

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 7 December 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. Four Parish Councillors (Gerald Godfrey (GG), Jacqui Harrison (JH), Andy Spinks (AS) and Rod Apps (RA)) were present. Judy Cloke, the District Councillor for the Bungay area was present, and there was one member of the public present (Lea Ingham).

2. **Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

3. **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 5 October 2020 were accepted will be signed by the Chair at a later date.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes of 5 October 2020.**

1. [Item 4 refers] Andy Spinks reported back on his efforts to create a group of people on Top Road who would take the initiative regarding the two problems of speeding and of heavy traffic using Top Road. He had spoken to 15 people, but only two people provided a positive response. A common problem was work commitments, but in total people did not want to know. Andy Spinks also noted that the edges of the road were collapsing again as a consequence of the heavy traffic, and that the repairs to the edges of the road undertaken recently were too superficial to make any difference. Rod Apps noted that he was due to attend a (virtual) meeting of the Beccles Southern Relief Road group on 18th December, and that Peter Aldous had undertaken previously to create a subgroup to comprise the villages that had been negatively affected by the creation of the Southern Relief Road but that it had not happened yet. Judy Cloke undertook to contact Peter Aldous to try to get the issue of the sub-group taken forward. It was pointed out that although the speeding and heavy traffic issue affected the residents of Top Road particularly, the whole of the village community were affected, and – if some additional people could be encouraged to participate in Parish Council activities – perhaps a wider group of people to take the issue forward might be created. However, there is a feeling that residents in the village tend to be focused on their *part* of the village rather than the village community as a whole.
2. Rod Apps reported that he had submitted a comment to the Planning department at East Suffolk District Council supporting the application for a barn conversion adjacent to Shrublands, Mill Lane. This response was agreed by means of an e-mail conversation since the last meeting of the Parish Council.
3. [Item 5 refers] Rod Apps reported that an Annual Parish Meeting for Ilketshall St. Andrew **had** been held on 30th November. This was held virtually, via Zoom, and 120

copies of a Parish Council Newsletter had been circulated throughout the village giving prior notice and providing the details of the link to Zoom. 2 members of the public attended the meeting. While 2 members of the public was **double** the attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019, it was nevertheless an appallingly low attendance rate.

As a consequence of the extremely low attendance, nothing of any consequence emerged from the meeting. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting are available separately.

Judy Cloke suggested that, in addition to advertising within the village and having a leaflet drop, something along the lines of an 'Open Day' had been tried in other villages and might yield some success in Ilketshall St. Andrew. This would, of course, have to await the lifting of restrictions, but could constitute an open event, in the summer, whereby people could be available in the Village Hall to talk about the activities of the Parish Council and to answer questions. It might also be worthwhile to seek the advice of SALC regarding the recruitment of additional Councillors.

5. Planning Applications.

The Parish Council had received an application for a barn conversion at Dairy Barn, Great Common Lane [DC/20/4729/PN3].

The Parish Council discussed this application, and in light of the fact that it was a significant distance from the road and would not be expected to have any impact of concern to the Parish Council, decided to support the application. Rod Apps agreed to submit comments to East Suffolk District Council accordingly.

[Action: RA]

6. 'Quiet Lanes' initiative.

Rod Apps outlined the principles underlying the 'Quiet Lanes' initiative and what it would involve. The end result would be that some lanes in the village would be designated as 'Quiet Lanes', and as such would have a certain amount of signage at the beginning and end of each lane (and perhaps additional signage part-way along) in order to encourage the drivers of motorised vehicles to be respectful of other users (pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, etc.) Rod Apps had previously submitted an expression of interest on behalf of the Parish Council, and noted that there had been a very widespread level of interest, with something 140 villages being involved across Suffolk. It was further noted that there are 3 'cycles' for applications to be submitted, with the first cycle having a deadline for part of the documentation on 22 December. A complication in respect of Ilketshall St. Andrew was that two of the lanes extended into St. John's, and therefore the agreement of St. John's would be needed. In addition, however, this would potentially mean that the project could take advantage of grants that would be available for St. John's in addition to St. Andrew's. The Parish would also have to have completed an 'initial Parish awareness' by 7 January 2021. The deadlines were tight, but Rod Apps undertook to attempt to meet those (and other deadlines) and to keep the Parish Council involved. The subsequent set of deadlines was approximately 3 months later.

