WEST ACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held Wednesday, 19th of January 2022 at 6.00pm in West Acre Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors Cllr E Shiels Chairman

Cllr E Heatley

Cllr J Cameron

Cllr P Wilson

Mr Henry Birkbeck (outgoing RFO)

Cllr J Moriarty Norfolk County & KL&WN Borough Councils

Parish Clerk Mr D R Williams

Member(s) of public Sally Bridle (SB), Andrew Smith (AS), Sadie Grist (SG), Belinda Bush, (comments by residents are highlighted in yellow)

Item 1 **Apologies for absence**

* There were apologies from Cllr L Birkbeck, and Cllr R Sliwa.

Item 2 **Declarations of interest (under the West Norfolk Borough Council Code of Conduct) and any requests for dispensation**

* There were declarations from Cllr Wilson re the brewery. The Chairman also declared an interest in item 13.
* There were no requests for dispensation.

Item 3 **To confirm that the public will be invited to comment on any agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. All comments regarding matters under discussion must be addressed to the Chairman and must be made politely, be as brief as possible and finish when requested by the Chairman.**

 • The Chairman informed the meeting about Highway matters heavy trucks on River Road bridge and the Chairman was communicating with a company called Bunnings ltd. Sally Bridle stated highways had been out to access the bridge and there are heavy concrete struts under the bridge, so Highways stated the bridge was unlikely to fail. The item to remain on the agenda.

Item 4 **Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting**

• The minutes of the Council Meeting held Thursday, 1st November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

 **Proposed Cllr J Cameron Seconded Cllr P Wilson**

 **All those present agreed**

Item 5 **Actions arising from the above meeting not covered in this agenda.**

* The Council felt security of representation of the Parish Council, so it continues was fundamental. Funding for the Clerk allows this to happen. The rise in the precept was seen as an increase in resource to assist the Parish Council with projects and future representation for residents. This allows the establishment of an organisational structure for the Parish Council going forward.
* The Chairman informed the meeting that he was looking at the placement of waste bins in the village. But unfortunately, had not been able to bring anything to this meeting.

Item 6 **To receive an update from Borough / County Council matters (Cllr Jim Moriarty)**

 **•** Cllr Moriarty informed the Parish Council of a £1000 grant for Borough Councillors. This was to be advertised to village groups to apply by the end of March 2022. Organisations who could raise their own funds could not apply. Councillor Moriarty informed the meeting in April 2022 there will another round of funding.

Item 7 **To announce new clerk to Parish Council**.

 • The Chairman invited David Williams the new Clerk to the table. The Chairman stated Councillors had met David on the 14th of December 2021 after having received an expression of interest from him. They have given David a contract and there is a probation period of 26 weeks.

Item 8 **To receive an update from Borough / County Council matters (Cllr Jim Moriarty)**

• Cllr Moriarty informed the Parish Council of a £1000 fund for each Borough Councillor. This was to be advertised to village groups to apply by the end of March 2022. Organisations who could raise their own funds could not apply. Councillor Moriarty informed the meeting in April 2022 there will another round of funding. The Chairman stated it will go in the newsletter and on the website. Cllr Moriarty seek advice from Barry Branford about the placement of the bins. The Parish Council were looking for waste bin’s locations. Sifting committee process in planning was showed as having flaws. Finally accepted as this and will be redressed. Sally Bridle accountability in local government is not being representative of local people.

• Cllr Moriarty informed the Parish Council of the County Councillors Highways budget for their area. Applications had to been in by the end of November 2021. It will be more organised in the next 4 years. Extending 30mph roundels on the road. Cllr Heatley asked did this apply until the next four years. Cllr Moriarty stated the next amounts were in 4 years’ time.

Item 9 **Finance Matters- to receive and draft budget for 2022 /2023**

* Co-ordination with Mr Henry Birkbeck (outgoing RFO) who will set up a meeting between the Clerk and the outgoing RFO. The Chairman stated Items 9 & 10 were linked.

Item 10 **To receive and consider the 2022 /2023 precept increase and adopt the final precept**

**•** Copies of the budget were handed out. The budget columns and those items highlighted in yellow were to change. Cllr Heatley stated the Parish Council agreed via emails and at meetings, also modelled the budget going forwards and it will need to increase year on year in the coming few years. This was the first steps in the process. Adding into the budget are the Clerks role and subscriptions. The precept will be going up a small amount. The precept of Flitcham Village a similar size to that of the village of West Acre is nearly double that of West Acre. SP it formalises the arrangement and was not the fault of previous Parish Council members. Cllr Moriarty suggested that invoices needed to be in 2 weeks prior to meetings so they can be placed on the agenda and approved at the next meeting.

 **Proposed by Cllr E Shiels Seconded Cllr E Heatley All Agreed**

Item 11 **Planning Matters – to receive an update regarding current planning applications in the village.**

* Jade Carlton Borough planning Officer looking at the various applications the Pub and Cookery School. There was a site meeting. They have noted the concerns of the Parish Council. Trying to facilitate positive action. They are looking for more evidence on noise prevention and vehicle movements. Seeking to encourage the estate to come forward early with plans and this was a positive meeting. With a good outcome. Sally Bridle what is “actually” have active approvals? The Chairman stated there was an active move to appoint a noise consultant. Also there needed to be more evidence as to traffic numbers and their effect. The Chairman thanked Jade Carlton for informing the Parish Council.
* The Chairman informed those present there would have been a newsletter informing residents of the public meeting with residents and there was a survey for residents to take part in on the estate website. Cllr Cameron informed the meeting that the estate was looking for views of residents. The Chairman informed the meeting nothing had been formalised yet.

19.06pm Mr Henry Birkbeck (outgoing RFO) left the meeting.

Item 12 **To consider requests for West Acre Parish Council to facilitate a village meeting in order that residents can better understand the objectives of recent river management changes and the installation of the new stock fencing in the context of impacts on residents**.

 • There was a lengthy discussion on this topic, and it was thought best for the Parish Council to hold a panel meeting of experts and interested parties which would give formal information and guidance on the re wilding and river management. The Chairman was to seek out with the Clerk the relevant people and specialists and round and this would be appropriate method of addressing residents’ concerns.

Item 13 **There was no decision made on a previous item for**

Item 14 **To consider requests from the Public to propose items for the next Parish Council Agenda.**

• There was nothing from the floor

Item 15 **Any other business**

  • There was no other business proposed. The Clerk informed the meeting that this agenda item would change to Village Matters or concerned raised by Councillors in between meetings.

Item 16 **Date and Time of the next meeting.**

 • The next meeting Wednesday the 16th of March 2022 at 6pm at West Acre Village Hall.

The meeting closed 07:15pm