

# **OUTWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting (the 325<sup>th</sup>), of the Council, commenced on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, at The Crown Lodge meeting room, starting at 7pm. Chairman, Councillor Mr. Fred Keer presiding.

## **Attending :-**

Councillors Mrs Jill Gooch, Mr Dale Boyce, Mr John Wake, Ms Sarah Arden, Mr Matt Titmarsh, Mrs Jane Sutton and Mrs Tara Rust.

Borough Councillor Mr. Chris Crofts.

3 members of public

## **Apologies for absence :-**

Councillor's Mr. John Hollands, Mr John Watts and County Councillor Mr. Harry Humphrey.

Chairman spoke to Council informing them that he and the Clerk had received an email from Councillor John Hollands, concerned that due to bad health, his position as a Councillor should be thought about. Councillor's felt that Mr. Holland's position as a Councillor is an asset to the village. They hoped that he would give himself time to make the final decision as to what he would like to do, but must ensure he puts his own welfare first. Chairman to write to Councillor Holland telling him this.

## **Councillors' Declaration of Interest in tonight's Agenda Items (as per Standing orders):-**

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is also prejudicial. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of a personal interest the member may speak and vote on the matter. If a prejudicial interest is declared the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

Councillor Mrs. Jill Gooch declared her interest in Item 8 (a) on the agenda.

## **Public Forum- Each elector has a two minute slot in which to talk :-**

One member of Public reported that he was concerned about a shed that was collapsing on Allotment land on Town Isle and the roof was asbestos. This is on Charities land but Councillor's Wake and Boyce are on both Council and the Charities, said they would investigate. The Cleaner brought to Council's attention that he had found used syringes on the Corner of the Boat Basin. Council to request Police support in this matter and ask how proper disposal should be acted upon. (email sent 11.2.2020 to Lee Anderton).

## **To receive monthly Police Updates/Speedwatch:-**

Local Crime Rates were emailed to all Councillor's, an Annual Speedwatch Report was emailed to all Councillor's. Concerns are that due to lack of Volunteers the Watches are not carried out as often as would liked. Speeding in the local villages are a big concern. Action has to be taken to encourage more volunteers. At the meeting both the Chairman Mr. Fred Keer and Councillor Mr. Matt Titmarsh said they would help out when possible. Members of the Council need to draw attention to people that volunteers are required and also to drum up support via social media.

## **Minutes of the last Open Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019) :-**

These were circulated to all Councillors before the meeting.

The minutes were recorded as true recording, on a proposal by Councillor Mrs. Jill Gooch and seconded by Mrs. Tara Rust.

## **Council Procedures :-**

No new ones.

### **Matters Arising :-**

a). Safer Crossings-

i). no response still from Mr. Bygrave from letter sent 18<sup>th</sup> November.

ii). Elizabeth Truss has said she will meet with OPC in the knowledge that this has been an ongoing issue.

Email dated 9.1.2020.

iii). Councillor Jane Sutton sent all Councillor's information that grants are available from NCC proposed community funds.

iv). The Clerk and Councillor's P. Brenchley and J. Sutton met with NCC Highways West Area 2 Manager Jason on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Showed him the dangers and issues in the village. His main issue is the funding- OPC should be able to be in touch with developers and highways at planning stage to discuss issues i.e. the need for safer crossings in the village. Unfortunately a fatality must occur before NCC highways will invest in Crossings but there are ways of getting funding. Await to hear from Elizabeth Truss about meeting and Jason for any further information.

b). VE DAY celebrations- Outwell Village Hall and Playingfield committee are organising and Afternoon Tea Dance on the Sunday to include St. Clement's Church help and Beaupre Grouped home.

c). Still requiring a person to maintain the Boat Basin for 2020- it was suggested the Clerk got in touch with CGM for them to give a quote on cutting this area. (email sent 17.02.2020).

### **Matters raised by Councillor's for this Agenda**

a). Stopping Up Order- copy of email sent to all Councillor's. The Council have agreed with this. (email sent to Ben Nuttall NCC 5.2.2020). It appears Mr. Northwood is clearing the area where the old BUS Stop used to be.

b). Upwell and Outwell Age Concern Luncheon Club- requesting a representative from the Council to attend their AGM on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 1pm- unfortunately no one is available to attend this meeting. Clerk to write and inform them if there is any support they require from the Council to contact them. ( email sent 12.2.2020).

c). Tram Report – The Council unanimously supports the project in principal and expressed its appreciation for the excellent work done by the Project Management Team to date. The possible location for the information board was discussed as one council member had suggested that it might be a good idea to place it close to the old ticket office. This was considered by the Council, but it was concluded that the best site would be on the boat basin as per the original suggestion. Council unanimously agreed that the design, construction and siting of the information board should be left to the Project Management Team. Council also agreed that it should make a donation towards the cost of the project and the parish clerk was asked to find out how this should be done. (emails sent to Bill Smith, 8.2.2020 and Allan Gullen- treasurer 11.2.2020).

d). BCKL&WN- have sent 3 Notifications of New Property Address and address changes- copies sent to all Councillor's.

c). Various papers and information are on the table.

### **Neighbourhood Plan:-**

No discussion at this meeting.

### **Beaupre School- Council Representative**

Councillor Mrs. Tara Rust reported that it's quiet at this time. Half term is this month.

### **Cemetery/New Proposed cemetery :-**

Clean and tidy -CGM have done a great job- the trees have been pollarded.

### **Playingfield/Recreation Ground :-**

Councillor Mrs Tara Rust reported that general bookings are picking up, daily bookings are good. The NYE party was a success. The next fundraiser is the Music Festival Planned the May Bank Holiday. There is also a Craft Fayre organised for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 in the Village Hall.

