

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 3 August 2020 held remotely, 7.30 p.m.

1. Welcome.

This meeting of the Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council was held remotely, using Zoom software, as a consequence of restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Invitations for members of the public to attend had been made via a notice on the Village Hall noticeboard and via e-mails to individuals who often attended Parish Council meetings. Three Parish Councillors (Gerald Godfrey (GG), Jacqui Harrison (JH), and Rod Apps (RA) were present. Two members of the public (John Bedwell and Lea Ingham) were also present.

2. Apologies for absence.

There were apologies for absence from Andy Spinks, which were accepted. It was noted that Chris Bromley had, in effect, stood down as Councillor due to ill-health. There are now 4 Councillors, with a minimum of 3 for meetings to be quorate, relative to a full quota of 7.

3. Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting of 8 June 2020 were accepted will be signed by the Chair at a later date.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 8 June 2020.

1. [Item 4.1 refers] Rod Apps reported that no progress on the Parish Council website has been made, although the website developer is under pressure due to health problems in the family.
2. [Item 6 refers] The accounts for the Parish Council for 2019-2020 were audited by Adrian Sampson and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 was submitted prior to the (revised) deadline of the end of July 2020.
3. [Item 7 refers] Rod Apps prepared and posted some notices regarding the use of the Play Area in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. GG had raked the molehills in order to reduce the tripping hazard. Other issues arising from the annual safety inspection will be attended to when people have the time to do so, having noted that they were all identified in the report as "Low Risk – monitor and take reasonable action if possible.'

5. Report from a meeting regarding the Southern Relief Road.

Rod Apps attended a (virtual) meeting on 24 July 2020 of the 'Beccles Southern Relief Road Stakeholders', chaired by Peter Aldous MP. Rod Apps reported to the Parish Council on the discussions at this meeting:

The meeting was as a follow-up of a meeting in 2019. The purpose of the meetings is to monitor the consequences of the construction of the Southern Relief Road. The people attending the meeting were mostly Councillors from the Beccles area, but also included a representative from Suffolk County Council (Suzanne Buck) and from the Police. The focus of the series of meetings was originally on the impact of the Southern Relief road *for Beccles*, but

got expanded out to include surrounding villages. The impact of the Relief Road for the surrounding villages (including Ilketshall St. Andrew) appears to have been completely ignored until pressure was put on Suffolk County Council.

The presentation by Suzanne Buck noted that the primary purpose of the Southern Relief Road was to reduce the number of HGVs going through Beccles town centre. The slides that she presented concluded that the Southern Relief Road HAD resulted in a dramatic lowering of the incidence of HGVs going through Beccles town centre.

Traffic surveys had also been undertaken in some surrounding villages, including on Top Road, ISA. That survey noted the incidence of speeding on Top Road, despite their understanding that the speed limit was 40 mph, and she appeared to also recognise the increase in traffic volumes. In response to questions put to her later by Louise Botham, Suzanne Buck took the stance that, due to resource constraints, Suffolk County Council nothing could be done about these problems.

Later in the meeting Rod Apps made the point that the speed limit was 40 mph and not 30, that the VAS installed on Top Road had recently recorded a speed of 80 (eight zero) mph, that residents on Top Road were “frightened” by the speed and number of vehicles, and that I had heard a view expressed that it was only a matter of time before someone was killed or seriously injured. Rod Apps also made the point that it was, in the light of those issues, very difficult for him to say to the residents of Top Road that “nothing could be done”. While the positive impact of the Southern Relief Road in Beccles was to be welcomed, Suffolk County Council needed to take some note, and action, relating to the negative consequences on surrounding areas.

The representative from the Police said that they do not have the resources to set up speed traps.

In response to a further question from Louise Botham, which asked if Parish Councils could do anything about the speeding problem in particular, the suggestions were:

1. initiate a Community Speedwatch project. This is where people have speed detectors which also record number plates, and speeding motorists are then written to. Clearly, this requires a number of volunteers to be prepared to spend time undertaking this activity. It seems that such projects are actually quite effective.
2. Putting up signs such as “Kill Your Speed” etc. Mention was made of children-designed signs. The emphasis of this approach is to shift towards the ‘choice’ of drivers, rather than ‘enforcement’.

