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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ALDBOROUGH AND THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Held on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 7pm in the Community Centre

Present: Chairman Cllr. P. Chapman, Vice Chairman Cllr. R. Gadsby, Cllr. T. Gibbons, Cllr. P. Hall, Cllr. R. Hill, Cllr. N Mims

In attendance: Clerk Mrs. S. Hayden

2 members of public

County Cllr. S. Penfold

District Cllr. J. Toye

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.04pm

He advised that recording was taking place

**1.** **To consider and accept apologies for absence**

021/112 Apologies were accepted from Cllr. A. Hicks (ill health)

**2. Co-Option**

**2.1 Resolution to suspend Standing Order 3q to allow for written vote in respect of item 2.2**

021/113 Agreed not to suspend Standing Orders and to proceed with voting with raised hands

**2.2 To co-opt parish councillor/s for two vacancies, followed by signing of Acceptance of Office**

021/114There were two candidates for co-option. Rebecca Hill spoke to introduce herself as a “newcomer”, raised on a farm in Suffolk and not having been a parish councillor before. As a barrister she had however, represented clients in Court which would stand her in good stead for liaising with the community. She had been a Church Warden for a number of years, liaising with village organisations. Currently she dealt with leasehold reform work and carried out pro bono work for farmers. She was 70% home based currently and felt that would continue for the time being.

Noah Mims then introduced himself, having grown up locally, moving back to the area five or six years ago with his family. He enjoyed village life and wished to give something back and could

offer practical skills.

Proposed to co-opt Rebecca Hill for the first vacancy and unanimously resolved.

Proposed to co-opt Noah Mims for the second vacancy and unanimously resolved.

Both then signed their Acceptance of Office.

**3. To receive any declarations of interest from members**

021/115 Cllr. P. Hall declared that his son-in-law had provided the quote for item 8.2

**4. Public questions, comments or representations**

021/116 None

**5.** **To approve minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2021**

021/117 Resolved the minutes of the meeting of 5th July 2021 be approved. Signed by the Chairman.

Cllr. T. Gibbons arrived

**6. Matters Arising from Minutes**

021/118 None

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**7.** **Reports**

**7.1 Reports from District Councillor and County Councillor**

021/119 **District Councillor J. Toye** offered his congratulations to the new parish councillors. He had been liaising with residents in connection with start of the footpath from Margaret Lilley Way as they had difficulty using a wheelchair over the grass surface to reach the garden of their property. He was hoping to have that and the rest of the footpath made more accessible. He then reported that over the summer NNDC had had problems with motorhomes stopping overnight in car parks in the area and using the toilets for waste disposal, thereby blocking them. The period of an increased number of days (56 for 2021) for a camp site allowed without planning permission, had now finished and 2022 would be 28 days as usual. The “Banksy” painting on the sea wall had been protected as far as possible. Greenbuild would be running virtually this year from 1st to 12th November, which would be whilst COP26 was held. NNDC now had an Environmental Charter on their website. In connection with the pig farm application, the applicant had appealed to the Secretary of State against the request by NNDC for an Environmental Statemen. This could take around two months to be heard. NNDC would consult again when that decision is made. The application would go to the Development Committee for a decision. The process undergone by the Secretary of State was discussed.

**County Councillor S. Penfold** introduced himself as the new Councillor from May, for N. Walsham West and Erpingham. He reported that he had attended a couple of meetings on the Western Link. This was controversial because of the proposed route through the Wensum Valley. He had voted against it, although it had been passed. There were however, further hurdles to cross, in particular confirmation of funding by Government of £160m. NCC had allowed £40m for the funding gap. There also needed to be environmental mitigation measures. NCC were welcoming Afghan refugees, placing them where there were already some refugees. The District Council may also support placement. Health & Social Care had welcomed the levy from Government, but felt it was not enough for this area. As a District Councillor, Cllr. Penfold wished to mention that he chaired the Sustainable Communities Fund and if there are any environmental projects in the village needing funds, they would consider them. The fund would support the Environmental Charter. Cllr. Penfold stated that he was a member of the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee, Audit Committee, Area Museums Committee and was particularly interested in highways matters.

**7.2 Report from the Community Centre**

021/120 No report for this meeting. Clerk to inform the new Committee that Cllr. Gadsby is the Parish Council’s nominated representative.

**7.3 Report from Village Magazine Committee**

021/121 Cllr. Gadsby reported that the Magazine continued to be successful and other villages had asked if they were able to have copies, which may be possible. The next issue deadline would be 11th October. There had been a complaint about late distribution, which had been a printing delay and should not happen again. This had raised the question whether local printers should be used, but the high quotes from local firms given at the start of the project would not enable the magazine to be published without fund raising. The current advertising was equalising the cost of printing, although there were a few outstanding debts. Cllr. Hicks was chasing these and had also gained one or two new advertisers who were yet to be invoiced.

