

**Minutes of the Meeting of Witton and Ridlington Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm remotely on Zoom**

**Present:** Clive Stockton (Chairman)  
Richard Barker  
Rebecca Barringer  
Gillian Owles  
Eric Seward  
Lucy Shires  
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

**Also present:** Two members of the public was in attendance

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Public Forum**

a) Public

No comments.

b) District Councillor

Clive Stockton reported that archaeological work was taking place from Happisburgh to Ridlington as part of the preliminary works by Vattenfall.

County Councillor

Eric Seward reported that vaccinations for residents in North Walsham were being carried out. It was budget season for most councils including county, district, parish and police. The County Council were proposing a 4% increase, with the police proposing up to 6% and the district proposing 1.99%. Although the government had provided significant sums of money during the pandemic, these would not be continuing indefinitely so an increase was inevitable. It was noted that the setting up of vaccination centres was a logistical challenge, and that North Norfolk had sent Covid information leaflets out to all homes.

**3. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and would be signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) Banking Administration Update

The Clerk reported that all money had been moved across to Unity Trust. Lucy Shires and Eric Seward would need to sign the bank mandates for the new signatories, who would also need to sign the paperwork. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would send the paperwork to Lucy Shires to co-ordinate signatures, and that it would be passed around to the relevant councillors for signing. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) Dog Bins

The new dog bin had not yet been installed, the Clerk was asked to chase this up.

**ACTION: Clerk**

c) Noticeboards

Clive Stockton reported that due to shielding and other family pressures he had not been able to complete the maintenance works to the notice boards, but would do so as soon as possible.

**ACTION: CS**

d) Name of the Parish Council

The Clerk reported that this was in hand with North Norfolk District Council who would include this as part of a forthcoming governance review. He confirmed that he was happy for the Council to use the revised name. The Clerk noted that there were a few instances, such as with the bank or on the Annual Return, that the Council must use 'Witton Parish Council' until the name change is formally completed.

**ACTION: Clerk**

e) Parish Partnership Scheme

It was noted that the application for village gateways did not proceed as they would not achieve the desired effect with the verge space that was available. It was suggested that a site meeting be arranged with the Highways Engineer once restrictions allowed.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**6. Co-option of Parish Councillors**

Amanda Sands had made an application to join the Council. It was **agreed** to co-opt Amanda, proposed by Lucy Shires, seconded by Richard Barker, all in favour. Amanda signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and held it to the screen, then joined the meeting.

**7. Finance**

a) Financial Update

The financial update was noted, reporting that the Council had £10,565.71 in the bank as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Free funds were £2,917.54, plus a general reserve of £4,500.00.

b) Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was **agreed** to appoint Sonya Blythe as internal auditor at a cost of £40.

c) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following:-

C Moore	Salary & Expenses	£300.22
HMRC	PAYE	£66.60
North Norfolk District Council	Dog Bin Emptying – Ebridge Mill	£126.00
Norfolk PTS	Training – 1 councillor	£50.00
Kimberley & Carleton Forehoe PC	Training Contribution	£15.00

**8. Correspondence**

a) Police Budget Consultation

The Police budget consultation was proposing a 5.68% increase in precept. It had been suggested that this would be for extra beat officers, however concern was expressed that the actual increases in crime were in cyber. There was no mention of this being linked to the national recruitment of police officers. It was felt that the key areas of focus for policing should be cyber crime, county lines drug problems, and child abuse. It was felt that crime in Norfolk was relatively low but a local police presence was important. It was **agreed** to respond stating that the proposed increase was supported, but that the Council would like to see focussed policing in the areas highlighted above.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- b) General Correspondence  
None.

**9. Planning**  
None.

**10. Other Matters**

a) Vattenfall Update

Clive Stockton reported that it was possible to book a slot to discuss the scheme with Vattenfall representatives. The Clerk noted that she did not receive any updated from Vattenfall, and Lucy Shires **agreed** to email them to confirm that the Clerk's details were up to date. Lucy reported that she had met with Vattenfall on 11<sup>th</sup> January and it was apparent that work was happening without communities being informed. Vattenfall were saying that community engagement was good. The cables were expected to hit land by 2023, currently drone work was taking place to assess the impact of other works. Communities were pushing for coastal defence support. Archaeological work was taking place, but it was understood that the scheme would go ahead no matter what was found. Tenants and land owners were being compensated, wildlife surveys were underway, and schools had been engaged with the process. It was **agreed** that Vattenfall could be invited to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on Zoom.

**ACTION: Clerk**

b) Rented Land in Witton

This was on hold during lockdown, as face to face discussions with the tenant could not take place.

c) Playing Field Maintenance

The Clerk presented two prices for the playing field grass cutting, noting that she had approached four companies. It was **agreed** to appoint CGM at a cost of £312.50 per annum.

**ACTION: Clerk**

d) Sale of Witton Phone Box

Paston Parish Council had expressed an interest in purchasing the phone box and had asked for a price. A suggested had also been made that the box should be offered to the Village Hall. It had been agreed that the Ridlington box would eventually host a defibrillator for the villages and that the other was redundant. It was suggested that an application could be made to the North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund for the cost of installing a defibrillator.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Rebecca Barringer offered to circulate a survey on future use of the Witton phone box.

**ACTION: ReB**

**11. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

It was agreed to exclude the press and public for item 11(a) as the matter related to staffing.

a) Clerk's Employment

It was **agreed** to extend the Interim Clerk's contract to the end of September 2021.

**12. Items Not Notified for the Agenda (for information only)**

It was noted that complaints had been received that the village sign in Witton was being used as a mounting block by horse riders, and that black bin bags had been fly

tipped there. It was **agreed** to put up an A3 sign asking riders not to mount using the sign structure as it was damaging the base. **ACTION: Clerk**

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm at Witton & Ridlington Village Hall, or on Zoom depending on government guidance at the time.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**