

**Grimston Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**Monday 1 March 2021 via Zoom at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Israel (Chairman) P Coleman, Johnson, Pitcher, S Coleman, de Whalley, Twite, Barnicoat, Fraser and Boldero

**In Attendance:** Mrs P Sewell (Clerk) and 7 Members of the Public

**21.015 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman asked that the Council's condolences be recorded for Trevor Stebbings who passed away last month. Mr Stebbings had given many years of service both as a councillor and Parish Council Chairman. Cllr P Coleman passed on the family's thanks for the flowers and card.

Apologies received and accepted from **Cllr C Coe**.

**21.016 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*Cllr de Whalley declared an interest in 21.023 as he was a Trustee of Grimston Fen Allotment Trust, he did not vote on the item.*

*Cllr P Coleman declared an interest in 21.023 as he was a Trustee of Grimston Fen Allotment Trust he did not vote on the item.*

*Cllr M Boldero declared an interest in 21.023 as a relative was a Trustee of Grimston Fen Allotment Trust and he was a member of Grimston Fens for All, he did not vote on the item.*

*Cllr J Barnicoat declared an interest in 21.023 as a close relative was a Trustee of Grimston Fen Allotment Trust, he did not speak or vote on the item.*

**21.017 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF 18 JANUARY 2021 AS A TRUE RECORD**

- **Cllr Fraser proposed: Council to receive and accept the Minutes of 18 January 2021 as a true record - Resolved**

**21.018 MATTERS ARISING (INFORMATION ONLY)**

**Covid- 19 support:** The Council noted the telephone number of helpers had been posted on the website under the Covid Tab.

**Website:** The Council noted that links to Anglia Water, the Highways fault report and also EA Flood line on the website front page as had been requested.

**SAM2 unit:** The Council noted that a tab had been created on the website to display the vehicle statistics. Cllr Barnicoat thanked Cllr Coleman for changing the layout of the graph as it was now much easier to read.

**21.019 TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE AS LISTED**

The Council noted the letter regarding ownership of the drainage ditch outside a resident's property, despite reporting the matter to Norfolk County Council, they had in the end had to pay for clearance themselves as the ditch had overflowed. The Clerk said that the letter had been sent to NCC for comment.

***Resolution to suspend business to receive Ward Reports and Parishioners' Questions***

**B.Cllr Manning.** The Council was encouraging residents to register for postal voting in advance of the County and PCC elections on 6 May. Polling stations would be open but take your own pen. Panel meetings which had been suspended would operate again with time

critical agenda items only. The Planning Committee could not carry out site visits at the present time and as visual inspections were limited to Google earth, the department was looking into using drones to provide a better view. Serco would be taking over the rubbish collection, there should be no change to collection days and current staff would remain in post. There was no news as yet on the return of the food waste collections.

**B.Cllr de Whalley** reported that County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections would take place May 6<sup>th</sup>. Polling stations would be open between 7am and 10pm. Polling cards should arrive on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the postal votes on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Electors might want to consider registering for postal votes which could be done before 5pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. Postal votes could also be taken to the polling station on the election day if you had forgotten to post them.. **The Local Plan review** had been delayed by approximately two months to complete the viability assessment and the habitats regulation assessments so could be expected to now be out in June for an 8-week consultation. The Committee on Climate Change had identified the requirement for Local Plans to demonstrate viability (i.e., profitability) and strict housebuilding targets placed on Councils as being in conflict with carbon reduction ambitions. **The Council** met on 25<sup>th</sup> February to agree the budget and a motion to oppose the Wisbech Incinerator was passed almost unanimously save for one abstention. **A major holiday park** development of 154 units on the border between Ashwicken and East Winch had been submitted for planning. It had already been promoted in the national papers, much to the concern of Ashwicken’s residents. **The Parkway Development** was thought to come to planning on 12th April. **Revisions to the Towns Fund** bid had been submitted with new priorities and projects included from the failed Future High Streets Fund bid. The Council should hear officially by the end of March. **Greenways Cycle Project** Matt Hayward had offered a meeting to add any further comments we might have from the circulated presentation but would discuss further plans after the next Regeneration and Development Panel which was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Parishioners Questions**

A parishioner asked about the condition of the Fens following the flooding and what were the plans to improve and maintain the ditches, they also suggested that the Trust could involve local volunteers. Cllr de Whalley said that there were management plans in place overseen by Natural England, as Chairman of the Gaywood Valley conservation group, who ran a number of working groups on the fens volunteers would be welcome. There was comment that the GVCG only operated in the week and many parishioners could only volunteer on a weekend. The new Chairman of the Trust introduced himself and said that he personally would welcome more local involvement and would be happy to take the suggestions back to the board.

**21.020 FINANCE**

**21.020.01 To approve payments due**

- **Cllr Boldero proposed: Council to approve payments due - Resolved**

<b>Delegated Powers</b>				
RCClean	Bus Shelter	Chapel Road	25.00	0.00
<b>Payments</b>	<b>Heading</b>		<b>Gross</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Mrs P Sewell	Salary	January	487.06	0.00
Mrs P Sewell	Salary	February	487.06	0.00
Mrs P Sewell	Clerk's Expenses	Home Office (Jan/Feb/Mar)	85.10	0.00

		Paper		
		Postage		
Village Hall	Room Hire	Jan, Feb, March 2020	45.00	0.00
Glasdon	Dog Bin		260.83	43.47
Smith of Derby	Clock Tower	Call out /attempted Repair	195.60	32.60
Information Commissioner	Subscriptions	2020-2022	35.00	0.00
Pearce and Kemp	Street Lighting	February	85.20	14.20
Pearce and Kemp	Street Lighting	March	85.20	14.20
EON	Street Lighting	February	140.91	6.71
<b>Total</b>			<b>1931.96</b>	<b>111.18</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Locality	NHPlan	Grant (SEA, consultation)	2473.00	BACS
Santander	Interest	February	0.27	BACS
<b>Total</b>			<b>2473.27</b>	

Cllr Coleman stated that he would be willing to clean the bus shelters if it saved the Council money.

#### **21.020.02 To consider Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau request for funding support**

A copy of the letter had been circulated to Councillors. The Council had previously made a donation of £100 in April 2019.

- **Cllr Fraser proposed: Council to make a donation of £150.00 for the King's Lynn Centre - Resolved**

#### **21.020.03 To authorise CIL Funding Application for streetlights**

The Council noted that the Clerk would submit an application, to help with the cost of the replacement LED lights, to the Borough Council's CIL grant for local projects up to £10,000. This meant that the work would not be carried out until mid-summer. Wescotec had revised their quote to include the 7.5% bulk discount. The grant application would be made on the basis that the project to convert 50 X streetlights to Low energy LED would cost £9944.00 plus vat. The application would be for 60% of the cost and the Parish Council's contribution would include an allocation of 50% of the current CIL payment. Council would have to meet the additional costs of the replacement of brackets once work was underway, but that cost was unknown at the present time.

- **Cllr de Whalley proposed: Council to apply to the KL&WN Borough Council's CIL fund - Resolved**

#### **21.020.04 Review of Grass Cutting Contract**

The Council noted that there had been a rolling contract for a number of years, other contractors had been approached for quotes to ensure that the Council was still getting best value. The Clerk was pleased to confirm that costs charged by CGM remained well below other contractors:

Mowing of the churchyard and the new burial ground on 15 occasions from April to October inclusive - £66.82 + VAT per occasion.

Mowing of the village greens on 16 occasions from Mid-March to October inclusive – Pott Row Green, Ashwicken Green, Chequers Green and Phillip Rudd Court open space. £75.00 + VAT per occasion

Cllr Pitcher asked about Triangle Green, but it was confirmed that the green was not part of the contract. There was also discussion about the first cut and that the daffodils should be avoided.

- **Cllr Twite proposed: Council to maintain contract with CGM at Total yearly cost - £2,127.30**

**+ VAT - Resolved**

#### **21.020.05 Clock Repair Quote**

The Council considered the report and quote from Michlmayr and Co Ltd. It was noted that the current contractors Smiths of Derby who had serviced the clock over the past 4 years could not get it working, they also could not guarantee that their parts would work with the Solar power source. Cllr Coleman said he would look at creating a cover for the clock.

- **Cllr P Coleman proposed: Council to approve repair quote from Michlmayr and Co Ltd of £270 plus VAT - Resolved**

The Clerk would set up a meeting on Monday 8 March to discuss Clock Tower report.

#### **21.021 PLANNING MATTERS**

**21.021.01 To consider responses to current Planning Applications.** Council noted that there were no applications but there was a notice of an appeal APP/V2635/W/20/3264416 – Vong Lane

- **Cllr Fraser: Council to maintain its objection to development of this site - Resolved**

#### **20.021.02 Neighbourhood Plan Update - Draft Character Assessment Review**

Cllr de Whalley reported that Tim Tilbrook had joined the team. A meeting with Alex Fradley, Borough Planning was planned. The consultants, Collective Community Planning had completed the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report and concluded that the plan did not have the potential to have significant environmental impacts an SEA in full was therefore not required. Cllr de Whalley presented the character assessment for Grimston

- **Cllr Coleman proposed: Council to approve the Character Assessment for Grimston - Resolved**

#### **21.022 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/ STREET LIGHTING ISSUES**

The Council noted that all streetlights reported out were now working.

#### **21.023 RESPONSE TO GRIMSTON FENS FOR ALL GROUP**

The Chairman referred Council to the letter from The Grimston Fen For All Group which asked the Council to discuss the support of a vote of no confidence in the Grimston Fen and Allotment Trust. The letter had been received just prior to the last Council meeting and as stated at that meeting the Clerk had sought legal advice. The Clerk read out the advice provided. The Chairman said that he was encouraged that the new Chairman of the Trust was in attendance and the responses made to parishioners' questions earlier in the meeting appeared to be welcome step forward.

- **Cllr Pitcher proposed: Council to take no further action at the present time - Resolved**

#### **21.024 WINTER FLOODING**

The Council noted that matters had moved on since the January meeting and the Norfolk Flood Alliance had appointed Lord Dannatt to help coordinate a better response in the future. Parish Councils through the Norfolk ALC are being represented at the joint meetings. The Clerk wrote to and has received a response from Lord Dannatt. James Wild MP has also confirmed that he will set up a meeting with his parish councils but advised that Grimston should move forward with its own meeting to deal with the issues local to them.

#### **21.025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

- **Cllr Coleman proposed: The Council to appoint a Community Engagement Officer to report Council's work to the community Facebook group - *Resolved***
- **Cllr Boldero proposed: Cllr Fraser be appointed as the Community Engagement Officer - *Resolved***

#### **21.026 Councillors Reports (Information only)**

**Cllr de Whalley** reported on the poor state of Chequers Road by Triangle Green.

**Cllr Barnicoat** commended the two residents out litter picking, Pott Row Woods had been temporarily closed for stalking, residents not on social media should be advised about the increase in dog thefts. Cllr Barnicoat also reported that the flooding issue on Back Lane had improved but not due to any response from NCC.

**Cllr S Coleman** reported how efficient the Surgery had been in organising the vaccine programme.

**Cllr Pitcher** asked that the Council consider the development of Back Lane as a cycle path.

#### **21.027 DATE, TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

The next full Council meeting would take place on Monday 12 April at 7.30pm on Zoom