

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILEHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
9th February AT 2021 AT 1900 HELD VIRTUALLY.

Present:

Councillor A Cutbill (Chairman)
Councillor M Harmer (Vice Chair)
Councillor J Pearce
Councillor M Bergan
Councillor A Teaque
Councillor M Stoney-Butler

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris
District Councillor T Carter

4 Parishioners

1 Apologies for Absence. No apologies received

2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

No declarations of pecuniary interest

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Councillor Harmer proposed and Councillor Pearce seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting on the Tuesday 12th January 2021 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.

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris,
Elections 2021.

The government is putting in place plans to hold Covid secure elections on the 6th May. In Norfolk, there will be elections for the 84 seats on Norfolk County Council and for the Police and Crime Commissioner which was postponed in May last year. Currently, hand delivery of leaflets and canvassing is not allowed, instructions on delivery of election material from candidates is awaited. The government is allocating extra money to local councils to allow polling stations and vote counting venues to be made Covid secure. Rules on postal voting and proxy voting are being considered. Please see full report attached.

District Councillor Carter: reported the fly-tipping on top of the Tittleshall is not on Breckland land but is on private land.

Breckland is supporting vulnerable residents. Norfolk assistance scheme is in place to help residents who are not able to support themselves with everyday needs and who are struggling with reasons other than Corona Virus. A referral can be made via email communitysupport@breckland.gov.uk. Bin collections have been delayed due to the weather but please leave your bin out and they will catch up as soon as they can. Councillor Teaque asked District Councillor Carter if Breckland operate a loan service for picking equipment. The department is environmental services and items can be hired out to parishes to use. Unfortunately, this service is temporarily closed due to Covid but should return to normal after lockdown in approx. 2-3 months.

4.2 Public Comments-

5 Highway

5.1 To note any new problems within the parish.

Councillor Pearce reported the condition of Back Lane road and how bad it has deteriorated. The Clerk reported that this was due to be re-dressed early part of this year, but this will be delayed until later on this year. County Councillor Kiddle-Morris reported that The Street will be resurfaced from the Village Hall to the Pumping Station as scheduled for this financial year. Councillor Harmer asked if the re-dressing will be for Burghwood Drive, County Councillor Kiddle-Morris will inspect the road and report back.

5.2 An update on Highway matters.

The Trods for Stanfield Road will be discussed at the next meeting, as still waiting to hear back regarding our application to the Parish Partnership Scheme has been successful.

6 Planning

6.1 Application- No applications received.

7 Matters for report

7.1 Dog Bins- Councillor Cutbill reported that we discussed purchasing sand bins and sandbags to support parishioners living in back lane especially with the flooding over Christmas. Councillor Pearce has obtained quotes. The quotes are £300 to have a lockable plastic bin and to purchase sandbags £49.00 and £50.00 for the sand. Councillor Teaque suggested the bin to be located near to the recycling bins, this will enable parishioners to park and transfer the bags to their cars. All Councillors agreed, Councillor Teaque proposed and Councillor Butler-Stoney seconded the resolution to purchase the bins and sand.

The Clerk has contacted Breckland several times regarding the purchase of a new dog bin and asked if Councillor Carter can confirm the correct information about having to purchase them privately

7.2 Village Sign.

The Parish Council are aware of the poor condition of the village sign and have attempted to obtain quotes over the past year. This was mentioned on Social Media, the clerk will put an advert in the Church and Village requesting a volunteer to help us with this. The sign needs rubbing down and repainting and the Mileham Council will cover the cost of materials.

7.3 Village Survey

Councillor Cutbill reported that Councillor Pearce has circulated the final version. After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all Councillors, one Councillors comments was that they felt that the survey is too long. The survey will be delivered in its final phase and it was agreed that the booklet will be delivered after Lockdown.

7.4 Mileham Charities and Churchyard updates

The trustee reported that due to the current weather unfortunately the clearing of the Churchyard is all on hold. The trustee has spoken to the volunteers, who are hoping to clear the sticks and start clearing the other debris. Then mowing and strimming can take place.

The trustee reported the village charities are about to cut the hedge at the playing field and cutting the hedge on long pasture as it is growing over the pathway. There is still a delay on the paperwork with the Charities and apologises.

7.5 Animal Warden Services

The Clerk has spoken to the Animal Warden service regarding the current re-occurrence of dog poo on the pathways. The Animal Warden service is encouraging all parishioners to be vigilant. If you see anyone **not** picking up their dog poo, please report it directly to the Animal Warden and not to the Parish Council, the reporting needs to be from the person who has witnessed it. The dog Warden is not able to visit Mileham on a regular basis unfortunately so is reliant on parishioners to keep them informed.

7.6 Breckland Feedback on Gravel Driveways

The Clerk reported, after contacting Breckland, the road sweepers have carried out a street cleaning, but the problem is mainly with health and safety issues on footpaths. District Councillor Carter advised sending a letter, but Parish Council

has already sent letters regarding this. They are breaching highways regulations and should clear it up. County Councillor Kiddle-Morris will visit the site.

7.7 Working party volunteers

It was requested on Social Media about setting up working parties, someone volunteered to cut the grass and trim around the Village Sign. It was then further suggested setting up a Litter Picking group. Councillor Cutbill suggested we purchase litter picking equipment as a Parish Council. Councillor Pearce has volunteered as the Co-Ordinator to move this forward, but this will be after Lockdown.

8 Finance

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

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

9 Matters for next meeting (not for discussion)

Trods

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

Meeting Closed 20.56

FINANCE: 29th January 2021

Balances:-

Business Premium Account.

Balance at 29.01.2021

£8,622.02

£8,622.23

Community Account.

Balance at 1st Jan 2021

£4,767.57

Presented Chq's 760,761

£191.52

Balance at 21st NOV 2020

£4,576.05

Cheques for authorisation

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
762	D.K. Secker	£11.97 x 16 Hrs=£191.52	£96.00
763	HMRC	PAYE-January	£96.00
764	Zurich	Insurance cover for 21/22	£324.70
765	A. Cutbill on behalf of Window Maintance	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£25.00
766	D.K. Secker	Clerks Course	£18.00

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris Report for February 2021

Committee Meetings:

A reminder that all County Council meetings are streamed live on You Tube and can be viewed as recordings on the same channel later.

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 1.99% plus 1% for adult social care.

Flooding:

The heavy rain that occurred on the 23rd, 24th and 25th December caused over 180 dwellings in Norfolk to be internally flooded, roads were flooded and damaged, and blockages to highway and other drainage systems were caused due to silt run off from surrounding fields. Norfolk County Council is the Local Lead Flood Authority and has a duty under the Flood and water Management Act to investigate flooding which puts lives at risk or causes serious structural harm to buildings; causes dwellings to be inundated or causes a highway (above Cat 3) to be impassable. The work of the Water Management Team has been put under severe pressure investigating these incidents. NCC has allocated £650k from this year's budget to assist with flood investigation work, urgent repairs to highway damage and clearing of blocked drainage systems. A reserve of £1.5m has been created for 2021/22 to fund flood investigation and maintenance work. A Norfolk Strategic Flood Board has been established under the Chairmanship of general Lord Dannatt to coordinate a Norfolk wide response to flooding with the 36 organisations within Norfolk that have flood risk management responsibilities.

Census:

Every 10 years Office for National Statistics (ONS) carry out a census of the population of the United Kingdom. 2021 is census year and the census will ask for responses on **Sunday 21st March**. Census population estimates are vital in helping to shape the communities in which we live and work. Census 2021 will be "digital

first” which may be challenging for some but there will be a large range of backup services available to help residents respond to the census in a different manner wherever they live.

Ash Tree Die-Back.

A study of roadside Ash Trees has revealed that by 2023 half of the 168,000 roadside Ash trees in Norfolk will display advanced decline due to Ash die-back. Most of these trees are privately owned with only 20,200 belonging to NCC. It is estimated that the cost of carrying out tree safety work, habitat restoration, raising awareness among landowners and inspecting and reporting will be £1m over the next 2 years.

Highways:

My Division has been without a highway engineer since the beginning of October last year and 2 other post have been vacant since before Christmas. Happily, 2 personnel were recruited to fill the 2 voids and I understand that a highway engineer will be appointed this week. Please continue to report highway matters as they arise and encourage members of the public to report highway problems either directly to NCC via the website or via the parish clerk. Items “saved” for reporting at the PC meeting only delays action by the highway team.

Free School Meals.

NCC has extended its free school meal voucher scheme to make sure no child goes hungry during the February half term. The scheme is administered through schools and details of eligibility can be found on the NCC website.

Every Child On-line.

NCC is committed to ensuring that children learning from home are not disadvantaged by lack of equipment or connection to the internet. The Children’s Services team have delivered 2,000+ laptops and tablets to 2241 children in 140 schools. In addition, we will be improving connectivity in 4G and Wi-Fi hot spots with unlimited data packages for the next 6 months.

