

Meeting Minutes of Mileham Parish Council
Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 1900 held online using Zoom

Present:

Parish Councillor present; Angela Cutbill (Chairman), Muriel Harmer (Vice Chair)
Jeffrey Pearce, Marilyn Bergan, Angela Teaque

Also, present: Donna Secker (Parish Clerk/RFO), One Parishioner, Lorraine Trueman (Observing)

1 Apologies for Absence.

No apologies received; Cllr Butler-Stoney was absent from meeting.

2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

No declarations of pecuniary were received or noted.

3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held 9th March 2021

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the last meeting as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting

All items from last meeting have been actioned.

5 Open Forum for public participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.

6 To receive updates from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris reported:

Free school meal vouchers made available during Easter holidays. Children eligible for free school meals were offered them during the Easter holidays thanks to Norfolk County Council. A child from a family that received benefits was eligible for a £15 voucher per week, a total of £30 for the entire break.

The one-off funding for the scheme comes from the Department of Work and Pensions' winter hardship support. Norfolk County Council has received an additional £952,000 from the fund, much of which was used to provide free school meal vouchers during Easter.

Broadband boost announced for Norfolk. Norfolk County Council has welcomed the news of a major expansion of the fastest type of broadband, which could benefit up to a third of properties.

The Government announced Norfolk will be involved in a new round of Gigabit broadband procurement.

Known as Gigabit / Full Fibre / Ultrafast / Fibre to the Premise, it has a speed of 100-1000 mega-bits per second – compared to 24 or 30mbps for superfast broadband.

Community tree nurseries project to boost local stock.

A new project to boost the supply of Norfolk trees will help improve local biodiversity and mitigation of climate change.

Nationally, trees outside woodlands have seen accelerating losses, driven by pressures from pests and diseases, and long-term neglect and decline.

The Boosting Community Tree Nurseries project will find ways to support existing community-led nurseries in Norfolk and establish the best ways to help new set-ups that involve the community. The project will support nurseries to produce trees that are bio secure - stock that is handled responsibly and safely, inspected for pests and diseases regularly and for which records are kept enabling traceability.

Using locally collected seed will help retain regional genetic diversity and provide appropriate species to improve tree stock resilience.

The project, led by Norfolk County Council, could see a training hub created to provide support for communities interested in getting involved. Other counties including Kent, Cornwall and Shropshire will be taking part in pilot projects to support this work.

£3m scheme set to DRIVE up rural employment.

A new cross border grant scheme being launched by Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council is set to provide welcome support to businesses contributing to the rural economy.

The DRIVE scheme (Delivering Rural Investment, Vital Employment) is a two-year project designed to encourage and support sound business investment decisions. The project has received £3million of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund.

Expert mentors will be on hand to help businesses develop strong project and business plans. And to help put those into action, businesses will then be able to apply for grants of between £5k and £30k.

The aim is to help boost jobs as all applicants will need to put forward job creation as a result of their grant application. The scheme is open to existing and new businesses. New businesses looking to apply will have to be aiming to employ 3 new members of staff within the next three years.

12 ways to swap2save - new campaign aims to cut single use product waste.

A campaign has been launched which is set to help drive down single-use product and plastic waste by calling on people to swap2save. By making small everyday changes, like swapping a take-away drink in a plastic bottle for a reusable and refillable water bottle, people will be able to save their money and cut waste.

The single-use items targeted by the campaign lead to 30,000 tonnes of waste annually in Norfolk, costing the Council £3.47million to dispose of every year.

District Councillor Carter reported:

For the past 12 months the whole of the country has been under the cloud of Covid-19 and for many of us life as we knew it became almost unrecognisable. Certainly, my role as District Councillor was significantly affected by the inability to meet residents in need of assistance in person. Having to rely on phone calls and emails invariably made understanding of the need and how it might be resolved, more complicated. However, despite Covid restrictions it has been possible to deal satisfactorily with the majority of issues raised by residents.

Some of issues have involved shopping, either by helping to arrange on-line shopping, or seeking help from friends or neighbours to assist in various ways - collecting medication and so on. I have also been contacted by distant relatives of elderly or infirm residents to check that they are alright. I have been impressed by the way that local communities have sought to help in any way they can.

On a wider front Covid does not appear to have reduced Fly-Tipping in our area. During the last 12 months on my weekly drive around the Ward I have found and reported 63 fly-tips of various sizes and content, another 20 have also been reported by residents - help which is greatly appreciated. Much of the content of these thoughtless acts appears to be trade waste, vehicle tyres, Decorators tins, brushes, etc, electrical wiring, (often stripped of wire), Plumbing Piping, Basins, toilets, taps etc, to household, toys, pushchairs, beds, chairs and so on. to larger items such as Caravans, trailers, cars. The cost of this Anti-Social behaviour is paid for by every householder through their rates, so please report anyone you see involved in such thoughtless activity.

On a more positive note I have been able to support a number of applications for grants for improvements to Village Hall kitchens and other facilities, also improvements to Roofing, doorways, windows and flooring. Substantial grants have also been provided for improvements to play equipment.

Breckland Council as also maintained its ranking as the Local Authority with the lowest Council Tax in the country with the minimum rise for the coming year. As well as providing extensive grants to assist local businesses.