[Action: RA]

7. Finance.

Rod Apps reported on the expenditure of the Parish Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council in October 2020. The only significant item was the renewal of the insurance for the Vehicle Activated Sign, which is on a joint basis with Ringsfield and Weston Parish Council and which Rod Apps had paid, amounting to £84.08. The remaining items were 3 months of

subscription for Zoom at £14.39 per month, amounting to £43.17 in total. The Parish Council agreed to reimburse Rod Apps a total of £127.25 for these items.

8. Village Hall Finances

The meeting of the Parish Council in October 2020 had noted that the Village Hall finances had been seriously affected by the pandemic, with virtually no income arising but continuing outgoings. Rod Apps had contacted members of the Village Hall Committee since that meeting in order to get some additional information regarding the state of the Village Hall finances. In summary, the position was that the Village Hall was reliant on transfers the Bar Account for its financing at the current time (since that account had accumulated a reasonable sum of money in the past).

In previous years the Parish Council had paid for the insurance of the Village Hall. In 2019 it did not do so (due to comparatively healthy finances of the Village Hall), and had not done so to date in relation to 2020.

Judy Cloke asked whether the Village Hall had investigated the possibility of obtaining funds from either local or national government sources as compensation resulting from the pandemic. Given that it was not clear whether the Village Hall Committee had done so or not, the Parish Council agreed to defer a decision on whether (and by how much) it should make payments to the Village Hall. Judy Cloke very kindly agreed to investigate the possibility of such funding in conjunction with people from East Suffolk Council. Judy Cloke noted that some Village Halls *have* received grants and funding to offset the impact of the pandemic. The initial grant, in March 2020, was £10,000. Dependent on the outcome of these investigations, there might need to be a meeting of the Parish Council early in the New Year.

[Action: RA]

9. Any Other Business

1. Rod Apps noted that he had installed the Vehicle Activated Sign on Top Road between 28th October and 7th December 2020. The maximum speed recorded during that period was 70 mph between 3.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. on 4th December. There were other instances of 65 mph, 60 mph, and so on downwards. There were many instances, during daytime hours, when the majority of vehicles were speeding. Overall, the statistics were very similar to the previous 3 installations. The sign does not appear to have any deterrent effect on speeding.
2. Rod Apps noted that there was due to be a meeting of the Beccles Southern Relief Road Working Group at 1.00 p.m. on 18th December (by Zoom) which he would try to attend. The results would be reported back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.
3. Gerald Godfrey asked about the progress of the Questionnaire on the long-term objectives of the Commons that the Land Management Company had circulated to households in the two villages. Rod Apps noted that the deadline for the return of the completed questionnaires was 15th December and therefore that there was still some time left. It looked as if around 20 questionnaires (from the 140 that were circulated) would probably be returned. An analysis of the results would be made and then brought to the Parish Council.
4. Andy Spinks raised the question of progress on dog poo bins. Gerald Godfrey had taken on the responsibility for this matter. Gerald noted that he had undertaken some research on the issue, but would examine possibilities further and bring the results to the next meeting of the Parish Council. Lea Ingham made the point that

[Action: RA]

[Action: RA]

more needed to be done to confront, and potentially prosecute, the dog owners responsible – but it was noted that this would, in practice, be difficult to achieve.

[Action: GG]

5. Jacqui Harrison noted that she had intended to write to the Parish Council requesting a contribution to the maintenance costs of the Burial Ground. She undertook to send this shortly, but in the meantime the Parish Council approved the payment of £150 for that purpose.

[Action: JH]

Particular thanks were expressed to Judy Cloke for her attendance and contributions, and for her willingness to take forward various possibilities identified during the meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 1 February 2021, 7.30 p.m.

It was recognised that there might need to be a meeting prior to the meeting in February in order to take account of developments in the Village Hall financing issue, and/or the 'Quiet Lanes' initiative.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.