

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr T Betts (Chairman), Cllr S Mellor, Cllr A Partridge, Cllr P Ewin, Cllr H Mellor, Cllr N Wilkins

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
County Councillor Ed Connolly
5 members of the public

- 1. Open Forum – An opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters and to hear reports from District and County Councillors, if applicable** – A member of the public reported concern regarding a fire hydrant near the staggered junction which appears to have recently been uncovered as a result of brambles being cut back. The clerk suggested that these are routinely checked by Norfolk Fire and Rescue service.
County Councillor Ed Connolly reported that the County has suffered from higher than usual incidents of flooding over the last few months. This has, in turn, impacted on the condition of the roads. However, a new taskforce, the Norfolk Flooding Alliance, has been created to foster greater collaboration between Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and others to work together to deal with problems caused by flooding and tidal surges. This will be headed by Lord Dannatt.
County Councillor Connolly also confirmed that a new Highways Engineer has been appointed for the area, Matt Lines. County Council elections are going ahead on 6 May 2021, together with the Police Crime Commissioner elections, postponed from last year. Councillor Connolly confirmed that he will stand for election to County Councillor again and that purdah will begin on 29 March 2021.
- 2. To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Barron and Hadley.
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest in any item on the agenda** – Councillor Wilkins declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda.
- 4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 20 January 2021** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 5. To report matters arising not on the agenda and hear the Chairman's report** – Following a question raised by Councillor Hadley recently, relating to the reporting of traffic and speeding incidents, the Chairman has been in touch with Paula Gilluley, Norfolk Constabulary Community Engagement Officer. PC Gilluley confirmed that items which should be reported to the police included those which involve injury to persons or damage to property, also any driving which causes the victim to fear for their safety, although PC Gilluley highlighted that the actual victim must be willing to engage with the Police in these instances.
The Chairman reported the proposal for the roundabout to replace the staggered junction in the village will shortly be issued for consultation. The memorial oak tree will be removed on Saturday and a replacement tree planted at a later date. Councillor S Mellor raised a concern about the safety of the road crossing patrol man. The Chairman reported that Highways have

carried out a risk assessment and are satisfied that the crossing point for the school and the crossing patrol will both be safe. Councillor Mellor asked if there was any chance of making the section of road at the approach either side of the roundabout a permanent 20 mph zone, rather than the current advisory during school hours only. The Chairman confirmed that Highways and other interested parties will attend a meeting with the road crossing patrol staff member, in order that everyone is satisfied with the details included in the plans, however, this does not include a proposal for a 20 mph speed limit to be enforced.

The Chairman has written to some residents on Penhill Road and Long Street, reminding them of their riparian ownership responsibilities.

The company undertaking the works on the A11 on behalf of Highways England sent through a copy of a presentation detailing the various phases of the work. As part of an ongoing conversation with Highways England, it has been confirmed that the advance warning weight restriction sign for Wroo Road / Chequers Lane which used to be on the A11, will be replaced. The Chairman was also able to confirm that the average speed cameras have been installed as a temporary measure only, whilst the works are completed.

The Chairman will be drafting leases for the various users of the Recreation Centre, on behalf of the Committee.

6. **Planning applications considered between meetings:**
 - a) **3PL/2021/0060/VAR – Land west of Deopham Rd – Variation of approved design – No objections**
7. **To hear of planning decisions and other information:**
 - a) **3PL/2020/1018/F – Land adjoining field, Bush Green – Proposed new residential dwelling – Refused**
 - b) **3PL/2020/1452/LU – 10 Penhill Rd – Create flat roof single storey extension – Approved**
 - c) **3PL/2020/1169/F – Land to the north of Rookery Farm – Change of use from agricultural to 5 pitch glamping site – Approved**
 - d) **3PL/2020/1344/F – Great Ellingham CP School – Repositioning of existing boundary wall as part of highways works – Approved**
8. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **3PL/2021/0070/HOU – Orchard End, Town Green – Proposed single storey front and rear elevations, associated works and replacement garage – Councillors had no objections to this application.**
 - b) **3DC/2020/0251/DOC – Land off Attleborough Rd – Discharge of condition 21 of 3PL/2018/1021/F – The parish council object to this application.** The lighting, which is already installed and remains on overnight, is completely inappropriate for a village with Dark Sky status. There was a lighting clause within the original permission granted which the parish council hope will be respected.
9. **To consider the parish councillor vacancy** - There are two people interested in the current parish councillor vacancy. There will be an item for consideration of co-option at the meeting next month.

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- 10. To consider the proposed new street name** – Breckland District Council have confirmed that the proposed name for the new road off Attleborough Road, before Church Street, is 'Wilkins Way'. The parish council approved of the name.
- 11. To agree the wording, number and budget for the field footpath signs** – Landowners and parish councillors have agreed the proposed wording for the footpath signs. The signs will cost £30 each with 4 initially planned for Mill Lane. The Chairman asked if Councillors would support purchasing additional signs for other locations. Councillors agreed to contribute 50% of the cost to a maximum of £120 i.e. 8 signs. Councillors Wilkins and S Mellor both confirmed they would be happy to pay for signs for the tracks near to their properties. The Chairman will liaise further with the relevant landowners concerning the siting for the signs. **Action TB.**
- 12. To review the following policies: Footpath warden risk assessment, SAM2 Risk Assessment** – Councillors were happy with both policies. The role of 'Footpath Warden' was discussed again, with the clerk advising that footpath wardens not only need to walk the village paths regularly but also engage with Norfolk County Council, CPRE, the Ramblers Association etc. Councillor S Mellor asked what would happen to a volunteer should an accident happen that were not covered in the risk assessment. The clerk will check this and confirm. **Action AR.**
- 13. To consider the erosion of grass verges in the village** – This matter was discussed again at some length. Unfortunately, it is an issue afflicting all villages, particularly with narrow lanes. The default seems to be that large tractors and lorries simply drive over the verges when meeting traffic coming in the opposite direction. It is a matter that has been discussed many times before and it is difficult to come up with a solution. The Chairman has already written to farmers and businesses in the village and surrounding areas, appealing for considerate driving. Highways will not authorise posts or similar for installation on verges. For the time being, in the absence of a long term solution, the advice remains to be vigilant and make a note of registrations, or photograph any vehicles seen driving over and destroying verges.
- 14. To receive the financial report and consider the following payments:**

Chq no	Amount	Payee	Notes
100654	£263.70	A Rayner	February salary
100655	£570.00	S Michlmayer & Co Ltd	Church clock repair

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, and the listed payments, were both unanimously approved.

- 15. To consider items from Councillors** – Cllr S Mellor reported several pot holes in the village. The clerk confirmed that she will report pot holes to Highways. Please send a photo and details of the location.
- 16. To consider correspondence received:**

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- a) **Donation request from Norfolk Citizens Advice** – In accordance with the parish council's 'Grant Awarding' policy, it was agreed not to make a donation.

- 17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 17 March 2021 to be held remotely via Zoom, commencing at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.