It was pointed out that traffic calming schemes, enhanced signage, etc., were SCC Highway-led, and therefore it was a waste of time trying to do anything on that front.

At the end of the meeting, Peter Aldous proposed a sub-meeting for Ringsfield & Weston, and Ilketshall St. Andrew, to work on particular issues. Rod Apps was not sure how that is going to work, but he will try to chase that one up. The next meeting of the whole group has been scheduled for Friday 30th October 2020. Rod Apps will endeavour to attend.

Jacqui Harrison undertook to write to Peter Aldous

[Action: JH]

The Parish Council then discussed the best way for the Village to approach the problem. After discussion, it was concluded that it would probably be best for the residents of Top Road to form a group to present ideas and solutions. A traffic calming scheme *might* be appropriate, but it had to be recognised that this might have an adverse impact on local farm vehicles,

parking, noise levels etc., and therefore it would be sensible for residents to establish what they believed to be appropriate before making recommendations to Suffolk County Council. It was also noted that there are some solutions that the Village, or the residents of Top Road, can pursue independently; these include a 'Community Speedwatch' campaign, "Kill Your Speed" signs, signs designed by children to highlight their presence, etc.

The Parish Council agreed to discuss the issue further at its next meeting, in order to involve Andy Spinks (not able to attend this meeting, but a resident of Top Road.)

6. Report from the Land Management Company.

The Parish Council received a summary of the meeting of the Ilketshall St. Andrew & St. John Land Management Company held on 22 June 2020. The purpose of the summary was to provide the Parish Council (and other groups) with a more timely update prior to the full Minutes being made available. The Parish Council noted the contents, and in particular the total funds of the Land Management Company of £69,000 and the change to the accounting period for the Company to the end of September (from the end of March) to better coincide with the revised timing of the AGM of the company in February each year. The Parish Council also noted that the implementation of the Company's Annual Management Plan had been interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. Vehicle-Activated Sign

Rod Apps introduced a report on the most recent positioning of the Vehicle-Activated Sign, which was positioned on the eastbound direction of Top road between 30 May 2020 and 15 June 2020, and on the westbound direction between 19 June 2020 and 6 July 2020.

The report noted that the highest speed recorded was 80 (eighty) mph at 6.30 a.m. on 1 June 2020. In addition, there were two instances of 65 mph (both westbound) and 4 instances of 60 mph (2 westbound, 2 eastbound). The 85th percentile speed over the whole period was 34.6 mph, which represents a slight increase relative to previous recordings. Approximately 40% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit.

8. Planning Applications

8.1 DC/19/2784/FUL It was noted that Adrian Sampson had submitted an appeal to rebuild The Boat Shed at Becks Green, which had been rejected previously by East Suffolk County Council. The Parish Council agreed to endorse its previous view, submitted to East Suffolk County Council, that this application be approved.

[Action: RA]

8.2 DC/20/2653/LBC St. Andrew's Hall, Ringsfield Road. The Parish Council considered this proposal, and agreed that it had no objections to the application. Rod Apps would communicate this to East Suffolk County Council.

[Action: RA]

9. Finance

Rod Apps reported that there had been no income since the last meeting of the Parish Council in June.

Rod Apps also reported that the only item of expenditure incurred had been for the subscription to Zoom. Rod Apps had paid for this, and will seek reimbursement at some point in the future.

10. Any Other Business

Gerald Godfrey noted that a "Housing Survey" had been delivered to households in the Village (although it was clear that not all households had received it). The Parish Council noted that it was not clear what the purpose of this survey was, particularly in the light of East Suffolk District Council's "Local Plan".

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 5 October 2020, 7.30 p.m.

The location and arrangements for this meeting would be decided nearer the time, taking into account the restrictions and recommendations relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also noted that the date may have to be changed, given that there are now only 4 Councillors with a requirement for 3 attending to be quorate.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.