

Minutes of the Meeting of Stokesby with Herringby Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7.30pm in Stokesby Community Centre

Present: Stuart Ward (Chairman)
Rob Lloyd
Leigh-Ann Medhurst
David Murison
Ed Wharton
Richard Youngs
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

Also present: Borough Councillor Adrian Thompson, County Councillor Haydn Thirtle and eight members of the public were in attendance

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Public Forum

a) Public

None.

b) County Councillor

Haydn Thirtle highlighted to Councillors the new Care Farm in Mautby which was part of the County Farms estate, working with vulnerable adults and children with special education needs to provide a safe opportunity for them to work in an outdoor environment. Haydn also reported on the new £250K fund available for community groups who supported children aged 0-5 and their parents, to help achieve developmental milestones. Finally, Haydn reported that the James Paget Hospital was receiving a share of a £200M pot of money to update equipment.

Borough Councillor

Adrian Thompson reported that a site had been agreed for the replacement street light outside the village hall area. The contractor had been appointed and a start date was expected soon. Adrian noted that the Council may be interested in joining Runham in having a SAM2 sign. He noted that the planter had been delivered to the Village Hall, and the bulbs were with Rob. The bus shelter repairs had been done however GYBC had felt that the roof did not need repair – Adrian offered to push for this to be done. The Marina Centre had been closed ahead of the redevelopment, however there would be no provision for bowls or rollerskating. Regeneration of North Quay was being discussed, and the rents at the market were set to be reduced, however an amendment was being considered to backdate this three years. Immediate repairs had been carried out to the Winter Gardens to prevent immediate deterioration, and it was hoped to fully renovate this in time.

c) Police

PC Gary May had sent a report which had been circulated.

3. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda

There were none.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2019

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a) Change of Bank Account

The Clerk reported that the Unity Trust account was up and running, and that she had drafted a letter requesting the closure of the Barclays bank account and the transfer of the remaining funds.

b) Street Light on Main Street

Covered in Borough Councillors report.

c) Repair to Bus Shelter

It was felt that the roof was liable to blow off in a strong wind, and Adrian Thompson was asked to press for the repair to be done.

AT

d) Post and Chain Repair near Village Sign

The Clerk reported that she had attempted to make contact with the handyman via email a number of times, with no response. It was reported that the handyman had recently asked a councillor whether he was no longer being used, so it was felt that maybe the contact details the Clerk held were not correct. It was **agreed** that Stuart Ward would check the correct details and ask the handyman to get in touch with the Clerk.

SW

e) Repair to Village Sign

Rob Lloyd reported that he had taken a look at the sign and spoken with a stonemason regarding preventative repairs. The area needed weeding and tidying up, and the sign itself could benefit from tidying up.

f) Encroachment onto Common Land

Rob Lloyd reported that he had looked at the areas and would like to know who owns which pieces of land and who has jurisdiction over them. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would circulate an advice note on Common Land together with the definitive commons maps for Stokesby. It was **agreed** that a working party would be set up to look at the common land in Stokesby, including the pieces that had been fenced in, and that commons would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Clerk

SW

g) Overgrown Trees near BT Wires

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were responsible for maintaining the trees rubbing on the BT wires as they owned the land. It was **agreed** to delegate a budget of £500 for works to trim back the encroaching branches, and that three quotes would be obtained for this work. It was **agreed** that a separate quote would be obtained to remove deadwood from the trees. The Clerk was asked to check when the next tree survey was due.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

6. Village Maintenance

a) Quarterly Report

Nothing new to report.

b) Flood Retention Wall

Stuart Ward reported that the Environment Agency did not consider the crack in the wall to be a problem, so this would now be monitored. It was noted that the Broads Authority planned to install railings along the sluice, which the PC objected to, however the BA would only not carry out the works if the PC agreed to sign a disclaimer for liability. A more suitable compromise had been agreed, and the BA

had informed Adnams of the plans. It was noted that this work was a legal requirement.

c) Grass Cutting 2020 Season

The Clerk read out the prices from 5 contractors for the 2020 season. It was **agreed** to continue with Maple as their price was broadly comparable to two others at £78/visit, and they gave a good service.

Clerk

d) Quotes for Roadway

The Clerk read out five quotes received, which varied greatly. It was **agreed** to budget £2,700 towards the project, and apply to the Parish Partnership Fund for this, and to continue to look for the best value quote for the works.

Clerk

7. **Finance**

a) It was **agreed** to pay the following:-

C Moore	Salary – September – November 2019	£349.98
HMRC	PAYE – September – November 2019	£87.60
Maple Tree Services	Grounds Maintenance 2019	£1,248.00
Poppy Appeal	Wreath	£40.00
E Wharton	Defib Pads	£99.60

b) Accounts for Monitoring

The accounts to date were **noted**. The Clerk noted that the year end projections, taking into account anticipated income and budgeted expenditure together with earmarked reserves, showed free funds of around £3,000.

c) Review of Earmarked Reserves

It was **agreed** that the earmarked reserves would be retained as presented.

d) Budget and Precept Setting 2020/2021

The Clerk presented the draft budget. It was **agreed** that the unspent £850 which had been budgeted in case of a contested election would be held in an earmarked reserve in case of a future contested election. The grounds maintenance figure was confirmed at £1,250 and the roadway repair budget was set at £2,700. The precept figure was **agreed** at £5,323 which was an increase of 21.75%, representing £44.73 per Band D property (£9.73 per year increase).

Clerk

Clerk

8. **Correspondence**

Letter from the Alzheimer's Society regarding donations.
Clerks and Councils Direct magazines

9. **Planning**

a) Applications

None.

b) Decisions

None.

10. **Other Matters**

a) Training Grant Request

It was **agreed** to contribute £50 towards the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Practitioners Conference in February 2020.

11. Reports from Parish Councillors

Leigh-Ann Medhurst reported that members of the public had asked for copies of the minutes to be displayed in the bus shelter. It was **agreed** that hard copies could be requested from the Chairman rather than displaying in the shelter.

Leigh-Ann Medhurst asked whether a Village Sale would be supported by the Parish Council. It was felt that this was a good idea and would sit well being arranged in conjunction with the Village Hall.

Leigh-Ann Medhurst suggested reinstating the village children's party. Discussion ensued on the reasons for this not continuing, and it was felt that there were now more children in the village and this could be well supported.

Rob Lloyd reported that some more sandbags were required, and it was **agreed** that 200 hessian bags would be purchased and held by Richard Youngs, Ed Wharton, Rob Lloyd and David Murison.

Clerk

Rob Lloyd suggested that Stokesby could invest in large poppies to display on lampposts around Remembrance, and agreed to look into costs and permissions. Richard Youngs noted that any new tree planting on the green should be carefully considered in terms of placement, and should only be considered to replace a tree that has been removed. It was **agreed** that a public subscription fund for tree planting could be set up instead of considering individual requests for memorial trees.

RL

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be Wednesday 12th February 2020, 7.30pm at Stokesby Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

CHAIRMAN