

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL
PARHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.15pm

- 1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.**
Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Stephen Burroughes and Ward Councillor Maurice Cook.

Present

Michael Gray (Chair) Michael Block (vice chair) James Rogers
Jason Wood Claire Adams Jonathan Cottrell Lydia Kirk (clerk)

- 2. JR disclosed a pecuniary interest in Payment 25 at item 7a.**
3. The Minutes of the meetings of 9th and 29th November 2022 were approved as true records.
4. There were no matters arising.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of public present. Reports from the County Councillor and Ward Councillor had been shared with Councillors.

- 5. The Chair did not have anything to report that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.**
6. The clerk requested a grit bin near the entrance to Willoughby Close as agreed at the meeting of 29th November. SCC has responded saying that this location is not suitable as it is along an existing gritting route and it would service a private road.
The Bridge Farm planning application has been approved as submitted.
7. Responsible Financial Officer's report
JR left the meeting
a) The following payments were approved:

Reference Number	Amount	Payee	Details
P24 21-22	£846.95	L. Kirk	Pay to 31.12.2021
P25 21-22	£600.00*	J. Rogers Agri	Village green management – hedge cutting, pond clearance etc
P26 21-22	£10.00	SALC	Preparing for CiLCA briefing
P27 21-22 (raised after agenda issued)	£90.00*	M Gray	Reimburse 3x pear trees for village greens

* Using Biodiversity reserved funding

JR returned to the meeting

- b) Funds received & payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| P20 L. Kirk Dwarf trees | £106.47 |
| P21 CAB Donation as agreed 9/11/21 | £100.00 |
| P22 M Runnacles Churchyard mowing | £450.00 |
| P23 M Gray Fruit Trees reimbursement | £627.45 |
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6/12/21 Rural Payments Agency grant | £1,949.00 |
| 6/12/21 Barclays interest | £0.53 |
- c) The bank balances at 31.12.2021 were noted as being:
- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Current account | £4,798.30 |
| Deposit account | £21,753.59 |
- d) JW signed the bank reconciliation and statements to show these were in order.

- e) The year-to-date report on payments and receipts was noted and considered in line with the budgeted figures.
- f) CA and MG have now managed to make some payments online, although MG cannot authorise payments set up by CA so is having to set up the payments instead. JR still needs to set up his online access. It was suggested that adding another banking mandate might be useful. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
8. **Discuss highways and public footpath issues**
- i) SCC has unblocked the drain opposite The Church Farm which has helped to stop the flooding in the barn here. The other drains at the base of Hall Hill have not been unblocked. SCC have assessed the verge erosion near The Church Farm and do not intend to carry out any works here or reinstall the kerbing. **ACTION** Clerk to ask SCC if the Parish Council can pay SCC to do this work.
- ii) The clerk has chased SCC regarding the damaged bridge railing and repairs. It is on their schedule but is not a priority. **ACTION** Clerk to ask if the Parish Council can also help fund these repairs in order to get it done. It was noted that the road will be closed here soon for the installation of a new water pipe at The Pightle. The clerk will pass the dates of the road closure on to SCC in the hope they could carry out the repair works at the same time.
- iii) A resident has reported the damaged finger sign opposite The Bungalow to SCC Highways but they do not intend on repairing it yet. The pole has corroded and one of the brackets has come loose.
ACTION MG and MB will look at this and see if it can be repaired by fixing the bracket higher up the pole.
- iv) The resident is disputing the request from SCC to remove the wall that abuts the public road outside Highfields.
9. **To discuss Platinum Jubilee celebrations**
- i) The fruit trees have now all been delivered and the scheme has been received well. One resident has requested a tree after the delivery and Councillors agreed to purchase one additional tree. MG has purchased three pear trees for the village greens and will liaise with the village tree warden regarding their locations before planting them.
- ii) It was agreed that a metal, bespoke bench is likely to be too expensive. MB will look into wooden benches for the village Jubilee tree. An approximate budget was discussed and he will present his findings at the next meeting.
- iii) We have now had offers to help with a village Jubilee event from two residents and also hopefully help from the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed giving the BBQ and alcohol for free with donations welcome, instead of selling them would help to remove some of the bureaucratic obligations regarding licencing and certifications.
10. **MG has spoken to Jos Slade and the community speed gun will be in use again imminently.** Two Councillors saw it in use in the village today.
11. **Orwell Housing planning application DC/21/5492/FUL** was discussed.
Revised proposal phase 2 existing consent DC/21/0968/VOC replace 5 open market dwellings with 9 affordable homes - Main Road Parham Suffolk
Concerns were raised about insufficient space for parking 18 cars in this area and the slope to the highway not being gritted which both could lead to cars parking on the main road. The Parish Council supported the scheme when it was a mixture of affordable and open-market houses, but are concerned that there isn't the need for solely affordable houses in the village. There were also concerns that 9 houses on the land intended for 5 would lead to over-development of this site. **ACTION** Clerk to notify ESC that the Parish Council objects to this application.
12. **JR has now thinned the hedge on north green to the south of Elm Tree Farm, removing 15 foot of hedging and scrub.** The hedge will need annual maintenance to stop it encroaching on the village green in future.
ACTION MG will look to see if he can to remove the dead elm trees himself or whether a tree surgeon is needed.
Councillors agreed for the Parish Council to purchase and plant a replacement mixed native hedge here using biodiversity funding.

13. **To consider correspondence received since date of last meeting and determine any necessary actions**
- Rural Payments Agency Letter - *agreement accepted. MG has dealt with a consequent query regarding the village greens.*
- UKPN letter re Form of Consent, North Green Parham – **ACTION** LK to complete and return
- Request for donation and help setting up a village Befriending scheme from BSEVC
Councillors considered Parham to be a neighbourly village with informal befriending and help schemes already running.
ACTION Clerk to advertise befriending services on the website and report back on response.
- Newsletter and funding request from St Elizabeth Hospice *Whilst the Parish Council would like to support many of the charities and voluntary groups who approach it for grant funding, Councillors felt a line had to be drawn and they sadly could not support all such requests.*
14. **Councillor Reports**
MB reported that Jos Slade will soon be compiling a list of all of the varieties of dandelion in the village.
JW has delivered new residents' letters to three houses on North Green.
15. **Matters to be raised at the next meeting**
Jubilee bench and village celebration
Update on verge, finger post and bridge
Update on housing development
Discuss adding another banking mandate
16. **The next meeting was confirmed as being at 7.15pm on Tuesday 8th March 2022.**
There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed: *M Gray* Date *8th March 2022*
M. Gray
Chairman **8th March 2022**