

**MINUTES**  
**Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020**  
**On Zoom Cloud Meetings Platform**

1. **Present:-** Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice Chairman), Mr J Nichols, Mr B Shelton, Mr K Blowers, Miss M Wright, Mrs B Shaw, Mr P Button, Mr S Perks, Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr James Reeder and 1 parishioner was present.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Keith Robinson, Mr R Leach & Mrs Glenis Soanes.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were approved.
4. **Declaration of interests:** John Nichols declared an interest in the Barkis Meadow application and Sam Perks in the Pound Lane planning application.
5. **15 Minutes for Parishioners input** - Agenda suspended for this item:  
Ken Ward said that the work on the Short Road signs was nearly complete.

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

Melanie Wright said that a parishioner had complained that the hedge at No 51 The Street was overhanging to path. Brian Shelton said he would deliver a letter requesting that it be cut back. Melanie said she had also had complaints regarding the Play Park being used by people outside the village and the number of parked cars on the road. She asked if the Yellow lines were going to be on both sides of the road outside the Village Hall. Cllr James Reeder said he would check. Melanie also asked Sam Perks if he had looked into the “matting” to allow cars to park round the back of the Village Hall. Sam said he would look into it.

At the last meeting Melanie had suggested making a donation to Blundeston in Bloom and was asked to obtain more information regarding their finances. She reported that they have £4,200 in the bank with expenditure estimated at £4,300. They will be receiving £1,000 from SCC Locality Budget to purchase a shed, the remainder would normally have been raised from fund raising which has not occurred because of the pandemic. John Nichols asked the Suffolk & District Councillors if this was an allowable use of public funds. It was felt that if specific items were purchased rather than just a donation this would be allowable but they would check prior to next month’s meeting. Following a long discussion it was agreed to support BIB and to fund specific items if allowed.

Barbara Shaw asked for an update on the Bus Service, James Reeder said he would cover this in his report.

Sam Perks reported an incident of fly tipping along Marsh Lane which has been cleared. He said the resurfacing of the Millennium Green path is currently on hold until work on the pond is completed. Sam also said that he had contacted Cllr Paul Ashdown regarding the felling of the trees on Hall Lane at the old Prison site but had been assured that a Planning Officer had visited the site and trees had only been felled where necessary for access splays and confirmed that there were no TPO’s on the trees. Paul Ashdown said that he would visit the site himself and suggested that if Sam was still unhappy to write to the Planning Department with his concerns.

Brian Shelton said that the work on the Tree behind Meadowlands was scheduled to be done next week. He also said that he has noticed some wear on the Play Park slide complex treads which will need monitoring.

Graham praised the work done on the Millennium Green. John Nichols said he was concerned regarding the number of docks. Paul Button said he had asked Matt Gooch of Suffolk Wildlife, who now lives in the village, for some suggestions. When received he will forward them to the Clerk.

In her absence Glenis Soanes asked for an update on the Grant for the Village Hall Porch. Graham said that no application had been submitted as no grants were available for the foreseeable future and asked for this to be an Agenda item at the next meeting.

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

Paul Ashdown confirmed that there would be meeting of the Northern Parishes Community Partnership next Wednesday at 6.00pm on Zoom and he confirmed that the projects outlined were still going ahead. He noted that the Parish Council were not happy about the trees felled at the Prison Site and he would visit the site and discuss it with the Planning Officer.

Regarding “Wilmar” Paul read out the following extract from an e-mail from the Planning Officer. “I looked at this and have to say it is not a design I particularly like, although I am assured by colleagues in enforcement that it has been measured and the height reflects what has been built. I think the issue is the flat roof form and blank brick wall produces a scale that looks much taller than neighbouring properties. I note also the new application for a fire escape stairwell, which I understand is required to make the scheme accord with building regs. I have concerns with the design and amenity implications of that external stair, and have asked Matthew to liaise with Mark Harvey to explore other ways of making the scheme acceptable under building regulations. Hopefully we can find a resolution to that, but will keep you in the loop.”

