

**MINUTES**  
**Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**On Zoom Cloud Meetings Platform**

1. **Present:-** Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice Chairman), Mr J Nichols, Mr B Shelton, Mrs G Soanes, Mr P Button, Mr K Blowers, Mr S Perks, Miss M Wright, Mr R Leach, Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr James Reeder, and 1 parishioner was present.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies of absence were received from Mrs Barbara Shaw and Cllr Keith Robinson
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were approved.
4. **Declaration of interests:** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **15 Minutes for Parishioners input** - Agenda suspended for this item:  
A parishioner who has recently moved into the area asked when the footpaths on the prison site would be installed. Cllr Paul Ashdown said he would look into this and report back.  
The parishioner also asked about the process for planning applications. Cllr Paul Ashdown advised him to contact the Planning Department at East Suffolk and discuss it with the Planning Officer he also recommended doing a Pre-planning Application.

**6. Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors)**

Keith Blowers raised the recent issue that occurred at the Skate Park where a gathering was held and it was reported that no social distancing was being observed and insults were thrown when challenged. Graham confirmed that he had been approached by a family who wished to pay tribute to a member of their family who had recently died and had enjoyed using the Skate Park by releasing balloons, and that he had opened the gates so they could park at the Village Hall. It was accepted that emotions were probably running high but this and the Social Distancing issue was a matter for the Police not the Parish Council. The conversation then moved on to whether or not to open the Skate Park, Mel had provided a copy of the Guidance from the Government relevant to opening Skate Parks and it was felt that the Parish Council would have great difficulty in ensuring compliance, and as such it was decided that the Skate Park should remain shut. The Play Park is still prohibited from being opened.

Melanie Wright reported that there was a tree on the Millennium Green that was overhanging the path, in addition she reported that the path also needed attention and if replaced perhaps the “painted pebbles” could be made a feature of any new path. Graham confirmed that the Community Payback Scheme had been arranged to do this work but because of the Coronavirus this had been delayed. It was also noted that the original document from the Millennium Green Trust on the transfer of the Green to the Parish Council would need to be looked at to see if there were any restrictions on the type of path that can be laid.

Paul Button said he had been informed by a parishioner who had suffered from the spate of burglaries in the village that the Police had arrested and prosecuted 4 people all who had pleaded guilty to multiple offenses, they are due to be sentenced on 20<sup>th</sup> July at Norwich Crown Court.

Following a report from a parishioner, Paul Button also confirmed that he had inspected the Footpath between Meadowlands and The Street and reported that the path was in a dreadful state. It is currently closed due to a fallen tree but seriously overgrown and impassable and that he felt that the vegetation and trees were all rooted on the footpath and not in private residences. Cllr James Reeder said that he would have a look at the footpath and did note that sometimes fences were not necessarily on the boundaries of properties. It was agreed to get a quote from a tree surgeon for the Sycamore tree, with a possibility of

the Parish Council funding the reinstating of the footpath.

Sam Perks reported that the grass verges have been cut around the village. He also requested an update on the repair of the Village Sign. Graham said he would ask Ken Ward for an update.

Graham Wade reported that the Parish Council Notice Board at Lakeside Rise is in a poor state and needs replacing. It was suggested that Badger Builders may like to contribute to the cost of a replacement.

**7. District Councillors Report: (Cllr P Ashdown)**

Cllr Paul Ashdown stated that we should soon be receiving a letter regarding grass cutting asking if there are some areas that don't need cutting, thereby allowing the growth of wild flowers and being more environmentally friendly. Paul confirmed that communication needed to be clear so that areas to be left were not cut in error. Sam Perks said it would be nice if the central reservation of the A47 was cut! Cllr Ashdown confirmed that all District Council meetings were being held remotely and that Community Partnership Meetings would soon be rescheduled. He also commented that the fund could be used to help with problems that have arisen from the pandemic.

**8. County Councillors Report: (Cllr James Reeder, Cllr Keith Robinson)**

Cllr Reeder stated that the advice and guidance provided regarding Covid 19 had been amazing and changed and updated on a daily basis and that they were now starting to look at the recovery stage. He felt that Suffolk was in a good place now with a small number of deaths, that the situation in nursing homes had stabilised and localised test and trace was in place. They were aware that mental health was being coming more of an issue and that is it important to now come out safely from the lockdown.

**9. Planning:**

The following plan was reviewed and recommended for approval.

DC/20/1588/FUL - Taylors Cottage Market Lane Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AW  
Demolition of garage Construction of new garage, porch, summer room at ground floor and bedroom, landing & ensuite at first floor

**10. Land off Queensway – Cadent Gas Ltd – Gas Apparatus**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

**11. Telecoms Mast**

The Clerk reported that she had one conversation with Nicholas Rudge of Durrants who said that the since a new code was introduced in 2018 rents offered have been significantly reduced, he therefore felt that the offer made was reasonable but that he would do his best.

**12. Finances**

John Nichols said that following an initial misunderstanding he now felt that the Parish Council should pay the full cost of the Microsoft Office Suite of Software that the Clerk needs for her computer totalling £119.99 including VAT. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

At the request of the Clerk it was agreed to defer her expenses until later in the year.

**13. Correspondence**

E-mail Bi-Monthly Rough Sleeper Count - Thursday 28th May 2020

John Burroughs – Tree Orchard Close  
Urgent road closure in the Parish of Belton with Browston - water works  
Traffic Regulation Order - Various Roads, Lowestoft/Blundeston/Somerleyton

**14. Any other Business**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm