

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 3rd April 2023, 7.30 pm, held at the Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs: R. Apps [RA], G. Godfrey (chairman) [GG], J. Harrison [JH], L. Ingham [LI], C. Ward, and P. Ward.

Total members of the public: 16

Also in Attendance: T. Newby (newly appointed Clerk)

1. Welcome and introduction:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There is a good crowd tonight. Welcome to the newly appointed Clerk, Mrs Tina Newby.

2. Apologies for absence: None.

3. Minutes from the last meeting (6th February 2023):

The minutes of the 6th February 2023 were agreed as being an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting. All in agreement.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 6th February 2023, and outgoing Parish Clerk's update.

[Item 4.1 of February Minutes refers] Quiet Lanes. Unfortunately, this rumbles on. In summary, RA hopes to install the remaining signs *within the parish boundary* for Clarkes Lane and Banters Lane, and the remaining signs for School Road. The exception is in relation to the Blacksmiths end of Clarkes Lane, where Suffolk Highways is still to put in a post, due to that being Wave 4. RA has not received responses from Barsham & Shipmeadow but understands that Barsham & Shipmeadow do have the necessary signs for their designated Quiet Lanes, but at the last count haven't installed them.

[Item 4.2 of February Minutes refers] RA did take images for those parishioners who had responded to the invitation to have Thermal Images taken. Disappointingly, there were only 12 properties within the village, plus another 3 outside. Not many people in the village concerned about the insulation of their homes.

[Item 4.3 of February Minutes refers]. RA confirmed that he had repeated the concerns first expressed in January 2022 about the 'long-term empty property' nature of the Methodist Chapel to Suffolk County Council Housing dept. No response yet. May have to be an annual notification. Although the property was put up for sale last year, no sale has gone through yet. This is a listed building and with no maintenance will fall into disrepair.

[Items 4.4 & 4.5 of February Minutes refers] Additional seating near the Play Area: Cllr Godfrey has not had a chance to look at repairing the wooden train. Coopers in Bungay are selling wooden benches for £120. If purchased, the bench would need bolting down. A member of the public mentioned that they use a big soil screw, to screw down

their benches. This was considered a good idea. There is concern over where this bench will be placed. Before installing it, speak to Melanie, who runs the events for a suitable place. There was a report of human excrement fouling on the Common, perhaps toilets should be considered.

[Item 4.7 of February Minutes refers] The ownership of the Defibrillator is unclear, although the Village Hall insure this. This is due to be considered at the next VHMC meeting. Maintenance checks are currently not being undertaken. Air Ambulance would be happy to train people of the use of the defibrillator and the maintenance of it.

[Items 8 and 9 of February Minutes refers] Condition of Banter Lane Road surface and Becks Green Lane Road surface has been reported, following the discussion at the last meeting, and following further discussion, RA did also submit a notification to the HSE regarding the slurry pit on Becks Green Lane, accompanied by photographs. The level of the liquid in the pit is quite high in relation to the earth sides that have been created, and the fencing around the top of the sides is very notional, at best. Risk of someone falling in, and of fumes. No response from HSE yet.

The state of the road at Banter Lane, was discussed in detail. There was a report of a waste removal lorry falling over there and damaging the road more. The Clerk asked for photo evidence and will log a fault with Suffolk Highways. [\[Action Clerk\]](#)

5. Shipmeadow Solar Farm.

A representative of the Solar Farm Action Group provided the following explanation: "The Stop Shipmeadow Solar farm group received huge support (which is still ongoing) at the Public Meeting on 6th March. We would like to discuss securing the full backing of the Parish Council when RES put in their application. We have researched this thoroughly and having the full support of our Parish council holds a lot of weight in such matters."

SSSF Action Group reported:

At the meeting on 6th March 2023, there was overwhelming support. They have started a petition, door to door canvassing. Data analysed:

ISA Residents' thoughts on pending RES proposal for Solar Farm at Shipmeadow:

Against	52%
In Favour	03%
Not Sure	10%
Not yet spoken to	34%

ISA Residents thoughts on RES's Solar Farm Proposal

Against	80%
In Favour	05%
Not Sure	16%

The project will be using 300 acres of agricultural land. The project wanted to know whether the Parish Council would back them, support them and help them fund the group. They will be looking for about £10,000 for funding the group and the environmental assessment. There is also an issue of the country roads becoming an one-way system. The roads are not wide enough. RES surveyors threw an empty cannister. Clerk to email RES and ask why this was acceptable. [\[Action Clerk\]](#)

Solar panels should be on warehouse roofs and not on agricultural land, which will be needed in the future for crops. The RES 'poster' is generic, and not specific. Many neighbours have been contacted who have grazing fields, asking them to sell. The battery packs will make a constant noise. The Solar panels will be 12 feet high. There will be 4 miles of deer fencing 10' high. No concern for the animals either side of the fence. Clarkes Lane and Banters Lane will be one way. A portion of Angles Way will be closed.

SSSF, have the support from other neighbouring parish councils. Mr Peter Aldous is shocked about the lack of consultation. Government seems to be pushing this sort of projects through quickly.

RES may be developing this and then selling it. Could there be a clause that the land would revert back to agricultural after 40 years?

The Clerk stated to the public, that we cannot make a stance on anything until the planning application has been published. The Parish Council will need to consider the planning material matters and the views of the public, before making their decision. There is no money in the budget for helping the support group. Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council does not have the legal power to do support this group with funds.

6. Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee and the Village Hall AGM minutes were previously circulated. There were 3 points to consider:

1. Skips. The VHC negotiated with the senior management of B&B Skips a more sensible price for removing the skips. Estimate was of £1875, this was accepted. Approximately half of the previous quote.
2. Coronation event on May 7th – lunchtime BBQ. The Parish Council agreed that they were unable to help fund this.
3. Email from the Parish Clerk for Redisham – David Wilkins – regarding co-ordination of events, publicising to EDP, and so on. RA will pass it on to Village Hall Committee. *The Clerk has looked and cannot find contact information for David Wilkins, he is not the Clerk to Redisham Parish Meeting.*

7. Top Road speeding and HGVs issue.

Vehicle Activated Sign statistics, January – February 2023

SUMMARY RESULTS:

Top Road Post Box (westbound towards main road)

Date From:	06/1/23
Date To:	27/1/23
Average Speed:	26.9mph
Average Overspeed:	34.6mph
Maximum Speed:	60mph (13/1/23 7.15am)
Average Daily Traffic:	278 vehicles
Total Vehicle Count:	5190 vehicles
Total Over Limit:	1936
Highest Overspeed Day:	Saturday @ 45.2 percent of Traffic Speeding

Sewer Lane (eastbound towards Ringsfield)

Date From: 27/1/23
Date To: 17/2/23
Average Speed: 29.5mph
Average Overspeed: 34.4mph
Maximum Speed: 65mph (10/2/23 1700 hrs)
Average Daily Traffic: 318 vehicles
Total Vehicle Count: 7012 vehicles
Total Over Limit: 3228
Highest Overspeed Day: Saturday 49.9 percent of traffic speeding.

There is no update on efficacy of road paintings from Ringsfield. Clerk to add this to the next agenda. [\[Action Clerk\]](#)

Tony Brown purchased a number of rigid “30” signs for fixing to telegraph poles.

8. Planning Applications

DC/23/0834/VOC: application to vary prior planning approval to substitute brick facing with stained weatherboard cladding. RA noted the close expiry date and provided the District Council with no objection.

DC/23/1122/FUL: application for a double garage/cartshed at tithe Barn, Mill Lane. The plans appear to be in order and not beyond the boundary line. Propose to recommend approval.

A Planning enforcement issue was discussed. There is unauthorised access between Ringsfield Road and Becks Green Lane. It is blocking the footpath; it is a construction site and there are containers on the land.

9. Finance:

Report produced by RA:

Council to note the payments made by the Parish Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council on 6 February, and to note the overall financial position of the Parish Council as at the end of the financial year (31 March 2023).

Reimbursement of £178.78 to Rod Apps approved [Item 11.3] at February meeting. £15.59 (Zoom subscription has increased) added to that for March 2023 to give total of £194.37. Cheque produced and authorised in order that it would clear by end of March to make end-of-year accounts simpler.

Also, to make end-of-year accounts easier; Tony Brown sent RA invoices for the cost of the rigid “30” signs, total cost of £62.71. RA wrote cheque, hopefully will have cleared by 31 March also.

Both confirmed as appropriate and satisfactory.

Total balances as at end of March therefore £3,685.94. £1427.48 in savings accounts. Precept payment due on 28th April of £7,400 - £2,400 the same as last year, plus £5,000 to cover estimated costs of Parish Clerk.

Now the end of the financial year, so end-of-year accounts to be produced and internally audited, etc. RA has passed the relevant materials on to Tina Newby.
The Clerk will contact Adrian Sampson to undertake the internal audit again this year.

[Action Clerk]

10. Commons & Land Management Company:

Minutes for October 2022 and November 2022 have been circulated to the Parish Council, together with the AGM minutes on 20th February 2023.

Nothing of any particular importance to note or discuss. LMC Newsletter explained the extension to the ELS/HLS scheme for a further 5 years – which provides **some** certainty of income, but it is of certainty of a **declining** income (both in nominal and inflation-adjusted terms). The LMC **will** have to make some economies in years to come. A lot depends on whether government manages to sort out the successor (ELMS), what the payments will be, and whether Commons will be eligible.

Management Plan for March 2023 – February 2024 published – not much different from previous year.

At the meeting there was concern over how weather wet the commons are. The wildlife seems to be ahead of schedule. It is now impossible to get the machinery into the commons. The Commons were cut much later than planned last year.

11. Any other business:

Top Road speed limit signs still to go up. This will not happen until we have the Community Speed Watch. Dave Wilkins arranging other Parishes to contribute to this.

There was a request from the public to return to monthly meetings, and not bi-monthly meetings.

There was a request from the public to have the notices on the noticeboards, such as agendas and Notice of Elections.

12. Date of next meeting:

The legislation requires that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is held between 9th May – 25th May this year, due to the local parish council elections at the beginning of May 2023.

Monday 15th May, will be the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm

Monday 3rd July 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Monday 6th November 2023

Next meeting will be Monday 15th May 2023, 7.00 pm, Village Hall.

Being there was no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.05.