

RINGSFIELD AND WESTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Date of Meeting: 21st April 2017

Present: Chair Cllr Rees, Cllrs Statt, Warner & Scott

Attending Incoming Clerk Mrs Brown, outgoing Clerk Mrs Cardwell & 7 members of the public.

The meeting was declared open at 7pm

1 Declarations of Interest – None

2 Receipt and Acceptance of Apologies for Absence - Cllrs Francis & Cannell. D Cllr Springall

Public Forum

Mr Pye was disappointed at the level of publicity given to the event showing the plans for the new play area, this view was shared by Mr Foster of The Community Council, although it was advertised on line, in The Beccles & Bungay Journal and posters were placed around the Village, Mr Pye also thought the time of the event was not suitable, the Chair reminded the meeting that the Councillors had put lot of time and effort into the project fitting it in around their jobs, and that the Community Council's secretary had been contacted with the time and date and that the plans had been taken into the school for the children to give their views, parents had also been sent a questionnaire. Another member of the public said that the plans originally discussed included adult fitness equipment which did not feature in the plans displayed on the evening, the Chair said that this equipment could not be included in this round of funding. The Chair asked the members of the public present if they had any other comments on the plans, as Cllr Statt would ideally like a decision made on which plan to go ahead with at this meeting, so that she can send off the funding application form within the prescribed timescale. There were no objections raised to any of the plans, but some of the members of the public felt that there should be more consultation and complained that an informal meeting to discuss the play area had not happened. Mr Foster did say, however that the play area is infested with a weed that can penetrate any surface, the weed killer he used has not them killed off. Cllr Statt will inform the chosen contractor of this.

Mr Foster asked if there was any news on the plans for the holiday lodges in Church Road, the owner of the land is away and the Lead Planning Officer has not visited the site.

Mr Pye asked who had completed the road repairs near the school – Suffolk Highways. There has been considerable damage done to Cromwell Road and Top Road Ilketshall St Lawrence by heavy lorries as mentioned in the March 2017 Meeting minutes (item 7) The Chair hopes to be able to tie in requests for weight restrictions and speed limit reductions for the roads likely to become rat runs with other changes that will occur when the Southern Relief Road is built.

Church Lane, Weston has many potholes, the Chair will report this to Mark Kerridge, potholes can be reported on line by anyone easily via Suffolk County Council's website – click on the REPORT button.

3 Minutes –

- a The minutes of the Council meeting held 17th March 2017 had been circulated – Cllr Statt proposed acceptance: 2nd Cllr Warner aif. Signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising from the minutes - None

5 Finance

a) Accounts awaiting payment –	Net	VAT	Total
Vertas grass cutting, final invoice			557.24
C Cardwell, Clerk salary & expenses for April			236.89
Van Dijk – Accountants for preparing PAYE			108.00
Total cheques 3			£902.13

b Accounts already paid - None

Cllr Rees proposed acceptance of these accounts, 2nd Cllr Scott aif.

c Receipts - None

2

d Bank Statement Balance at 21st April 2017- £15,654.66

e Presentation of draft accounts for approval – Cllr Scott proposed acceptance of the accounts 2nd Cllr Statt aif

f Suggestion that a review of the budget is made in May

7 Appointment of New Clerk – This item is classed as confidential and was discussed after Item 18

8 Planning –

a Applications Rec'd –

DC/17/1406/FUL 4 Kings Lane, Weston. Application for extensions and garage.

Cllr Warner proposed acceptance 2nd Cllr Statt aif.

b. Decisions Rec'd None

9 Playground Renovation – See Public Forum.

10 Defibrillator – Cllr Statt has received prices on different packages which include fixings, cases, training etc from Community Heartbeat and EAA and she will look into them more deeply and report back to the Council. The phone box where it will be housed now belongs to the PC and BT have agreed to pay the electricity bill for the next 7 years, BT would prefer the defib to be fitted by the Community Heart Trust, and the PC will have to apply to EAA to fit one using a qualified electrician providing it complies with BS Standards.

