

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 2ND MARCH 2020

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors].

Public Forum – two members of the public attended and Tony Goldson [Suffolk County councillor] – the usual concerns were raised over speeding on the B1123. Tony Goldson outlined a new scheme for co-operation with the police which will be detailed at the next Halesworth Parishes meeting. The scheme is based on VAS and attracts police support for the first year, with after wards a fee for searching any records. Speeding on the B1123 was again brought to the council’s attention, especially the dangers of exiting from Primes Lane. A member of the public drew attention to the missing Kings Lane sign – clerk to seek a replacement, and the sign post at the top of the lane was also damaged – clerk to report. Flooding was also discussed and the clearance of gullies was identified as a key process. Tony Goldson then gave a report on the recent Halesworth Parishes meeting and issues highlighted included speeding, rural isolation and well-being. It was hoped that The Coffee Caravan might visit, possibly in the pub car-park. The chair thanked TG for attending; TG left at 7.50pm.

1. Welcome and apologies – The chairman, Gerard Walker, welcomed councillors Rosemary Parry, Barry Martin and Lou Sharman. Apologies were received from Robert Bucknell; Myles Jackson was absent and sent his apologies, but would not be able to continue as councillor. He has been absent for six months and is therefore disqualified under the 6-month rule [*non- attendance for a period of six months results in disqualification – LGA 1972, S.86/87*]
2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none
3. Minutes of previous meeting [06-01-2020] were approved and signed as a true record.
4. Matters arising not on agenda – Royal Mail post box is situated at Henham cross-roads, so it is unlikely that RM will put another at Sotherton Corner.
5. Finances –
 - Balances at HSBC, Beccles – 12-02-20 as follows: Community account - £8,784.93; Business Money Manager - £5,571.24; Total assets - £14,356.17.
 - Cheques approved - 498 – Wissett Parish Council – 18.72 [VAS insurance]; 499 – C. Cardwell – 270.90 [net sal feb/mar]; 500 – HMRC – 101.60 [tax to 5 Apr]; 501 – C. Cardwell – 85.34 [expenses mar 19 to mar 20]; Total cheques - £476.56
6. Planning –
 - DC/20/0054/FUL: Pastures Farm, Beccles RD., Sothertom – councillors noted the conversion of agricultural building to residential;
 - DC/20/0442/ FUL: The Froge, Southwold Rd., Blyford – extension plans – councillors had no objection.
7. Speeding in villages – councillors discussed this perennial problem; they were not in favour of “village gateways”, too expensive. But were interested in joining in with the scheme outlined by Tony Goldson [*see Public Forum, above*]

8. Trees – the offer to act as tree warden by a member of the public was agreed to be a good idea. Loke behind Marsh View Cottages, overhanging trees – clerk to contact landowner. And also discover ownership of the access to the pumping station.
9. Correspondence – received and discussed
10. Any other business –
 - Latitude tickets – not yet issued; report by Rosemary Parry.
 - Cheque signatory – Barry Martin agreed to be the third signatory on the PC account with HSBC. Clerk to arrange.
 - Casual Vacancy – this has arisen due the disqualification of Myles Jackson [6 month rule – LGA1972, S83]. The clerk to contact East Suffolk DC for advertisement. The chair thanked MJ and commented on the useful and helpful work done by Cllr. Jackson in the past. There are two vacancies and 2 members of the public attending expressed an interest in becoming a councillor. The clerk to contact them with information.
11. The next meeting – 4th May 2020 – AGM and Village meetings. This will be held in Blyford Church, 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm