installed but that Norse had not received any instruction to empty it, and that there would be a charge if Norse was contracted to empty it. Rod Apps had responded to the effect that the Parish Council would appreciate information about the details of the arrangements for emptying all 3 bins (cost, frequency, arrangements for paying, etc.) and also the location requirements (particularly the proximity to the road) of the bin at the western end of Great Common. Rod Apps reported that he had not yet received this information, and would chase.

[Action: RA]

11. Commons & Land Management Company.

The Parish Council received the Minutes of a meeting of the Board of the Land Management Company held on 25 July 2022. Lea Ingham questioned why hay from the late cuts on the Commons had been offered to Maisebrook Farm, and to Michael Walderstone, to feed to goats when she could have been offered the hay. Gerald Godfrey pointed out that the hay was **only** from the late cuts and was not suitable as feed for cattle, and that disposing of the hay was a longstanding problem, with it usually having to be burnt. Donating it to the two recipients relieved the LMC of the cost and trouble associated with disposing of it in another way, but that if she wished to have some in future years, she would be welcome to it, and would need to inform the LMC in good time accordingly.

12. Allotments and Town Trust.

Rod Apps reported that he had received an invitation to identify someone from the Parish Council to attend a meeting of the Town Trust, which is responsible for the allotments. On the basis that no other member of the Parish Council would desperately wish to attend, Rod Apps undertook to do so and duly did so on 14th. September. Other attendees comprised the Rev. Phil (as Chair), Rosemary Andrews, Archie Andrews, Caroline Andrews, and Melanie Thompson as Clerk (who has taken over from Joyce Foster as Clerk).

Rod Apps provided a brief outline of the Town Trust arrangement; that there were actually 2 charities, the Church Estate Charity and the the "Town Estate Charity" which jointly own/manage 7 acres of land at Becks Green, Redisham, 1 acre close to the Church, and the allotments. Half of the income from these assets goes to the Church, and the other half for charitable purposes to benefit the inhabitants of Ilketshall St. Andrew. – and hence, for example, £1,000 recently went to the Village Hall Committee for the roof. The land is rented to Gerald Godfrey, and there is a bit of income from the allotments. There are a total of 23.5 allotments. The allotment rents are currently £10 per year, but it was agreed that this will increase to £20 from January 2024. There is an Annual Meeting of allotment holders in January each year, at which rent is payable and contracts signed (which had been suspended over the last few years due to Covid etc.)

The Town Estate Charity is chaired by the Vicar, and then 4 people appointed by the Parish Council. No appointee can have an interest in the land (so therefore excludes Gerald Godfrey).

At the current time, more than half of the allotments are untidy/unused (contrary to contract). The installation of mains water discussed, and will be looked at, since an absence of a water supply is a significant constraint on the effective use of the allotments (and particularly during dry summers such as 2022).

The meeting of allotment holders is targeted for January 23rd 2023. All allotments are currently let, and only 2 have not actually paid for this year. More than half just seem to keep the tenancy since (presumably) the cost at only £10 per year is so low. Some tenants have two, or more, allotments that are untended.

There was a discussion by the Parish Council regarding the possibility of allocating a page on the Parish Council website for the allotments, Town Trust, etc., and it was agreed that this would be offered. Rod Apps undertook to take this forward.

[Action: RA]

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 12th December 2023, 7.30 pm, with the intention to make use of the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 22.10.