

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 17TH JANUARY 2022

WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL – 6.30PM

Public Forum – one member of the public attended with no questions.

1. The chairman, Gerard Walker, welcomed councillors Lou Sharman, Rosemary Parry, Dominic Meek, Justin Phillips and Barry Martin. Apologies were received from Tony Goldson [East Suffolk councillor] and Robert Bucknell. The retiring clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance as was the new clerk, Ann Donnachie.
2. Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none
3. Minutes of previous meeting [15-11-2021] were approved and signed as a true record
4. Matters arising on the minutes not on agenda – none
5. Finances – balances at HSBC bank – current: 8,406.81; Latitude: 6,810.52; total - £15,217.33. Cheques for approval: 538 – C. Cardwell – 278.46 [net sal for Dec/Jan]; 540 – C. Cardwell – 106.33 [expenses since March 202]. Councillors noted that HSBC were now charging for the bank account.
6. Budget for year April 2022 to March 2023 – this was finalised, approved and councillors agreed to keep the precept at £3,000. Clerk to inform East Suffolk
7. **Common land [triangle opposite Queens Head] – the clerk stated that this piece of land [OS.?] had common land status, being “waste of the manor”. Confirmation of status can be had for a fee of £5 from Suffolk County Council.**
8. Footpaths – the clerk pointed out that the definitive map for the few paths in Blyford and Sotherton can be found on Suffolk Rights of Way website. Permissive paths [granted by landowner] are a matter of negotiation with John Hunt or his agent.
9. Defibrillator, proposed – councillors discussed the practicalities of putting one near the council houses at Blyford or Sotherton Corner; It was stated that they were of most use in places where a large number of people collected for exercise. Using the BT kiosk at Blyford was considered impracticable.
10. Website – change to CAS was discussed, but it was decided to leave it with Suffolk. Cloud for the time being.
11. Any other business – plans for a celebration party were discussed; to be held at Westhall Racehorse in June – Robert Bucknell to organise. Councillors agreed to plant the gifted oak tree on the common land.
12. Next meeting – 21st March 2022

The meeting was closed to the public due to the confidential nature of the business [LGA1972 SS100/102}
13. Appointment of clerk – Ann Donnachie was appointed clerk to succeed Caroline Cardwell. Her contract [NALC template] was agreed and signed and her terms of employment; 4 hours per week, working from home, at 10.04 per hour, with home working allowance.
 The meeting closed at 7.40. The chairman and councillors thanked Caroline Cardwell for her work as their clerk.