



## **EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors:                   D Turner (Chair)  
  K Wilkinson  
  M Mann  
  S Budd  
  H Stanford  
  H Glasse

In Attendance                J Blackburn – Clerk  
  County Cllr M Hicks  
  District Cllr S Morley

### **ES48/21/22 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There were two members of the public present.

Mr Wright explained to members that he had a piece of agricultural land, approximately one acre in size, on the border of the parish adjacent to the A140, which belonged to his wife and her family, passed through many generations.

Mr Wright stated that he felt the land was not appropriate to be farmed and hadn't been farmed for a long time and the option of changing the use of the land and building on it subject to planning permission was the way he wished to proceed.

On approaching the Planning Department at Mid Suffolk District Council in relation to this he had been advised to seek the views of the Parish Council as to what type of housing was needed in the parish and whether in principle the Parish Council would be in favour of such development.

Generally members stated that they wouldn't have any objection to Mr Wright's proposal to which Mr Wright thanked them for their time and confirmed he would proceed with applying for planning permission.

### **ES49/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Gillett and the Police.

### **ES50/21/22 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **ES51/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **ES52/21/22 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **ES53/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT**

The Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

### **ES54/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR HICKS**

County Cllr Hicks briefly went through his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the parish's website.

Cllr Glasse raised the issue of Street Lighting and whether the Parish Council owned seven lights could be replaced with LED ones.

Cllr Hicks advised the Clerk to email him about this and he would pass it onto the relevant person.

### **ES55/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR MORLEY**

Cllr Morley went through her report which included the following points:

- Gateway 14
- Old Offices at Needham Market
- Needham Lake Visitor's Centre
- Land at Stowmarket
- Woolpit Surgery – CiL money

The Clerk would circulate the report following the meeting and it would be published on the parish's website.

Members asked Cllr Morley about Gateway 14 and how quickly would it be built plus what lighting would be used. Cllr Morley confirmed that building would commence once customers had come forward. As to the lighting LED units would be used for the site and would be used in such a way that they would not impact on the neighbouring community.

Cllr Stanford asked Cllr Morley for an update on the SnOasis project to which Cllr Morley explained that the site was adjacent a landfill site which had not yet been filled to capacity and so its use had been extended. SnOasis had stated that they did not wish to be next to a landfill site that was in use, so the project had come to a standstill until a decision could be made and the project moved forward.

### **ES56/21/22 - FOOTPATHS**

Tony Stevens was present at the meeting and confirmed that the next Footpath Walk was due to take place on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 2pm. The Gold route would be walked.

Other footpath issues discussed were previously reported issues where signage was down and needed re-erecting - Chapel Lane at Limes Farmhouse. **Clerk to chase.**

It was noted that the fingerpost with the dog bin on it along Blacksmiths Lane was down. **Clerk to report.**

### **ES57/21/22 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/21/04469** - Planning Application - Change of Use from paddock to residential curtilage and erection of barn for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of Rose Cottage - Removal of 3no existing buildings - Location: Rose Cottage, Larters Lane, Earl Stonham

Members felt that the proposed building was excessive in size and if permission was given felt that a restriction should be imposed to prevent it becoming a dwelling at some stage in the future.

A vote showed that four members objected to the proposal with two not objecting but still concerned over the size of the proposed.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council object to the planning application. **Clerk to action.**

**Ref: DC/21/04744** – Application for planning permission in principle Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Amendment) Order 2017 – Erection of 1 to 2no dwellings

Members were concerned in relation to the poor visibility splays the proposal would result in and that they clearly needed to be expanded. Also, drainage was inadequate in the area of the site and additional traffic would increase the issues at the junction of Wicks Lane with the A1120.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council objected to the application. **Clerk to action.**

**Ref: DC/21/04808** – Application for Listed Building Consent – 1) Re-roofing existing thatched porch with clay tiles, 2) altering thatched valley to leaded valley, 3) changing existing rear window to French doors. – Fen House, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council have no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

## **ES58/21/22 - PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decisions were noted:

**Ref: DC/21/02670** - Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of planning permission DC/21/00515 dated 24/03/2021 - Full Application - Erection of general purpose storage building for forestry business. - to allow revision to size and position of building - Holly Bank House, Broad Green Road, Earl Stonham – **Granted**

**Ref: DC/21/02373** - Householder Planning Application - Erection of Outbuilding - The Rectory, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham - **Granted**

## **ES59/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that following recent unsuccessful maintenance work on her printer, and liaison and agreement with Chairs from her four Parish Councils, a new printer had been purchased.

### **b) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council’s current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 was £7,696.88.

### **c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£248.23
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	£26.00
Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting	£316.44
Great Bricett PC	Printer Contribution	£91.85

Great Bricett PC	Printer Ink Cartridges Contribution	£139.56
All in One Office Solutions	Call out charge plus part labour (printer)	£20.00
D Turner	Recorder Printing Reimbursement	£165.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	£248.23
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Oct)	£26.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,281.31 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipt was also noted:

Jennie Blackburn	Ink Cartridge Refund	£106.45
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d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Clerk reported that Cllr Mann had checked all relevant documentation for the Bank Reconciliation to which Cllr Mann confirmed all was correct.

**It was AGREED:** that the Bank Reconciliation be noted and approved.

Cllr Stanford asked the Clerk whether a Budget Monitoring report be brought to every Parish Council meeting in order for the budget to be monitored on a more regular basis, which would be helpful to all members. **Clerk to action.**

**ES60/21/22 – CURRENT COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

The Clerk confirmed she had received two applications in relation to the current vacancies on the Parish Council.

The Clerk also asked members if they had read the 'Co-option of Councillors' document recently sent to them, which had been put together in line with Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) recommendations. All members present confirmed they agreed with the document and the process it laid out in relation to any future co-options onto the Parish Council.

The document would be sent to all interested parties for completion and return and any interested parties be invited to the November meeting where co-option would take place.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council adopt the 'Co-option of Councillors' document and procedures.

**ES61/21/22 – SPEED SIGNAGE – WHEELIE BINS**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that as the Parish Council's current funds were not yet adequate to purchase a permanent speed sign for the village, wheelie bin stickers had become very popular in other villages and would be a positive move in trying to slow down drivers along the A1120 and Blacksmiths Lane.

The Clerk confirmed that whilst the County Councillor and District Councillor had agreed to give the Parish Council £500 each from their locality budgets towards a speed sign the Parish Council could not yet meet the rest of the cost.

Members were keen to explore the option of the wheelie bin stickers along the A1120 in the first instance and Cllr Mann offered to look into the cost and amount of stickers that would need to be purchased. He would then report back to the next meeting.

### **ES62/21/22 – SPEED SIGN**

This had been reported on in the above item.

### **ES63/21/22 – PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the play equipment refurbishment had been completed and the equipment was open again for use.

He expressed his thanks to Teresa Edwards and her husband for all their help with this and also to Tony Turner for his professional work.

It had been unfortunate that the works needed had to take place over the summer months meaning the facility had been closed but the completion of the works meant that the equipment would be available for use for many more years to come.

### **ES64/21/22 – MULTICOURT LEASE**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the lease was currently being updated and the Parish Council would receive it in due course.

In relation to the replacement of the signage Cllr Wilkinson was still looking into options and would report back to a future meeting.

The Clerk asked members views about the insurance for the Multicourt explaining that whilst the Parish Council were covered for public liability the Multicourt itself was not on the Asset Register and not covered for any damage.

Following a general discussion members felt that the court itself did not need insurance and as for the Asset Register it should be listed as gifted to the Parish Council in April 2016.

**It was AGREED:** That the Multicourt be added to the Asset Register but not included in the insurance policy.

### **ES65/21/22 – ALLOTMENTS**

The Parish Clerk informed members that the annual inspection of all allotments was due and she would liaise with Cllr Gillett as to a date the inspections could take place. She would inform all members of the date in due course.

### **ES66/21/22 – VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Turner reported that the lettings were almost back to full capacity.

The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had requested permission from the Trustees to use the Recreational Ground for the Queen's Platinum Celebrations next June and the details have been sent to the Cricket Club to assist with their fixtures booking.

Cllr Turner explained that issues with parking had been experienced with large groups parking in the car park when not using the hall or play equipment. She confirmed that prior approval needed to be sought if people were wanting to use the car park.

Cllr Glasse asked whether the unused Bowling Green could be used for parking to which Cllr Wilkinson explained that the different levels of ground at the Bowling Green made it difficult for the green to be used for parking.

**ES67/21/22 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- Street Lights – were they needed? – Survey to ask residents – put on next Agenda
- Resident of Limes Cottage approached a Parish Councillor as to whether planning application at the property would be supported – be invited to the next meeting
- Cllr Wilkinson thanked all residents for pictures given for the gift for the Postman who was due to retire.

**ES68/21/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm**

The meeting finished at 9.31pm.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....