



LEZIATE & ASHWICKEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th MARCH 2023 FROM 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr Jason Ess (JE) – Chair. Cllrs. Adrian Bramwell (AB), G Mathias (GM) & A Blatch (ABL)
Borough Councillor Michael de Whalley (MW), County Councillor Jim Moriarty (JM) & the Parish Clerk.

No members of the public present.

1. WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR

2. PARISHIONERS 15 MINUTE FORUM:

No parishioners present

3. a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

Cllr Manning – civic duties, Cllr Dickerson – work (received after 5pm)

b. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

None

4. Approval of the circulated minutes from the meeting held on the 13th of February 2023
Proposed GM, seconded AB and all in favour who attended the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

5.1 Ashwicken Lakes: MW confirmed that the planning application has been withdrawn which is great news. However, it is anticipated that a new application could be made in the future but the same issues would need to be tackled - the floating accommodation, flooding issues, impact on the environment and NCC road issues.

MW was thanked for his hard work and dedication along with the residents including former Cllr Large. AB raised the point that the Minerals & Waste plan would also impact on future applications and the two projects would not be compatible.

5.2 Traffic Project: Cllr Moriarty is chasing Highways for an update and confirmed that the £10k is banked towards the project. GM made the point regarding white centre lines would be really helpful, especially in the dark.

5.3 Broadband speeds: ABL had sent out flyers to all Glosthorpe Manor residents regarding the poor speeds and had a 30% response. JM requested details and will take this further.

ACTION JM

6. PLANNING: to consider: -

6.1 Applications - None

6.2 Decisions – None

6.3 Enforcement at Red Gate Farm – ABL advised that this was now closed having been fully complied, however that the enforcement notice for Zenon House 62 East Winch Road Ashwicken is still ongoing and the owner has been advised to carry out specific works in order to avoid formal action with the deadline being 3 March 2023.

7. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

7.1 Cllr de Whalley -

MW attended the recent public meeting on the incinerator and the representation were very good with the examiner appearing to be impressed. The Borough will be submitting their response and MW has submitted his. The Local Plan Review examination was discussed and the proposed large development at West Winch was proposed to move to Downham Market or Watlington where rail access was close by was mentioned again. The Settlement Hierarchy Ashwicken as a rural village with consideration as a small village/Hamlet requires our attention and further information to follow after the consultation, possibly in the autumn.

NDP's that are already approved and those currently in the process, will not be affected by any revised housing allocations. However, any new plans would be. The Parish Council will review the possibility of an NDP after the May meeting.

The next round of CIL applications will be in July and MW advised that the entrance and parking at the Village Hall should be re-applied for. The Parish Council need to make a full and complete application and include as many users' responses as possible.

7.2: Cllr Manning: (report as sent)

As previously advised, I cannot be present this evening as I'm attending the 42F squadron of the ATC in Loke Rd K/Lynn as consort to the Mayor. I was with Lesley last Wednesday evening at a civic event in Downham organised by the Mayor of D/Market and have other events lined up including one in May (it's after the election - as the Mayor remains in office until the handover at the first full council and mayor making on May 18, this is regardless of whether or not she remains a councillor) . I'm quite keen to attend this one, as it's at Bressingham Gardens near Diss and I believe they have steam railway engines which I would very much like to see ! Another reminder that in the local elections this time that people attending to. Vote in person must have some photo ID - also an out of date passport is acceptable to vote if the photo is still recognisable.....but are they ever !

Following budget approval at council on 23 February, council taxpayers can check what their bill for 2023-24 will be and what are the monthly direct debit payments etc. However , as I discovered when I tried to log into My Revenues on the borough website, your password is only valid for 3 months, so if it's expired , as mine had, click on forgotten password and the system will generate a code to allow you to access the site and to allow you to input and then confirm your new chosen password. Although irritating at the time , suppose it kind of helps protect sensitive information.

There will be two Planning Committee meetings in April to try to clear applications as it's likely the next one , in the new administration, will be in June. So, the usual meeting is on Monday 3rd and the extra one is on the 24th.

Apart from collecting used batteries (not car batteries) , small electrical items such as hairdryers, toasters etc but not microwaves, dishwashers and other large appliances etc are now starting to be collected by Serco (the borough's waste and recycling contractor) Message cards will be hung on the green or black bins advising residents when the scheme starts in their area. It's requested that residents use this new initiative as and when individual items need to be disposed , and NOT to try and get rid of several small appliances at the same collection , because there is restricted space on the lorries.

7.3 Cllr Moriarty :

The consultation is taking place for the Directly Elected Leader and the funding on offer would not cover the expense over the next 20 years as it is not index linked.

Currently the NCC is looking at a £60m deficit for next year. There is a meeting tomorrow of the Select Committee on climate strategy re zero emissions by 2030.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:

8.1 The Voice – no response received regarding Speedwatch volunteers and in next edition, make it quite clear that the facility will be lost if no volunteers come forward. Call for residents to stand for parish councillors at the forthcoming election.

Thank Borough and County Councillors for their continued help and support over the last year. ACTION Clerk

8.2 Fencing Repairs – still no quotes and GM advised that he has details of a reliable business and will pass these onto JE.

8.3 Common Land – JE confirmed the area and will send out maps of the area.

ACTION JE

8.4 Repair of both noticeboards – again no work has taken place and JE to chase.

8.5 Re FT29 footpath issues – clerk had emailed Mr. Williamson but no response to date.

8.6 ABL reported that a Bird Scarer at Norfolk Farm Produce was reported as going off every 15 minutes from 6.30am every day. This did not meet the NFU requirements, and a representative of the Borough Council visited the site and agreed it was too loud and too close to residents. The scarer has now been moved further away.

9. FINANCE:

9.1 Bank Reconciliation, payments, bank statements & payments/receipts for February proposed by AB, seconded ABL and all in favour.

9.2 Payments for March (to date) approved by AB, seconded GM, and all in favour.

GM made the point that the cost of emptying the dog bins at £ 624 per year was high and JM to ask if the contractors can advise on low used bins. ACTION MdW/ JM

10. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:

10.1 JE - SAM & Speedwatch – SAM –No update on the SAM unit. The Speedwatch team are lacking volunteers and may have to give the equipment back.

10.2 JE – Village Hall – the CCTV is now in place and AB has a spare monitor.

Now looking at a defibrillator along with the £1k funding available from BCKLWN Exterior cabinet to be taken into account.

10.3 JE/ABL- Play Areas – No problems at either area reported and being used regularly.

10.4 GM – Bus Shelters – the shelter on the border with Bawsey has had graffiti on the window and clerk advised that specialist cleaning may be required. JE to check.

10.5 SD– Fen & Brands Wood – no report received from SD.

10.6 Footpaths – Clerk had written to Mr. Williamson regarding footpath 29 signage has not been re-installed, but no response to date.

10.7 JL – Highways – a large and deep pothole is on the junction with the B1145 and East Winch Road. Check to see if it has already been reported.

10.8 CB – Clerk update – Working on polices & procedures for the year end audit and will be starting on the AGAR in April for approval at the May meeting. Attended webinars on the Norfolk Deal and the Wash Barrage.

May election forms given out for completion. The proposed reduction in meetings from 10 to 7 was approved and clerk to update the website. The hall will remain booked for the 10 dates in case of an extraordinary meeting. ACTION Clerk

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- a. Receive updates on the Traffic Project survey.
- b. Election results

12. The next Meeting will start at 7.00pm on the 19th of May 2023 with the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.55

Signature

Date

