

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILEHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY AT 2021
AT 1900 HELD VIRTUALLY.

Present:

Councillor A Cutbill (Chairman)

Councillor M Harmer (Vice Chair)

Councillor J Pearce

Councillor M Bergan

Councillor A Teague.

Councillor M Stoney-Butler

District Councillor Carter

2 Parishioner

1 Apologies for Absence.

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris sent his apologies, due to the need to attend an urgent meeting

2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

No one declared a pecuniary interest

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Councillor Harmer proposed and Councillor Teague seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting on the Tuesday 8th December 2020 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation.

4.1 County and District Councillor Reports.

Budget:

The Council will set its budget for financial year 21/22 at a meeting to be held on 22nd February. The settlement from central government is broadly neutral; there has been a small increase in the Rate Support Grant and the Rural Services Delivery Grant but a reduction in the payment from new homes bonus. Despite this the Council will set a balanced budget which maintains the current level of services. However, inevitably there will be an increase in council tax; a 1.99% increase in the general rate and a 2% increase in the adult social care precept (up to 3% is permitted). As with all local authorities the Council must set a budget which is balanced over a 3-year period; the projection for 22/23 is for a tax rise of 2% plus 1% for adult social care.

Grass Cutting:

As reported in November the Council's mandatory consultation on the budget for 20/21 included a proposal to reduce the highways verge cuts on both C and U roads from 2 to one cut per year. In response to the consultation 63% of respondents agreed with the reduction, this will obviously be the subject of debate at the council tax setting meeting in February.

Members' Code of Conduct:

In 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life requested the Local Government Association (LGA) to produce a model elected member code of conduct. The draft LGA model code was issued for consultation between 8th June 2020 and 17th August 2020. The final version of the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct has now been issued. The NCC Standards Committee will consider its

adoption on 18th January. Government has indicated that all councils should adopt the code with or without minor amendments so that a standard code applies across all elected local councils.

District Councillor Carter Report:

Over the Christmas period, Councillor Carter reported that he witnessed 7 separate incidents of fly tipping that would have occurred over 10 days.

Breckland has sold "Green Britain Centre" in Swaffham and the buyer hopes to employ 65-70 people. The wind turbine will remain in place and maybe removed in 4/5 years. Norwich Western Link Road application is now complete, this will be submitted for approval and if it is approved, work will commence in approx. 2 years.

Morrison's in Fakenham and Kinnerton Chocolate Factory have had recent Covid outbreaks. The figures are rising. The first outbreak was reported from the Poultry industry in Thetford and staff working on a temporary basis could have potentially moved between different factories and this could be the link with temporary staff working at Kinnerton's.

4.2 Public Comments

A parishioner enquired about the £1000 grant that was applied for regarding the Covid relief, is this still present within the Accounts. The clerk has confirmed that the £1000 is not being shown as a separate item within the accounts but will be shown as a separate item on the 2021/22 budget.

A Parishioner contacted the clerk regarding the old school village bell, this is being stored in a Safe place and it will need further discussion on if to relocate this. The same parishioner complained about the condition of the road surface on Rudd's drift, mud being left and very bad potholes. This is private land and is joint owned, so both parties will need to have a discussion to solve this.

5 Highway

5.1 To note any new problems within the parish.

Councillor Pearce reported that the finger post on back lane has been replaced by a plastic pole, when we assumed that the previous finger post was going to be re-vamped.

Councillor Harmer reported that the drains on Manor Terrace are blocked, the clerk has reported this several times, the clerk will contact County Councillor Kiddle-Morris to see if he can help us push this through quickly.

Councillor Cutbill reported that the verges down Beeston Road have been cut and so has the bank opposite Manor Terrace.

The Clerk has reported many potholes within the village, a large one on the left-hand side on the Litcham Road after the Beeston Road crossroads. Two have been reported also on the left-hand side heading towards Litcham opposite the Sub-Station. a

The Clerk reported that letters regarding the gravel coming off parishioners' driveways have been delivered to the homeowners, but the request has not been carried out. The gravel is dangerous, the Clerk will enquire about seeing if Breckland can fine the parishioners. Councillor Pearce also reported that apples are obstructing the pathway, this is also a Health and Safety situation, Breckland or Norfolk County Council will be contacted for further advice from the Clerk.

5.2 An update on Highway matters

Two potholes have been repaired on the Stanfield Road heading towards to Fakenham from a long list of outstanding items.

6 Planning

6.1 Application-3PL/2020/1461/F- Conversion to existing outbuilding to form residential unit. All Councillors supported this application.

7 Matters for report

7.1 Precept- Councillor Cutbill Proposed and Councillor Teaque seconded the resolution to increase the precept of £1000 per year. The majority of Councillors agreed.

7.2 Dog Bins-The Clerk has contacted a supplier and the quotes are a lot higher than previous years. The Clerk will contact Breckland to see if we can still purchase a dog bin. This will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

7.3 Flooding: After a long discussion, Councillor Butler Stoney has drafted a letter that he will circulate to all the Councillors, highlighting our problems within the parish. The Councillors will need to agree whether the letters can be sent to Breckland on behalf of the Parish.

We will need to establish the main areas of concerns and see if we can action anything within the parish but unfortunately the solutions will not be a quick fix.

7.4 Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Cutbill Proposed and Councillor Harmer seconded the decision to go ahead with the village survey.

7.5 Mileham Charities and Churchyard updates

The Trustee stated that he will prepare a report for the next meeting. Due to the weather there is slow progress on the Churchyard, but work will commence very soon. Mileham Charities have had a meeting and accounts need to be transferred and discussion are being held. This will be added to the next agenda for further updates.

8 Finance

8.1 Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated. Councillor Pearce Proposed and Councillor Cutbill seconded the resolution on the authorisation of the cheques and balances.

8.2 Budgets to be circulated. Councillor Harmer Proposed and Councillor Cutbill seconded the resolution on the budgets that were circulated.

9 Matters for next meeting (not for discussion)

Update for Charites

Setting up a new bank

Trods-cutting back the hedges near to the Fir Bungalow

10 Confirm that the next meeting of Mileham Parish Council: Tuesday 9th February 2021

Meeting Closed 20.30

FINANCE: 31st December 2020

Balances:-

Business Premium Account.

Balance at 31.12.20	£8,622.02
Interest 7.12.20	£0.21
	<u>£8,622.23</u>

Community Account.

Balance at 1st Dec 2020	£4,984.09
Presented Chq's 7547.758.759	£216.52
Balance at 21st NOV 2020	<u>£4,767.57</u>

Cheques for authorisation

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
760	D.K.Secker	£11.97 x 16 Hrs=£191.52	£95.76
761	HMRC	PAYE-January	£95.76