As your local councillor I have sought to assist parish councils and residents in any way possible and will continue to do so to the best of my ability and I thank you all for your continuing support. Stay Safe and Stay Well

7 To discuss highway matters.

County Cllr Kiddle-Morris visited Mileham with the highway engineer, the clerk provided the highways engineer with a list of outstanding items and he has taken the list for further action and to follow up the outstanding items. County Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the highways engineer has inspected Back Lane and will arrange for two grips to installed into ditch on the other side of the road to help with the flooding situation.

County Cllr Kiddle-Morris has organised and covered the cost from his own budget for the road marking slow sign to be painted on the road in Back lane and Tittleshall road.

Cllr Pearce discussed the outstanding inspection of Litcham road regarding the road being suitable for children to walk or cycle to school. Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that this should have been inspected in January and is continually chasing this up with Norfolk County Council. Cllr Pearce requested that a Cllr should be present during this inspection and this was agreed when the date is confirmed. Cllr Harmer reported that not only is the road unsafe for Children to walk or cycle, but it would mean that children will need to leave their homes at least an hour earlier to walk this road.

Cllr Pearce requested confirmation about the road being dressed and not re-surfaced. County Cllr Kiddle-Morris confirmed that the road from Back Lane, past the village hall to the Sub-station on Stanfield road is going to be repaired and re-surfaced but no date has been confirmed yet. The present redressing is scheduled maintenance work and both items are treated separately by different departments.

8 To discuss Trods on Stanfield Road.

The parish has been awarded the Parish partnership bid which will be a 50/50 cost between the Parish and Breckland. County Cllr Kiddle-Morris is also going to contribute £850 from his own budget. The clerk will contact the highways engineer to visit the site to obtain a confirmed quote.

9 To update the litter picking working group

Cllr Pearce updated that a working group will be able to meet after 17th May to organise a litter picking group. There may be a delay in obtaining the equipment from Breckland.

Cllr Bergan reported that the litter must be in a Green Breckland litter bag otherwise they will not be collected. District Councillor Carter will organise some litter bin bags to be delivered as these haven't been received after various requests.

10 To discuss the parking outside the Village shop

A resident contacted the clerk regarding the parking outside the village shop. This item was discussed and further to the highway code, residents are not illegally parking and therefore the Council are not able to take action. The cars are only parking for a short time and not blocking or obstructing junction and the shop is providing a service.

11 To discuss the purchase of a Bench for Cllr Harmer retirement.

All council agreed to purchase this bench and the clerk will place the order.

12 Planning Applications

12.1 3PL/2021/0364/HOU-Remove existing roof and install a new pitched roof to allow for second floor living accommodation. Manor Farmhouse, the street- Comments submitted.

12.2 Planning Decisions

3PL/2021/0128/HOU-Demolition of existing conservatory and proposed garden room-Nar Cottage, Back Lane- Approved.

13 To discuss plant 1 million trees-starting may

Cllr Cutbill discussed this scheme would benefit Mileham. Cllr Pearce reported that it was proposed in the flooding report in 2018 to plant trees, Cllr Stoney was going to apply for a grant and planting trees will have that added benefit in flood prevention.

14 To discuss the Charities report

Cllr Cutbill reported that the Charity accounts are overdue and due to the Parish Council contributing to the grass cutting, we are not aware of the present current account from the playing field charities and this is the same for all the charities in Mileham. The Council have sought advice and a letter that we previously sent needs to be resent to the Trustees of the Mileham Charities. The Clerk will arrange to resend the letter and a copy to the local MP asking for his help with this situation.

15 To discuss the Village gates garden planting

Cllr Harmer reported that a previous discussion was to plant bulbs around the village gates and wildflowers around the verges. Cllr Bergan suggested bee bombs, location will be around

the village gates and around the village sign, a request to the residents to see if they are able to donate any leftover bulbs.

16 Finance

16.1 To approve the list of payments

The following payments (see attached list) totalling £1094.20 were approved by the Council.

16.2 To approve the budget

The Clerk circulated the present Budget and was approved by the Council

17 To receive items for the next meeting agenda 11th May 2021

Charities update

Hedges for the Litcham trod Westside of the village

Villages in Bloom

18 The Council excludes members of the press and public

The clerk requested the council to review the outstanding holiday pay, this was confirmed

Meeting Closed 20.40

FINANCE: 28th Feb 21-31st March 2021

Balances:

Business Premium Account.

Balance at 29.01.2021	£8,622.02
Interest	£0.21
Interest	<u>£8,622.4</u>
	<u>4</u>

Community Account.

Balance at 27th Feb 2021	£4,384.05
Presented Chq's 765/764/766	£669.94
Balance at 31st Mar 21	<u>£3,714.1</u>
	<u>1</u>

Cheques for authorisation

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
767	Mr J Pearce	Invoice for flooding material	£320.19
768	NPTS	Yearly subscription renewal	£80.00
769	L. Jarrett	Auditing the accounts for AGAR	£15.00
770	Community Heartbeat	Annual defib subscription	£162.00
771	Mr J Pearce	Sandbag	£45.79
772	Mrs D K Secker	Salary for April £192.00 and Holiday pay for 2020-2021-£268.80+recorded Postage £4.42-(£92.00)	£373.22
773	HMRC	PAYE	£92.00
774	Angela Cutbill	Map-Uk map centre	£6.00