11 Grounds Maintenance – After some discussion Cllr Scott proposed that the PC accept the Waveney Norse quote, after the Clerk has contacted Waveney Norse to clarify a couple of points in their quote and subsequently informed the Councillors of their answer and the majority are still in agreement she can sign the contract on the PC's behalf, 2nd Cllr Statt. aif

12 Bus Shelter - The bus shelter is no longer covered by the PC's insurance, the residents' views on any future use will be gathered at the Annual Parish Meeting.

13 Website - Cllr Rees has the log in details which she will also give to the Clerk, and between them they will update and maintain the site to conform with the Transparency Code.

14 Dedicated email address – Cllr Scott proposed accepting ringsfieldandweston.pc@gmail.com 2nd Cllr Statt aif.

15 Annual Parish Meeting 19th May – There will be refreshments available on the night and the plans for the new playground will be on display, the potential change of status of The Ringsfield & Weston Playing Field and Hall Committee to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation will be on the agenda for discussion – villagers need to make a decision via the Charity Commission's website, and there will need to be a Public Consultation, the Councillors are hoping for good attendance and will be leafleting the villages to that end.

16 Community or Parish Plan – To be placed on May's agenda

17 Reports from County & District Councillors None, C Cllr Ritchie is in purdah due to the upcoming elections.

18 Correspondence

Beccles Town Council – Confirmation that R&W PC have withdrawn from Beccles Neighbourhood Plan, and that Cllr Scott will still be very welcome to attend future meetings of Beccles Neighbourhood Plan Operational Group.

Adnams Charity Report – Cllr Statt is making an application to them.

John Bercow MP – re Parliament Week , the Clerk is to request an events kit.

3

19 Any Other Business

Cllr Scott showed the Council pictures the proposed changing rooms and toilet facilities for Beccles Lido which he thought may be suitable for the PC's playing field. He asked Cllr Statt to write to him at The Beccles Regeneration Co to apply for a £1,000.00 donation towards the playing field, he thinks the application will be successful as the Company has given money to other organisations for similar projects.

Cllr Statt is making an application for funds from Adnams Charity.

Thanks went to Cllr Statt for cleaning the toilets and the cricket pavilion.

Cllr Statt has found a wasps nest in the soil around the play area, Cllr Rees will have a look, she will also help Cllr Statt to clean the swing frame and put cable ties along the top the frame to discourage birds.

The VAS signs cost approximately £3,000 each, the 8 poles needed are supplied free by SCC. Ilketshall St Andrew PC will contribute a quarter and C Cllr Ritchie will donate £2,000.00 from his Locality Budget and C Cllr Bee will contribute £800.00.

Mr Foster asked for an informal meeting with The Trustees with respect to the betterment of the Village Hall, the Chair asked if there a business plan in place yet, the plan is being done in phases. Mr Foster said that the Hall needs a major overhaul of the electrics in the hall, some lights do not work and other things are unsafe, he will make a report to the PC in writing.

The meeting was closed was to public to discuss Item 7

7 Appointment of new Clerk- Jean Brown has been appointed as Clerk from 1st April 2017 on salary scale SPC 21 for 5- 6 hours per week. Allowances to be agreed. It was agreed that the Clerk may purchase items of stationery without first asking the Council. The Clerk is to apply for a laptop and printer from the Transparency Code Fund and will download a contract of employment from NALC's website.

Cllr Statt repeated her request that the choice of plans for the new play area is decided tonight, her first being lost in the rather confrontational public forum debate. Given the shortness of time to get the funding request underway, and taking into account the preferences of the schoolchildren and residents who attended the event earlier in the evening, Cllr Rees proposed that the PC should use the plan submitted by Action Play & Leisure from Norwich 2nd Cllr Warner aif. Cllr Statt thanked Mrs Cardwell for help with the Section106 money.

Mrs Cardwell was presented with a bouquet and a Tally-Ho voucher with thanks and appreciation for her work and advice during her time with the PC.

11 Close There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed.....Chair Date: 19th May 2017

Date of next Meeting 19th May 2017