

## Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 2 September 2019 held at the Parish Hall, 7.30 p.m.

### **1. Welcome.**

The 5 Parish Councillors (Gerald Godfrey (GG), Chris Bromley (CB), Andy Spinks (AS), Jacqui Harrison (JH) and Rod Apps (RA) were present. There were two members of the public present (Lea Ingham and Chris Roberts).

### **2. Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **3. Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 5 August 2019 were accepted.

### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 5 August 2019.**

**Item 8:** arrangements for the appointment of a replacement Director of the Ilketshall St. Andrew & St. John Land Management Company. It was noted that there was not due to be a Village Newsletter any time soon, and therefore a separate flyer for this, and for the presentation by Phoenix Birds of Prey Rescue scheduled for 22 September 2019, would be circulated. This flyer would also be circulated in St. John's. The flyer would make use of the draft invitation for applications to the Land Management Company that had been circulated to, and agreed by, members of the Parish Council previously.

**Item 9: The possibility of a joint Parish Council with Ilketshall St. John.** RA will draft a flyer to go to Parishioners in Ilketshall St. John.

**Vehicle-Activated Sign (VAS)** The holiday period has meant that Ringsfield & Weston Parish Council has not met, so it has been difficult to make progress on the arrangements relating to this. Louise Botham (Chair of Ringsfield & Weston Parish Council) is going to try to sort out/update the rota for allocations in the two parishes.

### **5. Planning Application – Old Butcher's Arms, DC/19/3105/FUL**

This planning application was received after the meeting of the Parish Council on 5 August 2019, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019, and the deadline for a response from the Parish Council was before the meeting on 2 September 2019. The members of the Parish Council therefore viewed the application online and agreed a response by e-mail. The response from the Parish Council noted that the details of the proposal suggested that there would be an equestrian menage operating as a business (3 part-time employees, and the number of stables involved), and the Parish Council therefore recommended that the application be rejected on the basis that Tooks Common Lane was too narrow to cope with the horse boxes and trailers that would be associated with the proposal, and that any likely floodlighting would be intrusive.

### **6. Notice of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession – land adjoining The Homestead, Great Common Lane.**

The Parish Council discussed a notice of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession of a piece of land adjoining The Homestead, Great Common Lane. It was noted that this was, in effect, a formalisation of what had been accepted for many years. A piece of

Great Common had been enclosed a long time ago, and the purchase of The Homestead by the current owners was on the basis that this piece of land was included in the sale. On that basis, the Parish Council concluded that there was no reason, or basis, on which to raise an objection.

The Parish Council also expressed its concern about a number of other areas of the Commons where there could be applications for registration on the basis of adverse possession, and agreed that the Land Management Company should be made aware of this concern.

#### **7. Invoice (777002039) from East Suffolk Council for Uncontested Election, 2 May 2019, for £43.52**

An invoice had arrived from East Suffolk Council for £43.52 relating to the uncontested election to the Parish Council. No member of the Parish Council had any expectation or understanding of this charge, and concluded that it was a new charge introduced at this election, as an attempt by the Council to raise additional funds. In the circumstances, the Parish Council concluded that they had little option but to pay the charge, but were disappointed about the lack of prior notification, and the bizarre position whereby the Parish Council was being charged £43.52 for *not* having a contested election.

#### **8. Finance.**

A summary sheet of the financial position of the Parish Council was circulated, which noted that, across the 3 bank accounts, the total position was £3,261.93, with payments due of £124.08 in addition to the £43.52 relating to Item 7 above.

#### **9. e-mails received.**

JH noted an e-mail relating to the data-sharing code of practice, and the need for Parish Councils to take the issue seriously. JH also noted the extensive range of possibilities for grants that were available, particularly relating to the Church, and the Parish Council also discussed the wide range of sources of grants for other purposes. There were no other e-mails received of any particular note.

#### **10. Any other business**

CB noted that the Parish Council had not received Minutes or accounts from the July 2019 meeting of the Land Management Company, and agreed that the LMC should be reminded of the need to circulate these to the Parish Council on a timely basis. CB also noted that in his view, it should be the Parish Council that has responsibility for the Commons, perhaps via a sub-committee, rather than by a separate company in the form of the LMC. Such a structure would help to ensure the existence of the Commons for future generations of villagers. If the Parish Council was responsible for the Commons, there would be monthly meetings, open to the public, at which issues relating to the Commons would be discussed. It was noted that in reality, the Parish Council already has some responsibility for the Commons; given that, under the Commons Act 2006 County Councils/District Councils have responsibility for commons, but financial pressures have meant that they are not interested in doing anything relating to the commons, this responsibility has been pushed back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council is, in effect, the guardian of the Commons. The Commoners' Association has financial responsibility for the Commons, in that it authorises the LMC to make applications for grants on its behalf. It would therefore probably be the responsibility of the Commoners' Association to discuss the issue and take action as appropriate.

The Parish Council decided to ask RA to send a letter of condolence to Jeanette Booth following the death of Trevor Boon. Trevor Boon had contributed a considerable amount to the

life of the village over many years, and this was recognised, and appreciated, by the Parish Council. Trevor had, in addition, been a stalwart attendee at Parish Council meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

**10. Date of next meeting**

Monday 7 October 2019, 7.30 p.m. Village Hall.