

Burgh Castle Parish Council

Chairman: Trevor Greenacre Vice Chairman: Bob Grimmer

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2017 at Burgh Castle Village Hall

Present: Cllrs T. Greenacre (Chair), B. Grimmer, T. Austin, J. Hogg, W. Griffiths, P. Nichols, B. Swan, K. Palmer (Clerk), and 9 members of the public including Borough Cllr Lawn.

The public section commenced at 7.30pm

PUBLIC SECTION

-Following a site meeting with the Highway Engineer, County Cllr Smith has advised that all works at the Cherry Tree Corner and the Mill Road cutting back of trees will be done in the next few weeks, and will be funded from his annual budget.

-The following statement has been issued from the Norfolk Archaeological Trust concerning the fields at the Fort:

The Trust has issued a six month licence to Luke Harris to graze up to 8 horses on the field adjacent to Butt Lane, with the option of moving them onto the field near the church if necessary.

The site has a ragwort problem which means we have to pay a local farmer to top most of the fields as they can't be baled for hay. Topping is not the best way of managing grass and isn't good for biodiversity. As an experiment we are testing out whether horse grazing can help us to manage the grass better. They will isolate the ragwort so that we will be able to treat it by weed wiping and get it under control. We will then have options to either continue grazing or manage fields as hay.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has been consulted on this management. If this preliminary pilot works, we may move the horses, and possibly some cattle, on to other fields on site in rotation.

The Trust was keen to minimise disruption to access to the Butt Lane field by installing the electric fencing and keeping most of the permissive paths open. We put signs on every pedestrian gate into the field to alert people to this change which pointed out that dogs should be on leads; and the grazer installed warning signs on the fencing. We also left a very wide access area between the electric fence and the hedge. The environmental health officer at Gt Yarmouth visited the site and has confirmed that these arrangements complied with HSE requirements.

Unfortunately several of these signs were taken down by visitors and we received complaints that the fence was not visible enough.

In view of these concerns, and in order to ensure safety of visitors, dogs and horses the Trust has made the decision to close the field to public access over winter while the horses are present.

Public rights of way through the Fort site, and permissive access to the rest of the site (around 40 acres) are still open as usual, including free access to the Fort. The electric fencing has been turned off but left it in position to prevent the horses grazing an area of set-aside (part of our countryside stewardship agreement).

A plan showing alternative paths and open access at the site is available on the news page of the Trust's website: <http://norfarchtrust.org.uk/content/temporary-field-closure-burgh-castle-fort>

-An update has been received from the Broads Authority stating that they have been awarded more money from the Heritage Lottery Fund which will be of benefit to the whole Broads area.

With no further business the main meeting commenced at 7.35pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from County Cllr Smith and Borough Cllr Myers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on the 09/10/17 had been prior circulated by the Clerk to all members. To accept the minutes as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Grimmer, Seconded

Cllr Nichols. All In Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Grimmer stated he is hoping to start the installation of the planter and fencing at the village sign in the next few weeks.

5. CHERRY TREE CORNER

This item was updated in the public section.

6. PLANNING

06/17/0378/F Burgh Hall, Lords Lane Change of use: 4 lodges & 3 camping pods
For the above application it was agreed there was no objection to the siting of the lodges and pods subject to any comments made by NCC Highways. However concerns were raised that the application would increase the volume of traffic on local roads such as the A143, Stepshort, Mill Road and Lords Lane, which already suffer from a high volume of traffic. Also if the application is approved the Parish Council would like to see a restricted license of no more than 11 months a year occupancy.

06/17/0691/F 71 Butt Lane, (Plot 3) Retrospective app- design changes
The above application was strongly objected to because of the loss of allocated parking space on the plot. It was felt by some members the conversion should be taken down and rebuilt so it is in line with the original plans.

Tree Preservation Orders Granted:

BA/2017/0003/TPO The Old Rectory, Church Road

BA/2017/0002/TPO The Lodge, Church Farm, Church Road

Applications Granted:

06/17/0575/F Shrubland, Mill Rd Replace 1 metre fence with 2 metre at front of property

06/17/0578/F Hove-To, Back Lane Replacement of porch and breakfast room extension

7. SPEED WATCH

Cllr Griffith gave the following report:

The group are still getting out as much as possible during the winter months. However from time to time are still being abused by some members of the public. There has been one serious incident in particular which is currently being investigated by the Police therefore no details can be given. After attending a Police Speedwatch Summit in Wymondham it was very helpful listening to other Coordinators from the Norfolk area. The second set of data from the Sam2 has been downloaded, information has been in averages however we are working towards retrieving daily highest speeds. Cllr Swan added that following reporting a car parked on double yellow line to the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers, they promptly came out and the issue was dealt with.

8. PARISH PRECEPT

The Clerk reported she is waiting for confirmation from the Finance Dept at GYBC concerning possible cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant which in previous years has been passed onto the Parishes from the Borough Council. A draft of the precept has been issued to all Councillors however it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting for discussion when all the information has been received.

9. NCC PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

The Clerk reported a quotation has been received from NCC Highways for the Church Triangle project which total cost came to £2500. As the area is on private property Highways have agreed

that Bateman Ground Works can also provide a quotation. Bateman's have been contacted and the Clerk is currently waiting for a reply, therefore this matter will be an agenda item at the next meeting to be finalised.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To Propose the sheet below for payment Cllr Swan, Seconded Cllr Grimmer. All In Favour.

Cheque Number	Detail	Amount
101194	Kate Palmer salary 376.64 less tax £75.40	£301.24
101195	Sage Gardening	£394.75
101196	HMRC Kate Palmer tax 75.40	£75.40
101197	Nina Dockerty wage	£78.75
101198	Pink Office paper and ink (vat 13.19)	£79.14
101199	Came & Company Insurance	£379.56
	Total	£1,308.84

-The Clerk reported the Councils insurance is the second year of a three year term, therefore no other quotations are needed.

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA, PLUS TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

-Parish Partnership Scheme -2018/19 Precept -Speed Watch

The next meeting is Monday 11th December 2017 at 7.30pm

-It was noted the defibrillator training is being held on 30th November at 6pm.

-The next Funday Meeting is being held on held on 22nd November at 7pm

With no further business the meeting finished at 8.12pm