

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 7 February 2022, 7.30 pm, held remotely using Zoom.

1. **Welcome.**

The Chair of the Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey) welcomed those present at the meeting, which included all 7 Parish Councillors (Jacqui Harrison (JH), Rod Apps (RA), Penny Ward (PW), Colin Ward (CW), Andy Spinks (AS) and Lea Ingham (LI). Members of the public present comprised Polly McCarthy (PM), Lucia Privitera (LP) Andy Moore (AM), Phil Greener (PG), Chris Roberts (CR) and Melanie Thompson (MT).

2. **Apologies for absence.**

There were apologies for absence from Anne Law and Brian Andrews.

3. **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2021 and from the meeting of 10 January 2022 were accepted and will be signed by the Chair at a later date.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 18 October 2021, and Parish Clerk's update.**

1. Rod Apps noted that a number of the posts for the installation of the Quiet Lanes signage had been put in position. It was noted that some of these posts were far higher than seemed necessary. The signs themselves had not arrived yet, but the intention is that they will be supplied to the Parish for them to be connected to the poles by the Parish.
2. [Item 3 of Matters Arising of minutes of 12 December refers] Rod Apps reported that consultation with others in the village had concluded that the pond adjacent to the road in front of Tithe Barn on Mill Road was **not** a common pond, and that it was indeed within the curtilage of Tithe Barn. RA had informed the current owner correspondingly.
3. [Item 10 of Minutes refers] Rod Apps reported that had submitted "empty property" reports to Suffolk County Council in respect of 3 Great Common and the Methodist Chapel, Tooks Common Lane.

5. **Village Hall re-roofing.**

An extensive discussion took place regarding the progress of the re-roofing of the Village Hall.

Representatives from the Village Hall Committee reported that an issue regarding asbestos had arisen, in that B&B Skips had returned one skip containing broken roofing material to the Village Hall car park on the basis that it contained asbestos. B&B had analysed the skip contents, had identified that asbestos was present, had tried to contact the roofing contractor (Bishop) but had not received any response. B&B were due to provide a quote for the disposal of the 2 skips containing the roofing material.

It was noted that Bishop was due to attend an on-site meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday 8 February. RA and GG indicated that they would attend, as representatives of the Parish Council as owners of the Hall.

It was agreed that it was necessary, in the first instance, to obtain some expert advice about the nature and extent of the asbestos contamination of the Village Hall and surrounds.

JH reported that she had held a telephone conversation with the solicitor acting as Executor of Joyce Snowden's Will, and as a consequence the bequest of £5,000 that was made in that Will to the Village Hall would probably be received in a week to ten days.

Village Hall Committee representatives noted that work had been undertaken separately on the roof of the kitchen area of the Village Hall in order to make it watertight. It was hoped that this work would be sufficient to keep it watertight for the foreseeable future, but that it did need proper renovation in the longer term.

The Parish Council agreed to the request that the £2,000 that the Parish Council agreed at the meeting in January it would make available to the Village Hall Committee would be half in the form of a loan, and half in the form of a grant. The loan arrangements would be that the £1,000 would be repaid in two instalments, £500 to be repaid once the Village Hall Committee had regained buffer funds of £3,000, and the second instalment of £500 when the buffer funds had again been restored to £3,000. RA would complete a cheque for £2,000 and deliver it to Anne Law.

[Action: RA]

6. Speeding/HGV issue on Top Road.

Statistics relating to the installation of the VAS on Top Road for December 2021 and January 2022 had been previously circulated to members of the Parish Council. A maximum speed of 70 mph has been recorded in the eastbound direction at 18.00 on 2⁸th December, along with a maximum speed of 55 mph in the westerly direction at 21.00 on 14 January 2022. There were numerous additional instances of speeding grossly in excess of the 30 mph limit. Overall, the statistics were consistent with the experience of previous installations of the VAS, and therefore of a serious speeding issue. The Parish Council thanked CW and PW for their efforts, and concluded that it was important to continue to record the statistics, in order that continuing evidence can be provided regarding the severity of the problem.