## Allotments:

There are still issues with quad bikes being ridden on Council land and issues with using the access from Chalk Lane. At this time the Council discussed the fact that the owners of Robins Nest are causing several issues and they should be dealt with. The Council decide to arrange a meeting with BC Enforcement, Police and Highways to get all issues sorted. ( email sent 5.2.2020).

Mr Clifton has given notice to quitting his land after harvest at the Common due to retirement. The Council suggest that they write to Mr. Chris Allan who rents some of the field if he would like to become the tenant. ( letter sent 17.2.2020).

## Planning:- Report is attached :-

No other matters reported.

## Finance:-

- 1). November and December Account's were formerly agreed. Payments for January and February were agreed.
- 2). Budget Update- Councillor Mr. Fred Keer reported that variances have levelled out. The budget for the end of financial year 2019/20 is marginally healthier than in previous years. The Streetlights have had the most impact this last financial year- 25% higher than previous years. Clerk and Councillor Mrs. Jane Sutton to look at business rates with other companies.

**At this time the Clerk and Village Cleaner were asked to leave the room. Their Salaries were discussed.** It was agreed that the Clerk's salary would increase from £506.00 per month to £541.00 from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

The Village Cleaners hourly rate will raise when the minimum wage rises.

- 3). BulleyDavy are the accountants that ensure the Clerk's salary is accounted for.
- 4). Still awaiting to hear if there is a reduction in the costs of the local elections.

### Payments for January 2020 to be Authorised

Payee	Goods	VAT	Total	Ref	Supplier/ Service
Debbie Newton	506.00	0.00	506.00	DD	Clerk Wages
Mr Ellington	186.75	0.00	186.75	Jan-01	Village cleaner - Dec 22.5 hrs
Plusnet	24.59	0.00	24.59	Jan-02	BT Telephone/broadband December
1and1	8.99	1.80	10.79	Jan-03	Web Site monthly subscription
K & M Lighting	91.35	18.27	109.62	Jan-04	Streetlight 1.1.20-31.1.20
Crown Lodge	16.67	3.33	20.00	Jan-05	December meeting
Crown Lodge	235.00	47.00	282.00	Jan-06	Christmas Get together
<b>Eon Energy</b>	<b>306.03</b>	<b>61.21</b>	<b>367.24</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>Energy Charges</b>
PWLB	732.01	0.00	732.01	DD	Playingfield Village Hall
<b>Total</b>	<b>2107.39</b>	<b>131.61</b>	<b>2239.00</b>		

### Payments for February 2020 to be Authorised

Debbie Newton	506.00	0.00	506.00	DD	Clerk Wages
Mr Ellington	224.10	0.00	224.10	Feb-01	Village cleaner - Jan 27 hrs
McIntosh	23.99	0.00	23.99	Feb-01	Hi viz coat for cleaner
Plusnet	24.59	0.00	24.59	Feb-02	BT Telephone/broadband January
1and1	8.99	1.80	10.79	Feb-03	Web Site monthly subscription
<b>K &amp; M Lighting</b>	<b>91.35</b>	<b>18.27</b>	<b>109.62</b>	<b>Feb-04</b>	<b>Streetlight 1.2.20-29.2.20</b>
BulleyDavey	54.00	10.80	64.80	Jan-05	PAYE for the clerk wages
CGM	70.00	14.00	84.00	Jan-06	Pollarding trees in Cemetery
<b>Eon Energy</b>	<b>306.03</b>	<b>61.21</b>	<b>367.24</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>Energy Charges</b>
PWLB	55.48	0.00	55.48	DD	Loan for allotment rent
<b>Total</b>	<b>1364.53</b>	<b>106.08</b>	<b>1470.61</b>		

**To receive the report from the Village and Highways Working Party-**

All enquiries from last month have been dealt with.

The Rangers are coming to the Parish in March – various areas of overgrown vegetation reported.

Rubbish in Dykes in Church Drove- who is responsible to clean these? Clerk to find out.

Clerk informed the Council that the 'Great British Tidy Up' was being promoted. She had contacted Donna Semens who organised it last year to see if she was willing to help this year. She unfortunately has too much on her plate at the moment. No one else at this time was willing to volunteer, but has time before next meeting to do so.

**Parish Partnership 2020:-**

Awaiting to hear if bid is successful.

**Rights of Way in the Parish :-**

Councillor Ms Sarah Arden- is going to check all public highways before reporting any issues.

**Tramway and Backlane:-**

Nothing reported.

**County and Borough Councillor Reports:-**

Email to be sent to County Councillor Mr. Harry Humphrey- wishing him well and a speedy recovery. (email sent 5.2.20).

Borough Councillor Mr. Chris Crofts reported that BC are looking at Parishes to plant trees. There have not been many committee meetings in January. Discussion for future Waste Disposal is being discussed. Councillor Mrs. Jill Gooch brought up the matter that the Waste Recycling centre in Wisbech is choosing who can dispose of rubbish there. This at this time is a contentious issue.

**Outwell Parish Council Website-**

The website has been updated.

**Agenda items for next meeting:-**

Any other Items for the next agenda to be received by **26.02.2020**.

**Matters that were raised for next meeting were:-**

- 1). Dog Field.
- 2). Waste Incinerator

**Date of next meeting :-**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 after the Parish Assembly at 7.00p.m. at **The Crown Lodge Meeting Room, Downham Road.**

**There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was declared closed at 8.40pm**

Signed as true record of the meeting :-

..... **Chairman**

