

CLENCHWARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary meeting held 6th January 2022

MINUTES

Present: S Bearshaw; A Bell; N Collison; R Lucas; R Moate; R Moore; T Moore;
K Pell (Chairman); D Whitby; A Winter
Absent: S Edwards; C Swietonowski (see Item 1 below)
In attendance: Four members of the public; J Taylor, Acting Clerk and RFO

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence (LGA1972, s85(1)(2))

C Swietonowski (work commitment); S Edwards (work commitment). Apologies were accepted.

2. To record declarations of interest on any items to be discussed and any applications for dispensation

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held 2nd and 23rd December 2021 as a true record

It was **agreed** that the minutes are approved.

4. To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors, and Chairman and Acting Clerk/RFO

Cllr Kemp gave an update on the Anglian Water construction project, noting that NCC Highways has spent more than £100,000 on repairing roads as a result (see also Item 15).

Illegal fires – Cllr Kemp asked that residents continue to report all incidents with the Environment Agency, and also call the Fire Brigade if a fire appears to be dangerous.

Smallholdings Road – the single yellow lines had been agreed by Highways at a cost of £6,000, which Cllr Kemp would fund from her Members' Highways budget.

Re the Walking and Cycling Implementation Plan – NCC is awaiting funding.

Recruitment of care assistants in Norfolk – NCC had received £5.2m of central government funding to assist.

The Reserved Matters planning application for 1,100 homes at West Winch on the A10 had been submitted (13/01615/OM – the original application), but no plans for a bypass were mentioned. BCKLWN supports a bypass, but there is no funding available. The A10 was 'detrunked' around 2004, which makes it the responsibility of NCC and not national government.

Wisbech incinerator – Cllr Kemp had written to BCKLWN asking the Cabinet to oppose. She noted that the developer had not properly consulted with affected residents.

Cllr Whitby reported nothing new from BCKLWN.

Cllr Pell reported the sad death of former parish councillor Teresa Brandon and expressed the Council's thanks for all that she did for Clenchwarton.

5. Open Forum

A resident raised a previous query regarding comments by the Chairman in the local press. The Chairman responded, saying that having reviewed the piece, he felt the comments made were fair and truthful. He noted that the comments were made in response to a previous press item, and that his full response had not been published, but had been edited. Nonetheless, he felt that the response was appropriate given the historic dissemination of information which he felt was not necessarily accurate.

Cllr Bell raised the issue of the Community Centre Project (CCP) expressing the view that a full discussion of the fundamental basis upon which the project should proceed was necessary. Cllr Pell commented that a meeting of the CCP was planned for later in January.

A resident raised the issue of recent criminal damage to a councillor's property and queried the parish council's response. Varying views were expressed as to the motivation behind the attack. Councillors were clear that any such behaviour was to be deplored.

6. To approve payments schedule for December 2021

The payments were APPROVED.

7. To consider planning applications (if any)

A change of house name was noted.

8. To receive update on play equipment funding bid, and agree any actions

Cllr Bearshaw gave the update. The next meeting would be 17th January. There is a requirement for the Council to ensure sufficient publicity is given to the project and its source of funding. No further actions needed at this time.

9. To consider treeworks in the Closed churchyard

Cllr R Moore had met with the church warden. The view was that the Leylandii trees formed a hedge which therefore did not need a Faculty. Quotes for removal, and then replacement with more appropriate hedging species were being obtained, to include an English willow to be planted to assist with the area tending to flood. Cllr Bell cautioned that it may be the case that a Faculty is needed after all and checks with the Reverend were needed. Cllr R Moore to progress.

ACTION: R MOORE

10. To discuss proposed new footpath/cyclepath and its funding (Millennium Way)

Cllr Kemp confirmed that she had requested this be included in the Walking and Cycling Plan, but emphasised that there is no funding as yet for this, unless there were to be a change of policy at Norfolk County Council level. Cllr Pell queried whether the path from West Lynn to Millennium Way could be extended down Ferry Road. Cllr Kemp responded that if more funding were made available, for instance, via climate change provisions, then it potentially could be.

Cllr Pell also queried whether, in anticipation of more housing in Ferry Road, a path could be installed. Cllr Lucas suggested that a generic mandate be created to put forward for all significant development applications, to be sure that infrastructure provision is not overlooked. It was agreed that all councillors would consider this and contribute ideas for the next meeting.

ACTION: ALL

11. To receive update on Operation London Bridge/confirm template protocol

Acting Clerk confirmed that appropriate contact at BCKLWN had been contacted; response awaited. Cllr Whitby agreed to provide the name(s) of the relevant Deputy Lieutenant(s) to provide guidance.

ACTION: CLERK/WHITBY

12. To discuss HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, June 2022

Cllr Lucas queried how arrangements would be communicated to residents. It was AGREED that a working party be formed, to include Cllr Winter, and that publicity be provided for the parish magazine and noticeboards. Cllr Bearshaw suggested that the newly-equipped play area could be opened at the same time.

13. To receive update on operation of councillor email accounts

It was AGREED in principle that councillors would have specific emails for council work, in a set format. Cllr Lucas outlined the various options, and current progress with one provider. He agreed to progress, looking at Microsoft and Google provision. To be on next agenda.

ACTION: LUCAS

14. To discuss business continuity plan

Cllr Lucas had previously circulated this. It was intended to minimise the risk of business interruption; it included a list of relevant telephone numbers (also needed for an associated 'Disaster Pack') and circulation. It was agreed that this should be on the next agenda.

15. To discuss proposed works by Anglian Water and agree response

Cllr Kemp explained that the works were intended to provide additional storage capacity, to reduce risk of flooding during exceptional weather events. Anglian Water have Permitted Development Rights to do so (other works are covered by Planning Permission). Cllr Moate clarified that there would be a storage tank to prevent excess water having to be discharged into the river. Anglian Water has given undertakings that the works will not result in additional use of the highway. Cllr Bearshaw suggested that notification of the works be posted on the parish council website.

16. Update on village signpost and necessity for replacement of post

The sign had been delivered to Cllr Whitby by the restorer. Cllrs Whitby, Bearshaw and R Moore agreed to inspect the post.

ACTION: BEARSHAW/R MOORE/WHITBY

17. To agree action on village Christmas tree

Cllr Bearshaw noted that a proposal of planting a 'permanent' Christmas tree had been discussed a while ago, in part because of the difficulty of obtaining trees each year. Subject to a double-check on ownership of proposed site (Cllr Bearshaw agreed to consult with Highways), and suitable and safe electricity supply, it was proposed that a tree be planted. Eight in favour; two abstentions. RESOLVED. Cllr Pell further queried whether one or two trees should be planted; it was AGREED that one was sufficient. To be followed up at next meeting. **ACTION: BEARSHAW**

18. To agree dates of Committees 2022/23

It was confirmed that Full Council would remain first Thursday of every month. Finance and Personnel Committee chairmen confirmed that meetings every other month, in the two weeks prior to Full Council, should be sufficient. First date for Finance Committee suggested as 19th January (*subsequently changed to 26th*); and Personnel Committee 27th January and 24th March.

9.04pm: The Council AGREED to continue the meeting past the two-hour period prescribed in Standing Orders.

19. Staffing issues, update

Acting Clerk gave an update to councillors. No further action required at the present time.

20. To receive items for the next meeting

Cllr Bell – to discuss the constitution of the body which will progress the Community Centre Project.

Cllr Lucas – to discuss and agree building a compound for waste containment at The Pavilion.

21. Date of next meeting

3rd February 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date