

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILEHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER
AT 1930 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 T Carter

County Councillor M Kiddle-Morris

2 Parishioners

1 Apologies for Absence.

No apologies received

2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Butler-Stoney declared an interest in Item 7.2, and this was accepted.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Councillor Butler-Stoney proposed and Councillor Bergan second the resolution that the minutes of the meeting on the 8th September 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:

NCC is starting the budget setting for 2021/22 in very uncertain times for local government finance. Areas of uncertainty are; the local government funding allocations from government are unknown; the governments Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) has not yet been delivered; key reforms to government funding have been delayed (by Covid distractions) the Fair Funding Review, Business Rate Retention localisation and Adult Social Care funding. Covid pressures on NCC budget for this year amount to £75.421m against government support of £63.824m leaving an overspend this year (so far) of £11.597m. Due to the impact of Covid £17.780m of planned savings have not been realised. The Council is also working to address a forecast budget gap of

£45.434m for 2021/22 prior to any Covid impacts. Many of the additional costs, lost income and undeliverable savings experienced in this financial year may have an extended impact on the 2020/21 budget. The Cabinet meeting on the 5th October will not be able to fully address the forecast budget deficit, further work will be required to identify further saving options.

Local Government:

NCC and other Norfolk local authorities have written to government to request that any Local Government Review is delayed until the effects of Covid 19 on the economy, council services and budgets are returned to normal. LGR is an expensive and disruptive process to undertake and, although projected to save money, is best carried out when there is stability in local government.

District Councillor Carter reported.

Breckland Council has adopted a new housing policy which will enable vulnerable and disabled people to access new funding and support to meet their bespoke housing needs.

The revised Housing Assistance Policy will see funding ring-fenced to help disabled residents to live more independently in their own homes and improve housing conditions for vulnerable residents. The previous policy already offered grants of up to £30,000 per household to help pay for adaptations, but the newly revised policy will now include the option for owner-occupiers to take a loan of £10,000 if disabled adaptations cost more than the initial £30,000 grant. In addition, a new relocation grant of up to £6000 is being made available to help disabled residents move to a more suitable property, if their current property cannot be adapted to meet their specific needs. A separate grant of up to £5000 will also be available to help remove potential hazard, such as major electrical problems or roof repairs, in a resident's home, while grants of £500 will support day to day living by paying for minor safety and security alteration in the home.

Cllr Alison Webb, Executive Portfolio for housing at Breckland Council, commented "This new policy will help our disabled and vulnerable residents make essential and bespoke housing adaptations that will enable them to continue living independent lives."

Residents interested in finding out more about the new scheme should visit

www.breckland.gov.uk/housing-grants

Breckland Council is encouraging householders to come forward to access grants which can help pay for energy-saving insulation and heating for their homes. The new Green Homes Grants scheme will see eligible homeowner's and landlords given a voucher

towards the cost of installing energy-efficient and low carb heating which could help save them up to £600 a year on energy bills. The voucher can cover up to two-thirds of the cost of qualifying improvements and the maximum value of the voucher is £5000. Homeowners who have a member of their household in receipt of qualifying means tested benefit can get extra help, covering 100% of the cost of the improvements (up to £10,000). The Green Homes Grant Scheme, which is administered in Breckland by Norfolk County Council, covers energy solutions. Advice is provided as to which measures may be best suited to resident's homes.

To find out more and check if you are eligible for the scheme, please visit the Simple Energy Advice website: www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant.

4.2 Public Comments

No public comments received.

5 Highway

5.1 To note any new problems within the parish.

Councillor Harmer reported that she witnessed a Parishioner letting his dog foul on the playing field near the equipment and didn't pick it up. He drove to the playing field and she was not able to take a note of his registration but not many cars park on the Green at the front of the playing fields. The clerk will monitor this.

Councillor Harmer reported that some new gates have been installed on the Stanfield road and some of the hedging has been removed to install them. County Councillor Kiddle-Morris is going to visit the site to see if the hedges that were removed were protected.

5.2 An update on Highway matters

The Public rights of way and Trail route at the top of Tittleshall Hill, which has a damaged fence, has been inspected and a repair will be carried out. The damaged railings on the bridge off back lane (the Nar valley), which is also a public right of way, has also been inspected and will be repaired. The potholes on the B1145 have been inspected and awaiting repair. All other items have been reported but awaiting inspection.

6 Planning

6.1 Decisions

6.1.1 3PL/2020/0837/HOU-Unicorn House, Proposed Open Porch-**Approved**

6.1.2 3PL/2020/0762/HOU-Church Cottages, Single Storey Extension-**Approved**

6.1.3 3PL/2020/0722/HOU-Omega Cottage, Erection of a single storey annex-**Approved**

6.1.4 3PL/20202/0722/F-Firs Bungalow-New dwelling to replace bungalow-**Approved**

7.2 Applications

7.2 3PL/2020/1065/F-Extension to existing Commercial Building-Norfolk Mouldings, Beeston Road.

Unfortunately, not all Councillors have been available to comment on all the planning applications and therefore an email record has been maintained to monitor this.

7 Matters for report

7.1 Mileham Primary School-County Councillor Kiddle-Morris has contacted the cabinet regarding the Sale of the School and no update has been received. The Mileham Parish council will continue to communicate their interest in becoming trustees' if a Charity is to be set up from the sale.

7.2 Mileham Pit

It was agreed to take this item off the agenda to discuss the Mileham Pit next year.

7.3 School Transport

The Clerk reported that further to a telephone conversation with an entitlement Officer at Norfolk County Council, the risk assessment form 2015 which stated that the route on the B11145 is available and contained no special factors that made it hazardous for walking. Since this phone call, they have agreed to reassess the route and will inform the Clerk with the findings.

7.4 Mileham Charities

The Parish Council has not received any communication from the Mileham Charities. and no meetings have taken place for a few years. A letter was drafted to all the Trustees' requesting an update on the current situation. It was reported that the Chairman has now moved away from the area and a meeting will be arranged to elect a new Chairman and the Parish Council have requested an update asap.

7.5 Complaint from Breckland re: Churchyard

The clerk was forwarded a letter from the District Councillor T Carter that had been sent to Breckland from a parishioner in Mileham. The letter was a complaint regarding the situation of the grass and graveyards that have been neglected at Mileham church. This situation has been going on for a few years and the Parish Council have NO responsibility for the Church or the Churchyard. The Clerk forwarded this letter to the churchwarden and enclosed a letter from the Parish Council, asking for a response on their reasons behind not keeping the grass and the graveyards clear and tidy.

Unfortunately, the clerk hasn't received a response to the letter and has given the Churchwarden two weeks to respond to the Parish Council.

7.6 Poppy Appeal

All Councillors agreed that the PC will donate £30.00 to the Poppy Appeal.

7.7 Parish Partnership

This will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

7.8 Potential survey to Parishioners

Councillor Pearce suggested sending a survey to all the Parishioners in Mileham, a questionnaire will be drafted and agreed by all the Councillors. A discussion will take place on how best this will be circulated.

10 Finance

10.1 Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated. Councillor Pearce Proposed and Councillor Butler-Stoney seconded the resolution on the authorisation of the cheques and balances.

10.2 Budgets to be circulated. Councillor Cutbill Proposed and Councillor Butler-Stoney seconded the resolution on the budgets that were circulated.

11 Matters for next meeting (not for discussion)

12 Confirm that the next meeting of Mileham Parish Council: Tuesday 10th November 2020
Meeting Closed at 2058.

FINANCE: 30th August 2020

Balances: -

Business Premium Account.

Balance at 31.08.2020	£8,620.83
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Community Account.

Balance at 30th July 2020	£5,480.37
Presented chq 745	£1,495.58
Balance at 31st August 2020	£3,984.79

Cheques for authorisation

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
745	Breckland District Council	Village gates	£1,495.58
746	D. K. Secker	Salary for Aug £182.56 @£10.16 + £20.00 5% pay rise + £11.67 (new rate-Sept) x 16 hours=£186.72+ working from home allowance	£395.28
747	HMRC	PAYE	£73.80
748	A. Cutbill	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£25.00