**8. The Green**

**8.1 To discuss bench maintenance and agree any costs**

021/122 The quote from W. H. Services for each bench for repair, rub down and treat with preservative was £50. There was £315 remaining in the maintenance budget. Discussed and resolved to ask for two benches to be refurbished. Clerk to arrange for contractor to meet with Cllr. Hall when ready to carry out the work.

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**8.2 To discuss installation of new consumer unit and approve quote**

021/123 Cllr. Hall explained that the old unit had failed a test, although it was not dangerous, it was felt it would be better to replace it. A quote had been received of £270 for replacement from P. A. Luke Electrical who had done the recent work on the Green’s supply. Proposed and resolved to accept the quote.

**8.3 To approve Fayre on the Green on Sunday 26th June 2022 and seek volunteers to assist organisers**

021/124 Resolved to approve the date. It would be the Queen’s Jubilee year. A request for volunteers to be put in the Village Magazine.

**8.4 To discuss any other Green matters including:**

**8.4.1 potholes and material storage**

021/125 Nowhere had been found for storage

**8.4.2 Tidy of kerbs**

021/126 Discussed and agreed (as no volunteers had come forward) to try once more before winter to get a group of volunteers together but if unsuccessful, to postpone until next April. There could then be a general tidy of the village, before the planned gardens open day. District Cllr. Toye offered to arrange litter picking tools and reflective jackets for that.

**8.4.3 Safety/Legality in the Wildlife Area – Discuss and approve safety measures**

021/127 The Wildlife Group were responsible for the pond area. However, the growth had been very high this summer and complaints had been received by the Parish Council that it was too high and there should be a cut area around the edge of the water, to enable it to be clearly seen. A member of the public explained that there was currently a proposal to amalgamate the Garden Club and Wildlife Group, with a meeting the following week and a proposed consultation to find out what the village wanted. The grass had now been topped. Clerk to source a risk assessment for ponds. Agreed that the Parish Council would keep an eye on the pond area.

021/128 In connection with the Play Area – further spares to be ordered – Clerk to send list to Chairman. Resolved to purchase new rope, where the existing rope was worn.

**9. To discuss Christmas 2021 arrangements**

021/129 Cllr. Gadsby reported that it had been hoped to have a small event with a couple of stalls but it was a bit late to organise it now. There would be carol singing as usual and the pub would serve mulled wine sausage rolls and mince pies from 4pm to 7pm. This would be on 21st, 22nd or 23rd December.

Agreed that new lights were needed and Cllr. Hall showed printout of the lights he thought could be purchased. Two people had requested that we did not use flashing lights again and preferred white lights only. Agreed there would be no flashing/coloured lights. Clerk to source lights. Resolved to allow £160/£170 for purchase.

**10. To discuss Wine Press move**

021/130 This had to be removed by the end of September, but no ideas had been received. Clerk to ask Community Centre if they could either store it or place it on the front area of the Centre

**11. Planning**

**11.1 To discuss and make observations on any applications received after the date of this Agenda**

None

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**11.2 Update on the following:**

021/131*PF/21/0397 and LA/21/0398 Re-roofing of dwelling, and Works for re-roofing – Aldborough Hall, Hall Road, Aldborough – PF/21/0297 Withdrawn, LA/21/0398 Approved*

*PF/21/1440 – Partial demolition of existing garage/outbuilding and erection of single-storey annexe – The Haven, Thwaite Hill, Aldborough – Pending NNDC decision*

*PF/20/0578 – Replacement livestock units for rearing 1900 pigs, etc – Rectory Farm, Doctors Corner, Aldborough Road –* District Councillor Toye updated the meeting. NNDC had asked for a detailed Environmental Statement and the applicants had appealed to the Secretary of State to overturn that request. Cllr. Toye would ask the planning officer to let the Parish Council know if they were able to comment.

**12. Finance**

**12.1** **To receive balance sheet and report on bank reconciliation and approve List of Payments**

021/132 Balance Sheet received with no comments. The bank reconciliation had been sent to Cllr. Gibbons in error, so was held over until the next meeting. The List of Payments was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**12.2 To consider authorising direct debit to URM (bottle bank emptying)**

021/133 URM were refusing to accept cheques and the second authority for bank transfers had not been set up yet. Resolved to make payment by direct debit in future.

**13. To deal with any correspondence**

021/134 Details had been sent in connection with NALC email offering Covid memorial tokens, but no details were available yet.

EON change of energy prices

**14. Any other matters for information only or next Agenda**

021/135 Cllr. Toye mentioned that if the Parish Council Magazine Committee applied for a Sustainable Communities Grant if would be a good idea to highlight any environmental considerations being given, such as recycled paper for printing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm and the approved cheques were signed.

The next meeting will be on Monday 1st November 2021

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