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

Cllr James Reeder updated the meeting on the funding situation with the proposed footpath between The Plough & Barkis Meadow estimated to cost between £9,500 & £10,500. He stated that if the Parish Council were to fund the whole project there would be additional charges of 20% & 18%. Whilst both County Councillors have committed their Highways Locality budget to the speed limit reduction project, he felt that funds to pay at least 50% of the cost could be found thus removing the additional 20% & 18% charges. There were some questions regarding siting of the footpath, waste water and resident approval, all of which would all be addressed at the design stage. The Parish Councillors reaffirmed that they were happy for James to proceed with this project. It was also noted that CIL money could be used for this project.

With regard to the reinstatement of the village Bus service, James reported that the response from the volunteers had been positive but he had been unable to contact Dick Smith to ascertain a resumption date. He hoped to provide an update to the Clerk by the end of the week.

He confirmed that the Cabinet have agreed funding for the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge for Lowestoft and are chasing the Government to sign off the business plan, this being the final hurdle.

**9. Planning:**

The following applications were discussed recommended for approval:-

DC/20/3088/FUL | Proposed side extension for entrance hall and shower room | Thala Cottage Flixton Road Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5PL

DC/20/3243/FUL | Front and rear extensions to existing bungalow. | The Beeches Lound Road Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AT

DC/20/3216/FUL | Alterations and extensions to farmhouse (residential) | Quainton Pound Lane Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AY

DC/20/3480/TPO | TPO 241 1 x Oak - Reduce limbs overhanging garage by up to 2m to

reduce end weight and avoid the risk of limbs failure in future and remove deadwood | 2  
Osborn Cottages Market Lane Blundeston Suffolk NR32 5AN  
DC/20/3531/FUL | Demolish existing garage/carport. Rebuild new garage/workshop  
(residential) | 2 Hall Lane Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5BL

The following applications were discussed and have outstanding queries to be answered prior to final recommendations being made.

DC/20/2964/FUL | Safety escape staircase at rear of property. | Wilmar Market Lane  
Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AW

DC/20/3278/FUL | Construction of a detached Garage/Store | 16 Barkis Meadow Blundeston  
Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AL

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

The Clerk confirmed that our Solicitors have heard from Eversheds who are acting for Cadent and he confirmed our instructions. He expects to receive a draft lease from Eversheds very soon which he will review and summarise its terms for us.

#### **11. Telecoms Mast**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

#### **12. Litter picking Equipment**

At last month's meeting Cllr Paul Ashdown offered to fund the purchase of litter picking equipment. The Clerk had looked into the contents of the "kits" available and a discussion was held regarding the number of Adult and child pickers required. It was felt that 15 Adult and 5 Child litter pickers along with ancillary equipment would be sufficient. It was therefore agreed to purchase two kits (one with 5 adult & 5 kid, and one with 10 adult litter pickers) at a cost of £171.52 each. As reflective vests were not included Keith Blowers offered to look into sourcing these.

#### **13. Millennium Green**

A discussion was held regarding the wild flower section of the green which has never really worked as originally planned. This was thought to be due to the soil quality. Paul Button offered to cut and dump the grass/weeds and to get the soil tested and as previously noted to look at the recommendations made by Matt Gooch. John Nichols offered to part fund wild flower seed which would need to suit the soil type.

#### **14. Finances**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

#### **15. Correspondence**

E-mail    Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan  
              School Entrance Markings Traffic Regulation Order - East Suffolk  
              Bi-Monthly Rough Sleeper Count - Thursday 3rd of Sep 2020  
              Consultation on Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document

**16. Any other Business**

Graham confirmed that some clubs and societies have started using the Village Hall. He also enquired about the Speed awareness signs, Keith confirmed that he needed to arrange a site visit with James Reeder who confirmed there may be funding available to assist with the cost.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm