

FLORDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely at 8pm on Tuesday 21 July 2020

Present: Cllrs D Harrison (A/Chair), J Lockhart, A Barnes,

In Attendance: G Roderick-Jones (Clerk), District Cllr G Francis, District Cllr N Legg, District Cllr V Clifford-Jackson

Tree Warden's Report: none

Public Comment: none

District Councillor's Report:

Cllrs Legg and Clifford-Jackson submitted reports by email, the texts of which follow these minutes. In addition

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Tim Webster, Janice Holmes, Pam Harvey
- 2 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr A Barnes in item 6b
- 3 **Minutes of Meeting of 19 May 2020:** approved (to be signed at next face to face meeting)
- 4 **Matters Arising:** none
- 5 **Finances**
 - a latest bank balances as 15 July 2020 NOTED

Community Account	£2623.66
Savings Account	£5400.99
Total	£8024.65
 - b Payment for authorisation – proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Lockhart and approved by all:

Miss M D Purdy	internal audit fee	£50.00
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 - c Approval of Annual Governance Statements: APPROVED (for signature by Chair at earliest opportunity) – proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Lockhart, all agreed
 - d Approval of Annual Accounting Statements: APPROVED (for signature by Chair at earliest opportunity) – proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Lockhart, all agreed
 - e Approval of draft Financial Regulations: APPROVED (for signature by Chair at earliest opportunity) – proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Lockhart, all agreed
 - f Internal Audit Report and Notes – noted (for next agenda)
- 6 **Planning:**
 - a 2020/1165 Jollity Farmhouse: demolish garage/build annexe NO COMMENT
 - b Mrs London's development (update): Cllrs Harrison and Lockhart have had a further meeting with Mrs London. Her plans have changed substantially. The new schematic plan indicates a reduced number of dwellings, larger dwellings and no social or affordable

housing. Her new architect will try to fasttrack the application, which can be treated as an amendment to the existing application if it is submitted by September.

- 7 **Tas Valley Mushrooms:** Tas Valley Mushrooms have not adhered to restrictions on their working hours, with work also continuing over the May Bank Holiday and Easter Weekend, with heavy goods movements through the village and excessive, intrusive noise from the drying fans indicating normal production at these prohibited times. Clerk will follow up.
- 8 **Greenways Lane:** The carriageway has suffered damage from heavy machinery being used to carry out work to the railway embankment. Clerk will report.
- 9 **Birds Farm:** A previous planning application for industrial recycling on this site was withdrawn, but now material is being imported and burned here, especially at night. This is in the heart of the community and therefore is not acceptable. Cllr Barnes will contact Adrian Nicholas at SNDC; Cllrs Legg and Clifford-Jackson will follow up. It is also believed that the owner of Birds Farm has been breeding dogs (puppy farming) for some time without a licence. District Cllr Legg is investigating. The clerk will contact SNDC Environment and Planning with a copy to Martin Burrows at Enforcement.
- 10 **Village Sign update:** deferred
- 11 **Maintenance Issues:**
 - a village noticeboard – Cllr Lockhart will check condition
 - b trod path surface – clerk will remind Bob West at Highways that repair work is required
- 12 **Correspondence:** as circulated to councillors and noted above
- 13 **Items for the next agenda:** items as identified above including Mrs London's development
- 14 **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 15 September 2020 (arrangements to be confirmed)

Cllr Barnes will convey the council's best wishes to Cllr Pam Harvey, who is convalescing at home and will present flowers on behalf of the councillors.

District Councillor Report, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson July 2020 Flordon PC

SNC has stood down the Emergency Committee and reverted to the Cabinet and Council committee meeting structure. Albeit all now on Zoom and open to the public live streamed via YouTube.

DMC (the planning committee) with the reduced five member structure is meeting fortnightly via Zoom and live streamed with public speaking facility. This looks to be the pattern for the foreseeable future. Two decisions have not followed officer recommendation so far. There are some restrictions regarding site visits which the officers are trying to negotiate and stay safe. Our current housing supply is sufficient at present according to the Planning inspector. (See attached appeal response).

The new Commercial Trading and Customer Focus Committee had its first meeting on 15 July 2020.

Market Towns initiative 'Shop with Confidence' campaign was not universally welcomed, so some changes have been made for social distancing, but not all the one way systems and pedestrianisation which would have been ideal. The **Leisure Centres** are planning phased reopening with gym facilities first. It is hoped that swimming may be available from August but nothing is definite.

A new budget has been set with flexibility depending on how long lockdown will affect income generating facilities, such as car parks and leisure centres. The full financial impact on SNC could be between £4 million and £10 million depending on the length of lockdown. The European Regional Development fund has given £50million to be used to ease Covid issues in the High Street. £125,275 is coming to SNC. Council tax and Business rate payments are holding up and government is extending the period when these have to be paid, so current cash flow is good.

The Help Hub response during the period March to July was outstanding. Staff answered more than 20,000 calls from people needing help and support; staff called nearly 5,000 residents who were either on the government's shielded list or known to be vulnerable; 4,000 food parcels and prescriptions were delivered to those in the greatest need; staff helped over 40 volunteer groups to support their local community. Over 4000 volunteers informally signed up to offer help and 78 residents were provided with safe, temporary accommodation. The Housing and Benefits team dealt with more than 9,000 calls. 173 people called with complex needs. These included debt, immediate risk of homelessness, domestic abuse and common mental health problems. Some of the additional work will be an investment in the future such as IT enabling home-working, work with the homeless and improved communications with businesses.

The Member Grants are open to applications and there is funding from the Community Foundation and NALC to help with Covid-19 related issues and village halls respectively. SNC's CAF process should be meeting again in the autumn of 2020.

I attended **the Equinor webinar about the future substations** at Swardeston. These and the **Thickthorn extensions** will bring major disruption to our road network in the years to come, in addition to the damage to the environment (ironically). There is also a consultation about the Western Link of the NDR which the public are encouraged to participate in. So your views are wanted in several directions! **Please do let your residents know that help is always available.**

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District Councillors Report for Parish Councils July 2020

South Norfolk Council continues to operate using video conferencing due to the. Sars2 CV situation.

The possibility of holding a full Council meeting complying with the recommended safety measures is being considered at a suitable venue. At present it is difficult for members of the public to have access to the various meetings.

The Development Management Committee will continue to meet remotely at fortnightly intervals with a reduced number of members. The agenda is published on the Councils Website about a week beforehand. Those wishing to speak at the meetings should contact Democratic Services by the end of the preceding week, when suitable arrangements can be made.

Arrangements have been made in the Towns in the District to promote the local shops and businesses. The approach has been to encourage pedestrianisation with social distancing. This has meant that vehicular traffic has been restricted in the central areas.

Commented [GR1]:

The Councils finances have been severely affected due to loss of income from leisure centres, etc. The leisure centres will be reopened as soon as regulations permit. Any shortfall in revenue will be made good by transferring money from reserves for the current financial year. It is too early to know what the situation will be for the following years. There is no suggestion that any “cuts” will need to be made. The financial situation at The County Council is unclear. However it is unlikely to affect the functioning of South Norfolk Council.

Nigel Legg