

# Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 25 July 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 7 Parish Councillors (Jacqui Harrison (JH), Rod Apps (RA), Penny Ward (PW), Colin Ward (CW), Andy Spinks (AS) and Lea Ingham (LI). There were two members of the public present, Chris Roberts (CR) and Tony Brown (TB).

## 2. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

## 3. Minutes from the last meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of 6 June 2022 were accepted and were signed by the Chair.

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 6 June 2022, and Parish Clerk's update.

1. [Item 4.1 refers] Rod Apps confirmed that he did send the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6 June 2022 to Melanie, drawing attention to the relevant Minute thanking the Village Hall Management Committee for the time and effort expended, and also noting the discussion around the lack of card payment facilities. The need for the Village Hall Management Committee to keep the Parish Council updated on financial developments was also noted, given that the Parish Council was owed £1,000.
2. [Item 6 refers] Rod Apps reported that he had chased Suffolk Highways regarding the need for a quote for road paintings (chevrons, 30 mph roundels, etc) on Top Road. An acknowledgement and an apology had been received, but no quote yet.
3. Play Area. Rod Apps noted that David Bracey had undertaken a safety inspection of the Play Area on 25 July, and that the report from that inspection was now awaited. Rod Apps met up with David Bracey when he was undertaking the safety inspection, and discussed in particular the state of the wooden 'train', which was progressively rotting and pieces falling off. The problem with the wooden construction is that splits in the timber lead to a finger-trapping risk. There was discussion around the possibility of replacing with the 'train' with a plastic replacement, or an alternative feature, or of outdoor gym items for use by adults. The Parish Council agreed to investigate alternatives prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council, and to discuss possibilities at that meeting.

Action: All

4. Quiet Lanes. Rod Apps reported that the formal Notices regarding the proposed designation of Banter's Lane as a 'Quiet Lane' had been distributed the previous weekend. This relates to "Wave 4". The designation of School Road as a 'Quiet Lane' (Wave 3) was still progressing. Once the designations had been approved, the remaining signage (for School Road and for Banter's Lane) would be collected and installed.

5. Thermal Imaging Camera Project Survey. Rod Apps reported that he had responded positively to an email survey regarding the loan of a Thermal Imaging Camera, on the basis that a sufficient number of properties would be interested in identifying the sources of heat loss from their properties. Given the increasing energy costs, it seemed likely that a worthwhile number of residents would be interested in participating.
6. 3 Big Common. Rod Apps reported that he had followed up with Suffolk County Council regarding 3 Big Common, a long-term empty property. It seems that the owner was contacted, but has not responded, and they will try again. Rod Apps emailed the contact at Suffolk County Council back to emphasise that it IS a concern for neighbours, the village wants to see it returned to housing use, etc. – so hopefully they will move it along.

## 5. Village Hall.

The Minutes of a recent meeting of the Village Hall Committee had been sent to the Parish Clerk, and had been forwarded to the other Councillors. The Parish Council noted these Minutes, and in particular the progress towards completion of the works required and the ability to have the ceiling completed on the basis of existing funds, rather than waiting for a grant for the purpose.

## 6. Speeding/HGV issue on Top Road.

Rod Apps reported on the response received from Suffolk County Council to the Parish Council's submission to the Recommended Lorry Route Map. It was noted that the response was exceptionally bland and unhelpful and did not address the issue of HGVs on Top Road. The Parish Council concluded that it seemed that the County Council was waiting for there to be a fatality before taking any action.

Tony Brown circulated copies of photographs of 'HGV jams' on Top Road, demonstrating instances where HGVs travelling in opposite directions had only **just** managed to pass each other, and coming extremely close to demolishing garden walls of properties on Top Road. Tony Brown also circulated copies of a sign that have been put up in Stanton to deter HGVs, and the Parish Council discussed whether such a sign could be installed independently of Suffolk County Council. Rod Apps undertook to investigate the possibilities regarding such signs.

[Action: RA]

Colin & Penny Ward reported the results of the latest data from the VAS. The data was depressingly similar to previous installations of the VAS, and included an instance of 80mph at 3.15 on a Tuesday afternoon. Rod Apps undertook to arrange for the data to be made available on the Parish Council website.

[Action: RA]

Rod Apps noted that he had managed to get in touch with Louise Botham in relation to the speeding and HGV problems in Ringsfield and Weston. Ringsfield and Weston **are** still interested in creating a Community Speedwatch Team, and their new Parish Clerk is due to take that forward. Ringsfield & Weston is also intending to initiate a meeting to try to make further progress on the HGV issue. The Parish Council noted that the speeding and HGV problems were common to both parishes, and also agreed on the importance of working with Ringsfield & Weston in relation to the HGV issue in particular (the HGVs using Top Road as a 'rat run' are, by definition, using Ringsfield as a 'rat run' also).

Tony Brown undertook to make a survey of residents of Top Road to ascertain the willingness of people to affix "30" stickers to the sides of their wheelie bins, as an additional measure to try to lessen the speeding problem. The opportunity would also be taken to identify if there were now

any additional individuals prepared to join a Community Speedwatch team. The Parish Council indicated that it would be prepared to contribute to the cost of such stickers.

[Action: TB]

## **7. Planning Applications**

The Parish Council had previously been notified of a Planning Application for the installation of solar panels at St. Andrews Hall, ref DC/22/2652/LBC. The Parish Council agreed that there was no reason for the Parish Council to object. Rod Apps agreed to submit a response expressing support for the proposal.

[Action: RA]

The Parish Council noted that no response had been received from Mr. Stephen Lake regarding the structure being built in the front of Lakeside, on Ringsfield Road. The Parish Council therefore agreed that the issue should be referred to East Suffolk Planning, since it appears to be contrary to the Permitted Development allowances. Rod Apps undertook to notify East Suffolk Planning accordingly.

[Action: RA]

## **8. Finance**

Rod Apps confirmed that all the AGAR material had been processed following the last meeting, with documents being posted on the website, notification to the External Auditor, etc. Rod Apps also noted that confirmation of 'exempt status' with regard to the auditing of accounts had been received.

The Parish Council noted that no payments had been made since the last meeting of the Parish Council, aside from monthly Zoom payments. The total bank balances held by the Parish Council therefore stood at around £4,400.

There was a brief discussion around Section 106 payments. Rod Apps undertook to investigate whether there had been any developments in the village that generated such payments.

[Action: RA]

## **9. Dog Poo Bins**

There was nothing to report on this issue.

## **10. Commons & Land Management Company.**

The Parish Council noted that there had been a meeting of the Board of the Land Management Company recently, but that the Minutes were not yet available. Members of the Board present at the meeting of the Parish Council considered that there were no particular issues discussed at the Board meeting that were of concern to the Parish Council.

It was noted that some work on the Commons, and in particular the clearing of the edges of the Commons, would be delayed for safety reasons on the basis of the fire risk associated with the dry weather.

## **11. Any Other Business**

1. The Parish Council discussed the issue of the maintenance of the Burial Ground. Jacqui Harrison requested that the Parish Council made a contribution to the cost of cutting the grass, since there would be no income coming from Joyce Snowden's bequest for some time to come. The Parish Council agreed to make a payment of £250, and Rod Apps undertook to sort out a cheque for the purpose.

[Action: RA]

The Parish Council noted that no-one had been identified, at the current time, to undertake the cutting of the grass on a regular basis.

Gerald Godfrey reported that enquiries regarding the replacement of the gates on the north side of the burial ground were still ongoing, partly because there was a reluctance by potential suppliers to actually come out to visit the site.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

**Monday 3 October 2022, 7.30 pm, with the intention to make use of the Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 21.27.