RA confirmed that he had sent an e-mail to Louise Botham regarding the Community Speedwatch scheme, but had not received any response as yet.

RA had also confirmed that he had been in touch with Suffolk Highways regarding deterrent measures on Top Road. The response that Suffolk Highways made was the suggestion that the painting of 30mph 'roundels', diagonal stripes near to the start of the 30mph limits, etc, would cost 'a few hundred'. The cost of the 5-bar gate-type of arrangement would be around £8,000. The Parish Council agreed that it should go ahead with the creation of 'roundels' etc. on the road, and that funding possibilities would be explored in relation to the possibility of '5-bar gates' type constructions. The Parish Council agreed that an absolute maximum of £1,500 would be spent on the painting of 'roundels' etc. on Top Road.

[Action: RA]

7. Planning Applications

It was confirmed that no planning applications had been received that required consideration at the meeting.

8. Finance

RA confirmed that a request for a Council Tax precept of £2,400 (instead of £2,000) for the financial year 2022-2023 **had** been submitted.

Payments since the last meeting of the Parish Council constituted:

£84.08 for insurance for the Vehicle Activated Sign

£150 to TiaGrace for the maintenance of the Parish Council website.

£14.39 separately for January 2022 and February 2022 (total therefore £28.78) for Zoom subscriptions.

Total: £262.86. All of these payments had been settled by Rod Apps

A further £14.39 would be payable to Zoom in March 2022, and Rod Apps will settle that invoice. On that basis, the Parish Council agreed to write a cheque for £277.25 after the Zoom payment for March 2022 had been made.

[Action: RA]

RA provided some summary statistics on the financial position of the Parish Council. After payment of £2,000 to the Village Hall Committee and the reimbursement of £277.25 as detailed above, there will be:

Current account: £988

Business Premium account: £911

Business Savings account: £515

And hence a total of £2,414. The Council Tax precept for 2022-2023 of £2,400 should be received in April 2022.

In the light of the continuing uncertainty regarding the Village Hall re-roofing, the Parish Council agreed to put any work on the refurbishment of the Play Area on hold until such time as things were clearer.

9. Dog Poo Bins

GG reported that the dog poo bin at the western end of Great Common was currently out of use due to some work being undertaken on the gate to the field, but it would be restored to full working order soon. GG would seek to relocate it nearer to the road, in order that the District Council would then undertake to empty it (along with the other dog poo bins).

[Action: GG]

10. Commons & Land Management Company.

It was noted that the draft Management Plan for 2022-2023 had been made available on the Commons website and comments and suggestions had been invited. It had been discussed at the meeting of the Commoners' Association on 31 January 2022, and would be discussed at the AGM of the Land Management Company on 14 February 2022.

[Action: RA]

11. Any Other Business

1. RA undertook to contact Phil Greener regarding the refurbishment of the village notice boards. He had previously been contacted by Gerald Godfrey, but it was not clear where things now stood.

[Action: RA]

2. "Treebilee". The Parish Council had signed up to receive an oak tree to be planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. RA was due to collect the tree in mid-February. The Parish Council agreed that the best location for the planting of the tree would be near to the Village sign.

[Action: RA]

3. Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was noted that a suggestion had been made at the most recent meeting of the *Commoners' Association* that it would be good for the various groups in the village to come together to arrange an event at the time of the extended Bank Holiday weekend at the start of June 2022. A meeting of the various groups (Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Village Hall Committee, Commoners' Association) in, perhaps, March was mooted and supported by the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parochial Church Council was already thinking in terms of an event at the Church at some point over the weekend.

[Action: RA]

4. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee ought to have an Asbestos Register, a Legionella testing protocol, and a Fire Safety and Emergency Lighting register. It was also noted that there needed to be clarity about the responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillator. RA would liaise with the Village Hall Committee regarding these issues, given that it would appear that they would be the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee rather than the Parish Council.

[Action: RA]

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 4 April 2022, probably 7.30 pm, by Zoom, but to be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 21.45.