

**RINGSFIELD AND WESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Zoom meeting of the Parish Council on FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm**

**Present:** Chair Cllr Rees, Cllrs Statt, Warner, Scott, Francis & Cloke  
Clerk J Brown & 1 member of the public

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None**

**3. RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None**

**PUBLIC FORUM** – Mr S Lake enquired if the PC had already made their recommendation for planning application DC/20/4878/FUL, due ESC's policy recommendations had to be in by 11<sup>th</sup> January the PC had already submitted their reply of no objections on the planning portal.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**Cllr Warner proposed acceptance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Scott, aif.**

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –**

1 Cllr vacancy for Weston (1) – no progress so far.

2 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Rees will no longer be able to lead the project due to pressure of work. The Public Consultation Phase will have to wait until Covid restrictions are eased.

3 Quiet Lanes – Project is on hold as unable to deliver leaflets or hold Public Consultation meeting due to Covid restrictions.

4 Speeding and HGV traffic through the village, to include proposed Speedwatch Team of volunteers. As previously reported volunteer training on hold. Cllr Statt has new neighbours who have already commented on the speed of traffic on Kings Lane after only 3 weeks. The meeting with R & W PC, Ilk St Andrew, P Aldous MP & Cllr Bee should be held in February when speed, promised weight restrictions, Junction of Cromwell Rd & London Rd and damage to verges throughout the village caused by extra large traffic will be brought up. Cllr Cloke will remind P Aldous. Cllr Rees reported that 80 tractors passed her house in one day recently.

5 Installation of bench for Russells Green – on hold

6 Light in village hall car park – The light is wired up, Cllr Rees will organise a replacement bulb.

7 Discuss repairs/maintenance to PC's assets – Clerk has circulated the asset register and will ask Cllr Fletcher if he would volunteer to list any maintenance needed. Cllr Rees to try to discover who owns the bus shelter.

8 Discuss making part of Russell's Green a wild flower area. A Public Consultation will be needed, project on hold until Covid restrictions are eased.

**6. FINANCE**

**a. Accounts for Payment**

J Brown, Clerk's pay & expenses Oct & Nov	243.13
HMRC PAYE	48.80
PRS Agriculture Grass cutting September	168.00
Cllr Rees – Christmas Tree lights	42.99
<b>Total 4</b>	<b>£502.92</b>

**Cllr Francis proposed acceptance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Statt, 4 in favour Cllr Rees abstained.**

**b Accounts already paid** – Christmas Tree £135.00

**c Receipts** – Ilk St A Insurance for VAS £84.08

**d Bank Balance Statement at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020. £15,964.17, copy circulated**  
**includes £570.71 Play area funds and**

**e CIL money in hand £232.02 to spend by Oct 2023 + £253.62 by Apr 2024**

**f Presentation of Bank Reconciliation at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**g Presentation of Actual to Budget Spend to end December 2020**

**There were no questions or comments on items f & g Cllr Statt proposed acceptance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Rees, aif**

## **h Presentation of draft precept budget for discussion and decision on amount of demand**

After some discussion Cllr Rees proposed keeping the precept at £7,000.00 for the next financial year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Warner, aif. The Cllrs all felt that in the current circumstance asking for an increase would not be the right thing to do.

- 7** **CORRESPONDENCE** – ESC are conducting a survey of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Councillors are happy with the amount and quality of the amenities, apart from the cricket pavilion which desperately needs a lot of work. Cllr Rees was pleased to see the amount of use the play area and playing field have had over the past months. Clerk to fill in the form and return. As Ringsfield is on part of Cycle Route 1 Cllr Rees asked if anyone thinks the PC should ask for cycle lanes alongside the roads, it was felt the roads are too narrow and potholed at the ages it would not a good idea.

## **8 PLANNING –**

### **a Applications Rec'd –**

1 DC/20/4878/FUL Barns at Ringsfield Village Hall. Self build and conversions of barns including interconnecting extension. See Public Forum

2 DC/20/4716/FUL Home View, Church Road, Ringsfield. Conversion of existing single storey barn to holiday accommodation.

3 DC/20/4657/FUL 2 Chenery's Cottage, Chenery's Loke. Single storey brick, timber and tile gazebo/storage

**Cllr Statt proposed acceptance to items 2 & 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Rees, aif.**

**b Decisions Rec'd**– DC/20/4217/FUL & DC/20/4218/LBC Barns at Weston Hall. Conversion of main barns to single unit of holiday accommodation. Refused - contrary to National Planning Policy Framework. Cllrs were surprised at this decision and it appears that some building outside the village Envelope, as this is, are refused while others (proposed School Rd development) are permitted.

## **9 REPORTS**

**County and District Councillor's Reports.** Cllr Cloke's report had been circulated, she is still pursuing issues with the Environment Agency over the recent flooding in Bungay.

### **Parish Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Francis is not happy that the nearest vaccination hub will be in Reydon, which is further than the maximum 10 mile journey promised, and has complained to Cllr Bee & P Aldous, who has been asking questions in the House of Commons on the slow roll out of the vaccine in this area. Cllr Rees: Ringsfield Village Hall had been approached by Beccles Medical Centre for use as a mass vaccination centre. NHS England inspected the hall and commissioned updates to the building inc extra electricity, extended wifi, new water heaters etc all this work has been done by local trades men who carried out the work at a low cost thinking they were doing something good for the community, but last week they have changed their minds and won't be using it, firstly because they are worried about negative publicity along the lines of the testing centres, secondly they only want to deliver the vaccines from NHS England's properties, however other areas are using gyms, sports arenas etc. The Butchers Arms was used as a centre for the Flu vaccinations which makes this decision even more surprising. Cllr Rees has reminded NHS England that the hall is ready for use to save the older vulnerable residents having to travel long distances as some will not have transport. Cllr Cloke told the meeting that people should be encouraged to ask family or support bubbles for lifts there is Connecting Communities Transport available, but this raises the question of social distancing on a minibus.

Cllrs feel that this part of the Country has been let down by the slow roll out here. Cllr Cloke has raised all these concerns with P Aldous.

### **Clerk's Report – To include crime report sourced from Suffolk Constabulary's website**

**2 crimes reported in November:** both near to the bypass in Weston 1 x vehicle crime – investigation complete no suspect identified. 1 x violence - under investigation. Cllr Rees – there are thieves in the area stealing metal from gardens. Victims of previous recent robberies can go to Hammonds of Halesworth to check if any of the recovered goods are theirs, Cllrs Rees to contact Cllr Sherriff.

Cllr Rees has received lots of comments on how lovely the tree looked his year and thanked the Clerk & Cllrs Warner & Statt for arranging the purchase and delivery. Carols on the green went ahead in a socially distanced way and was so successful this format may be used in future, it was suggested there may no longer be a need for a compere.

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS –**

**There was no other business Cllr Rees thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 8.15pm**