

## FLORDON PARISH COUNCIL

### **Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely at 8pm on Tuesday 15 September 2020**

**Present:** Cllrs T Webster (Chair), D Harrison, J Lockhart, A Barnes

**In Attendance:** G Roderick-Jones (Clerk), District Cllr N Legg, District Cllr V Clifford-Jackson and two members of the public

**Tree Warden's Report:** none

**Public Comment:** During the public section of the meeting, there was an extended discussion of new plans for development on land adjacent to St Michael's, including explanations of the plans by the applicant, Mrs Patricia London and the architect, Mr John Barbuk. Key points which emerged from their summary include the following: the setting of St Michael's will be enhanced; the package of benefits to the community which formed part of previous plans will remain in place; the number of houses has been reduced from 14 to 9, reducing potential road traffic; previous plans have been unsympathetic to near neighbours, and these aspects have been changed; the new plans are now more in keeping with the village and are less obvious from The Street.

A question was raised about parking, which was to have been hidden behind the houses but now seems to be at the front, and also there seemed to be little provision for visitors' parking – would this spill over onto the few spaces allowed for parking for the church?

A question was raised about the siting of the lychgate, whether this would be partly or fully on glebe land, but the response was that this would be wholly sited on Mrs London's land.

The wildlife area will be handed over to the parish council on completion.

A question was raised as to whether this development would be sold on to developers once permission was granted; it was agreed that this was one option, but the plans could not be changed substantially, and this would be subject to convenience.

The required ecological survey is ongoing, with a deadline for the completed application of 7 October.

The timeframe for the development from initial work to completion will be approximately 18 months.

A question was raised about the fact that this land is outside the community's development boundary, and exceptions to this are normally made only when affordable housing is included in the plan – in this case, affordable housing was in the earlier plan, but not the current plan. The response was that the extras including the play area, wildlife area etc are designed to benefit the whole community.

### **District Councillor's Report:**

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

- 1 Apologies for Absence:** District Cllr G Francis
- 2 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr A Barnes in item 6b
- 3 Minutes of Meeting of 21 July 2020:** approved (to be signed at next face to face meeting)

**4 Matters Arising:** Follow up required regarding issues at Birds Farm (clerk); Greenways - the carriageway has suffered damage from heavy machinery being used to carry out work to the railway embankment. Clerk has reported and will follow up.

**5 Finances**

a latest bank balances as at 9 September 2020 NOTED

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Community Account | £2113.48 |
| Savings Account   | £5401.74 |
| Total             | £7515.22 |

b Payment approved:

|            |               |        |
|------------|---------------|--------|
| Ann Barnes | reimbursement | £36.00 |
|------------|---------------|--------|

**6 Planning:**

a see Public Discussion above

b 2020/1638 Rainthorpe Hall discharge of condition re: roofing (DECIDED)

c late applications (none)

**7 Tas Valley Mushrooms:** Ali Pridmore's notice has not yet been served though it is now ready for signature – Cllr Barnes will follow up

**8 Village Sign:** Deferred to next meeting

**9 Maintenance Issues:**

- a village noticeboard – deferred to next meeting
- b trod path surface – this has been done

**10 New Regulations: Accessibility of Documents and Websites**

From 23 September it will be a legal requirement that council websites and documents comply with the new accessibility requirements for people with disabilities. This will mean considerable changes to existing documents as well as new procedures for the creation of new documents and website entries. The current Churchnet website has been tested and found to be non-compliant in numerous ways. The clerk will investigate the setting up of a new website in line with other parishes, based on those offered by NALC (of which we are a member).

**11 Correspondence:** as circulated to councillors and noted above

**12 Items for the next agenda:** items as identified above

**13 Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 17 November 2020 (arrangements to be confirmed)

## PARISH Council Report for Flordonl PC September 2020 Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

Despite being the traditional holiday season the Council has been very eventful for the last month. This was largely clearing up outstanding issues, which were caused, or delayed by the pandemic crisis. Aside from the on-line parish council meetings we had **Full Council, Scrutiny, Cabinet, Finance (incorporating Risk), People and Communities, Commercial Trading, planning (DMC) twice, the Regulatory, and Economy & Environment Committees**. All the meetings (unless exempt for commercial sensitivity) are **streamed on YouTube** and this is getting much more attention than when we held them in public at the council offices. Scrutiny examined in some detail the process and effects of the **'Confidence Campaign'** in our Market Towns. We made recommendations from the lessons learned in case it should be needed in the future. The **Risk Register, Audit accounts** and future budget had very thorough debate, balancing the possible future needs for expenditure and the loss of income which is unpredictable. The **Recovery Plan** which included the Leisure Centres and the Help Hub, the **Environmental Strategy** and **the housing & homelessness** strategy were signed off. The outcome of the **Waste strategy** going forward is awaited shortly. **Temporary Pavement Licensing** and **loans to Parish Councils** were adopted as a result of Government changes under the Covid-19 Emergency legislation. We discussed the council reaction to Covid at Scrutiny Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> September in great detail and aside from much praise for the council actions and exemplary staff, there was also discussion about lessons learned ready for another such occasion.

There have been public announcements about **changes to planning law** (I attended a webinar about the White Paper, see link attached), I attended a further update on planning last week. **Local government structures** may change under a devolution process which has already started in the North of England. We have been warned (according to the leader) that money coming from BREXIT gains will benefit those councils who sign up to a **devolution** process. Some **Test Track and Trace** is being devolved to local public health systems, which seem to be more successful at tracing.

Locally we continue to pursue the issues of **planning conditions** not being met to our residents' satisfaction. However it has been emphasised that we should balance economic, social and environmental factors when assessing planning decisions. I attended a webinar on the **Thickthorn** process which has changed the routes slightly but I remain concerned about the environmental impact. The **Windfarm sub-station issues continue** with added interest from Swardeston, Swainsthorpe and Mulbarton Parish Councils. There is also on-going consultation on the **Western Link until 20<sup>th</sup> September via the County Council Website**.

I would like to know the experience of our residents with regard to **IT connectivity**. I am assured that everyone should now have access at a reasonable speed if they have VDSL (not ADSL) router/modem 'fibre to box' installed by their provider. Apparently many providers are saying they have installed this, but haven't. Despite all assurances I am finding there are still 'black spots' where reception remains poor on all devices and I would like to follow this up.

You will have had the consultation docs on **Member Codes of Conduct, Licensing and the White Paper (attached)**. There is also consultation by Government of the proposal **to ban pavement parking** by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Please contact me if there are any questions or comments arising from this rather busy report!

[Vivienne.clifford.jackson@gmail.com](mailto:Vivienne.clifford.jackson@gmail.com); [/vcliffordjackson@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:/vcliffordjackson@s-norfolk.gov.uk); 01508 571346/ 07717 296202

## District Councillors Report for Flordon PC August 2020

South Norfolk Council continues to operate remotely with many staff still working from home. A risk assessment is being conducted at the offices but no date for reopening has been decided. Meanwhile Council meetings continue to be conducted by video conferencing. All meetings usually open to the public are still accessible similarly.

The Development Management Committee continues to meet with limited numbers of members. It may continue to do so indefinitely.

Many meetings have been held with officials at Broadland District Council with intention of forming joint policies and management. It is hoped that these will lead to some financial savings.

HMG has recently introduced its new Planning Policy. It is likely that this will require primary legislation, so the detail is currently unclear. Meanwhile there is pressure for Local Government to change to a Unitary form. This could affect Norfolk as early as next year.

The Village Cluster part of the GNLPP continues to be assessed. This will need to be completed before the main part of the plan can progress. At the last count some 450 sites were put forward and the opportunity for inclusion has now closed.

I am lobbying for improved Pharmacy services in the local area particularly Wymondham, Hethersett and Mulbarton. The provision is a complicated process involving The County Council, NHS England and the local Pharmaceutical Committee. I am having regular meetings with Senior NHS managers regarding the restoration of normal Health Services following the CV outbreak.

Nigel Legg