

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 18 October 2021, 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), along with 1 member of the public (Tony Brown).

2. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2021 were accepted and will be signed by the Chair at a later date.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2021, and Parish Clerk's update.

1. [Item 2 of Matters Arising of minutes of 6 September refers] Rod Apps reported that the Parish Council website was now up and running. A Newsletter had been circulated to all households in the village announcing it. There had been zero feedback (either positive or negative) regarding the website. Evidence from statistics regarding the use of the website indicated that perhaps a small number of people had visited it.
2. [Item 3 of Matters Arising of minutes of 6 September refers] Gerald Godfrey confirmed that he had approached a firm (Jordan Fencing) regarding the replacement of the gates to the Burial Ground, and was awaiting them to supply a quote.
3. [Item 7 of Matters Arising of minutes of 6 September refers] Rod Apps reported that he had installed the sign indicating ownership of the Play Area on the wall of the Village Hall. He has also made a start on some of the repairs to the gates to the Play Area.
4. [Item 9 of Matters Arising of minutes of 6 September refers] Notice Boards. Rod Apps confirmed that he had not received any response from David Best regarding the possibility of assisting in the renovation of the noticeboards in the village. After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that it would be worth contacting Phil Greener, the new resident of The Old Post Office, who had been offering carpentry services in the area. [Action: RA]
5. [Item 10 of Matters Arising of minutes of 6 September refers] Village Party/Event. The Parish Council noted that it had deferred making any decision regarding the possibility of a Village party/Event until 2022, and that it would be worthwhile to consider arranging something at the time of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Rod Apps reported that he had attended a Zoom meeting regarding the "Festival of Suffolk", which is linked to the Platinum

Jubilee. The Parish Council further noted that it would make sense to try to arrange something to co-ordinate with the Platinum Jubilee, but that there was a risk of trying to do something when there were a number of *other* events taking place in the vicinity over the extended Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of June 2022.

Rod Apps reported that discussion of a number of possibilities at the Zoom meeting concerning the Festival of Suffolk had possible relevance for the Village, including tree planting, and walks around the village/Commons that would not be dependent on significant involvement from villagers to be successful and worthwhile.

The Parish Council agreed to revisit the issue at a later meeting.

6. [Item 12 of Matters Arising of minutes of 6 September refers] Rod Apps reported that the plaques to be fitted to the footpath fingerposts in the village would be delivered shortly, and would then be fitted at some point.
7. [Item 5 of the Minutes of 6 September refers] Rod Apps confirmed that all the documentation relating to the application to have Clarkes Lane and Banter's Lane designated as 'Quiet Lanes' had been submitted. He also confirmed that the signage details for the first 4 lanes (Great Common Lane, Becks Green Lane, Mill Lane and Tooks Common Lane) had all been confirmed, and that Suffolk County Council would be installing the posts as necessary in due course.
8. [Item 8 of the Minutes of 6 September refers] Jacqui Harrison reported that she had not been able to speak to Rosemary Andrews concerning the arrangements for the allotments.

5. Planning Applications.

DC/21/4193/FUL. Barns at Tithe Farm, Mill Lane. Rod Apps confirmed that he had submitted a response to this planning application. The response constituted the following:

"The Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council has discussed this Planning Application and concluded that it supported the application and welcomed the restoration of the decaying buildings.

The Parish Council did, however, note that on the northern edge of the property is a pond for which various surveys in recent years have found significant numbers of Great Crested Newts. In relation to that, the Parish Council also noted that Question 12a) of the Application had been answered 'No', whereas the Council considered that, in relation to the pond in particular, it ought to have been 'Yes, on land adjacent to or near the proposed development', on the basis that there is a reasonable likelihood of a protected and priority species being adversely affected or conserved and enhanced. The Parish Council therefore requests that the applicant is required to abide by the recommendations in the comprehensive Protected Species and Habitats Survey dated 30 August 2021, particularly in relation to the Great Crested Newt population of the pond and surrounding areas."

DC/21/4135/FUL. Old Post Office, Tooks Common Lane. The Parish Council considered this Planning Application, which constituted a single-storey garden room extension to the rear of the property. The Parish Council concluded that given the small scale of this proposed development and the fact that it would not be seen from the road, the Parish Council had no objections. Rod Apps undertook to submit a response to the Planning Application supporting the application.

[Action: RA]

6. Vehicle Activated Sign, and Speeding/HGV issue on Top Road.

Rod Apps had previously circulated a summary document regarding initiatives that had previously been taken regarding the speeding and HGV issues on Top Road, along with initiatives that are currently being pursued.

Penny & Colin Ward had previously made available to the Parish Council the data from the installation of the VAS for August-September 2021. This data included one instance of a vehicle travelling at 80 (eighty) mph, along with others at speeds far in excess of the 30 mph limit.

Overall, the data was very much in line with previous positionings of the VAS.

Tony Brown noted that in August there were a large number of campervans and caravans using Top Road, presumably following their Satnavs, and probably therefore not following an appropriate route.

The Parish Council noted that the Beccles Southern Relief Road sub-group for Ringsfield & Weston, and Ilketshall St. Andrew, met at the end of July. Peter Aldous, the constituency MP, attended and chaired the meeting, to which Judy Cloke (District Councillor) also attended. Judy Cloke subsequently contacted Mark Nichols, the Community Liaison Engineer at Suffolk Highways, and there is due to be an on-site meeting with him on 26 November 2021, to try to identify possible ways forward in relation to both the speeding issue and the HGV issue. Rod Apps agreed that he would attend the meeting. The meeting noted the importance of Mark Nichols actually visiting Top Road to see the problems "on the ground", and Rod Apps agreed to try to ensure this occurred/

[Action: RA]

The Parish Council noted that the range of possibilities included white lines at the edge of the carriageway, narrowing in, in order to emphasise the narrowness of the road; an information sign (rather than an enforcement sign) suggesting that the road was narrow and unsuitable for HGVs; 30mph markings on the **road**, 30 mph signs on wheelie bins; installation of "5-bar gates" at either end of the 30 mph limits; chicanes; and a weight restriction running from the western end of Top Road through the village and through Ringsfield up to the junction of Cromwell Road and London Road.

The meeting further noted the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing and installing its **own** signage. These could include signs at the end of people's gardens, signs emphasising the need to protect children, etc. The recommendation from PC Simon Green was that, in relation to "flying HGVs", evidence from dashcams was particularly useful for securing prosecutions, and the Parish Council also discussed the possibility of installing dashcams in parked cars on Top Road which could be left running during daylight hours. People witnessing crazy driving behaviour could then note the time and day of the event and the data from the dashcams could be instrumental.

Tony Brown commented that most of the speeding seemed to be from east to west, possibly due to the drivers having negotiated a series of bends and coming to a (seemingly open) stretch of straight road. He also commented that the 30mph signs at the eastern edge of the limit were merging into the background. He also questioned whether there were sufficient repeater signs to comply with legislation, and noted also that these had low visibility.

The Parish Council noted the recommendation from PC Simon Green (Community Engagement Officer for the Halesworth locality) to set up a Community Speedwatch team. Andy Spinks had previously tried to identify volunteers from Top Road to participate in such a group, but had been unable to find sufficient numbers. The Parish Council agreed to circulate an appeal to **everyone** in the village (rather than just those on Top Road) in a further attempt to try to identify the minimum of 6 people required to participate. It was further noted that although Ringsfield had initially identified 6 people who would be prepared to volunteer to join a Community Speedwatch team, when it came to actually completing the necessary forms, only 2 people remained. An option (with both advantages and disadvantages) would be to form a group with Ringsfield in order to meet the minimum of 6, and to then share deployments between the two villages. Rod Apps

agreed to contact Ringsfield to establish more precisely what the state of play there was with respect to the creation of a Community Speedwatch team.

[Action: RA]

The Parish Council noted the two proposed locations for the positioning of the Community Speedwatch teams, and Gerald Godfrey confirmed that these locations were agreeable to him.

The Parish Council also noted the need for something to be done on the dangerous blind corner on the Ringsfield Road. Rod Apps agreed that this would also be taken up with Mark Nichols at the meeting on 26 November.

[Action: RA]

The Parish Council further agreed to pursue the Automatic Number Plate Recognition initiative, and Rod Apps agreed to try to submit an application.

[Action: RA]

7. Dog Poo Bins

Gerald Godfrey confirmed that both of the two additional dog poo bins had been received, and he would arrange for them to be installed in the near future (one on Top Road, one at the western edge of Great Common at the entrance to his field).

[Action: GG]

8. Finance

The Parish Council noted that there was nothing to report here, with no expenditures since the last meeting of the Parish Council apart from the monthly Zoom subscription.

9. Burial Ground

Jacqui Harrison reported that the current providers of mowing etc. services to the Burial Ground were only prepared to quote for the **whole** of the work for the Burial Ground, and not for just a part of it (with the rest being provided by volunteers etc.) Given that handing over the whole task to the current providers would not be acceptable, that offer was not followed up.

Jacqui Harrison also reported that Joyce Snowden had left a sum of money in her Will, the investment income from which should be used for the maintenance of the Burial Ground. It was no known when this sum of money would actually be received.

Given that the need for mowing etc. work would be minimal over the next few weeks, the Parish Council agreed to revisit the issue at a future meeting when aspects might be clearer.

10. Any Other Business

1. Andy Spinks noted that there had been quite a lot of rubbish in and around the Play Area recently, and suggested that a litter bin near the Play Area would be appropriate. The Parish Council agreed to this suggestion, and Rod Apps agreed to investigate possibilities, acquire, and instal as appropriate.

[Action: RA]

2. The Parish Council noted that the directions sign at the junction of Great Common Lane and School Road had broken off. Rod Apps undertook to take a photograph of this, and of other broken/damaged road and direction signs in the village and communicate with Highways accordingly.

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 13 December 2021, probably 7.30 pm, by Zoom, but to be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.