

CRINGLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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AN INFORMAL MEETING OF CRINGLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON 9 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM, ON ZOOM.

NOTES OF MEETING

Present:

Professor T Wang (TW) In the Chair
Miss C Fielding (CF)
Mr M Blackie (MB)
Mrs D Miller (DM)
Mr N Afshar (NA)
Mr D Chaplin (DC)

Mr T Craig-Moonie (TC-M)
Mrs H Simmons (HS)
Mr S Chapman (SC)
Mrs L Rawlings (LR)
Mr A Clay (AC)

In attendance:

Miss S Henry – Centre Administrator and Assistant Parish Clerk
David Bills (County Councillor)
Daniel Elmer (District Councillor)

As this was an informal meeting, all decisions were delegated to the Parish Clerk.

1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence

TW welcomed Council to the meeting.

No apologies had been received.

2. To receive Chairman's announcements, if any

None.

3. To accept any declaration of Members Interests

None.

4. To receive questions from parishioners

None present.

5. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor David Bills gave a brief verbal update, highlighting the opening of the Kett's Country Long Distance Trail, the route of which travels along existing public rights of way, from the village of Eaton to Wymondham. The long-distance

route and five new circular walks were due to launch on the 25th of March 2022. MB congratulated Councillor Bills on Norfolk County Council's efforts with the trails.

District Councillor Daniel Elmer gave an update on South Norfolk District Council's (SNDC) current plans for their budget. Councillor Elmer explained that there was a 2.5-million-pound budget surplus, which had been a result of SNDC's overcautious budget estimations in relation to COVID-19. The surplus would be spent on one off projects and had been allocated as follows:

- £1.3 million had been allocated to aid environmental measures, and whilst specific proposals were still being drafted, it was likely that funding would become available to parishes wanting to install electrical charging points (up to 75% of the total cost). Councillor Elmer would update when further information was available.
- Funding had been allocated to install solar panels on SNDC's own properties.
- £0.4 million had been allocated to community projects – e.g., aid for the homeless.
- £300k had been allocated to improve efficiency within SNDC e.g., increasing number of officers.

Councillor Elmer also explained that the capital programme, with its upcoming £6 million investment fund, was to be aimed at larger parishes like Cringleford, who tended to miss out on smaller grants. Councillor Elmer indicated that the programme would match parishes CIL investments.

It was also noted that the council tax due to SNDC for the 2022/23 financial year had been increased by £5.00 per year per household in line with their four-year plan of £5.00 yearly increments. The 2023/24 financial year would be the final year of the £5.00 increments. This would then be reviewed by SNDC.

DC joined the meeting.

6. To receive the notes from the last meeting

The notes from the last meeting were received. These would be formally approved at the next physical meeting.

Regarding item 5, where Councillor Bills had included information on a road fund which would offer grants up to £10k, TW queried why controlled crossings were exempt from the grant bid. Councillor Bills explained that this was due to the costings of such crossings, which could exceed £170k in most cases. It was also noted that a Zebra crossing was in the region of £90k to install.

SC joined the meeting.

7. To note and agree actions for correspondence received

- 7.1 Community Resilience Training.** Communities Prepared (a national community resilience programme) had offered Councillors the opportunity to attend training regarding the role of a resilience group, as well as options for financing such groups. A date had not yet been received for the training. Once this had been received,

Councillors would be informed.

- 7.2 Response regarding bus shelters from Norfolk County Council.** Confirmation from Norfolk County Council regarding re-using the existing bus shelters on Dragonfly Lane for other locations had not yet been received. The Clerk would follow this up. **ACTION: Clerk**

- 7.3 To consider correspondence received since the agenda was dispatched.** An email had been received from a resident regarding an accident that had occurred on Round House Way in which a school child had been seriously injured by a passing car. The Council expressed their concern for the child and their family, as well as outrage regarding Norfolk County Council's (NCC) previous stance upon the crossing, which the Parish Council had highlighted as a danger to pedestrians. The proposal for a safe crossing had been included in the Parish Council's Road Safety Strategy, however due to the proximity to the roundabout and heavy traffic flow it had been deemed unfeasible by NCC.

County Councillor David Bills, who concurred that the incident was unacceptable, had agreed to take up this issue with Highways in order to press for a long-term solution to the issue presented by the existing crossing between the bus interchange and Round House Park. District Councillor Daniel Elmer agreed to support Councillor Bills in this endeavour.

Funding of a crossing was discussed, including who could be called upon to contribute (e.g., developers), however Councillor Bills explained that he would first need to contact Children's Services and the Safety Group at Norfolk County Council to discuss the matter before approaching Highways, who would be able to further investigate facilitating the crossing and likely costs involved. HS highlighted that the Parish Council had previously enquired with NCC regarding a crossing and the issue had appeared to be policy, rather than funding. Councillor Bills further explained that the accident had proven the policy to be incorrect and would need further investigating and rectifying.

SC highlighted the requirement for immediate measures to mitigate the risks that the crossing presented. TW suggested to Councillor Bills that a warning triangle stating pedestrians crossing could be utilised in the interim, until a permanent solution could be ascertained. The Clerk also agreed to investigate the possibility and requirements involved regarding the employment of a lollipop person. **ACTION: Clerk**

TW would reply to the parents of the child to update them on the situation and to express the Council's sorrow for the incident. **ACTION: TW**

The Clerk would contact the local Beat Manager to try and obtain further information on the incident. **ACTION: Clerk**

DB and DE left the meeting.

8. To receive the Clerk's report

The report was noted.

In light of current world events, the 4-year contract that the Council had with Gazprom (a Russian owned company), which was due to end in 2023 was discussed. The Clerk agreed to investigate the details of the contract and report back to Council. The Council agreed that if the contract could be terminated earlier than the original date then it would be pertinent to do so. If this was not a possibility, the Council agreed that the contract should not be renewed, and that other companies should be considered as a supplier, even if that did mean an increase in price. **ACTION: Clerk**

9. To receive the notes of the informal Planning and Environment Committee held on 2 March 2022

The notes were received and noted.

Regarding item 6.3 TW added that a meeting date had now been secured with Barratt David Wilson Homes to discuss phase 2 of their application. The meeting would take place on the 22nd of March 2022.

10. To receive the notes of the Finance Advisory Group from 3 March 2022

The notes were received and noted.

DM added that FAG had agreed to assess donation requests received on a 6-month basis, so that the £1000.00 allocated in the annual budget could be donated to the cause in most need.

11. To receive the notes from the 28 February Recreation and Amenities Advisory Group meeting, and delegate actions to the Clerk

The notes were received and noted.

MB added that RAAG had suggested purchasing heavy duty planters to place on the concrete pads that would be exposed once the bus shelters on Dragonfly Lane had been removed. The cost of this was yet to be investigated, as well as the practicality of the initiative. TW highlighted the high maintenance required for planters, especially in the summer, and MB indicated that RAAG envisioned the project to be a community effort, however this was yet to be confirmed with external parties.

11.1 To receive information on pitch improvements. Details regarding pitch improvements and possible FA grants had been received from Ian Bartlett (co-opted member of RAAG). IB had emailed the Clerk indicating that he would be able to attend the April Council meeting to further explain the details and costings involved.

11.2 To receive information on a recent Legionnaires inspection at the Pavilion. The Legionnaires inspection report for the Pavilion was noted.

11.3 To receive information on Jubilee events within the Parish and consider how to contribute. Several community groups had been in touch regarding events and projects that they had planned for the Jubilee. The budget that the Council had

agreed upon and set aside for the celebrations would be used to provide financial support to these groups.

12. Finance Matters:

- 12.1 The payments for March 2021, from 11 February – 11 March 2022 totalling £30,459.35 were approved.
- 12.2 The accounts report to date, balance sheet and bank reconciliation to 28/2/22 were received.
- 12.3 TW and DM agreed to authorise the BACs payments online on 10 March 2022.
- 12.4 The Asset Register was reviewed and approved. TW enquired about the necessity of specificity regarding low budget items on the register (e.g., number/cost of teaspoons). The Clerk would review this. **ACTION: Clerk**

13 To note the next meeting date:

The next meeting would be held on 13 April 2022. It would be decided whether physical or virtual nearer time. Apologies were received from HS.

14 To receive items for the next quarterly newsletter

- Broadband in your area
- GNLP
- Unsafe crossing on Roundhouse Way

15 To receive items for the next agenda

- Pitch improvements

Meeting finished at 20:55.