

LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Andrew Parker

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19th of JULY 2021 FROM 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Parker (AP) (Chair), Cllr. Adrian Bramwell (AB), Cllr Andy Blatch (ABL), Cllr Jason Ess (JE), Cllr Jon Large (JL), Cllr Stuart Dickerson (SD) and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk. Borough Cllr Michael de Whalley (MdW) and 8 members of the public.

1. **WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR**
2. **PARISHIONERS 15 MINUTE FORUM:**

One of the Ashwicken school governors raised the issue of the increased traffic outside the school and on East Winch Road with this issue going back to a visit from Henry Bellingham, the MP at the time. Other schools in the area have 30mph limits so why do we have 40mph? There is an increase in HGV,s and with an unclassified road, no lighting, white lines or footpath, parents are no longer walking their children to school on East Winch Road due to the speed and increasing numbers of vehicles. Recently there have been incidents with horse riders and pedestrians. The school has parking for up to 35 cars and there has been 120 cars doing the school run now.

Cllr Mathias sent the following comments –“The records show that the PC has addressed this issue over many years and that it applies throughout the Hamlet. We have been unsuccessful in seeking a reduction to 30 mph. JE has been at the forefront of ensuring that vehicular speed is recorded, and he provides sound evidence of what that reveals – year on year. I have repeatedly flagged that attention needs to be given to reminding the authorities (amongst a host of other reasons) of Braking distance as it applies to a vehicle travelling 30 or 40 mph and also that of ‘thinking + braking distance as it applies to those two speeds.

Given the adverse make-up of our roads these two measurements , in my view, contribute to making a compelling case to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph both in Ashwicken and Leziate. “

A request was made for the Highways Department to review this situation as a matter of urgency. AB mentioned the zig zag signage and there was no evidence that this slowed vehicles down. Clerk to write to our County Councillor for help in this matter. ACTION CB

Concern was raised again regarding the excessive parking especially at weekends with visitors to Bawsey Country Park and the Sailing Club and over the last weekend vehicles were parked on both sides of Brow of the Hill, partly blocking the road and an emergency vehicle would have struggled to get through. On Sunday tractors could not get through and some car owners did move to allow passage. AP advised we were holding a log of events as advised by parishioners and MdW had recently met with the new police inspector, and they appeared keen on the idea of a clearway on Brow of the Hill and East Winch Road.

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Signature

Date

County Councillors do have a budget for highways expenditure and costs could be high along with consideration on the effect of displacement.

Due to the vehicles parking on the footpath, parishioners were forced to walk on the road and into traffic. Verbal abuse had been received again. The parking at Bawsey is £15 per day which is why people are choosing to park free in our parish.

To date the police involvement has not been very forthcoming and MdW was happy to proceed/push this issue at Borough Council level. Clerk to write to our County Councillor on this. ACTION CB

It was agreed to put an article in the next edition of the Voice asking for residents to contribute as the more complaints should help.

3. a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

Cllrs Graham Mathias, Colin Manning, and Jim Moriarty.

b. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Cllr Parker re Planning Old Rectory and Cllrs Ess & Large re Planning Holly Lodge.

4. Approval of the Circulated minutes from the meeting held on the 21st of June 2021.

Acceptance proposed ABL, seconded JE and motion accepted by all present.

Matters arising from the meeting on the 21st of June:

4.1 Ashwicken Lakes: MdW advised that nothing to add at present but to keep sending long involved comments to planning. More objections would be forthcoming from the parish council. ABL reported a camera trap on the entrance.

Anti-Social Behaviour: As discussed under item 2.

5. PLANNING:

Planning to consider: -

5.1 Extension to existing garage and detached garden pavilion at Holly Lodge – although considered close to the boundary, no objections raised. Note Cllrs Ess and Large declared interest and did not take part in the discussions or decisions.

5.2 Proposed Extensions and renovation at The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Ashwicken. No issues raised.

5.3 Replacement dwelling Old Rectory Cottage, Church Lane, Ashwicken – there was a lack of drawings regarding demolition but noted that the footpaths were preserved. Considered to “tidy up” the various extensions already in place. No other issues raised. NOTE for 5.2 & 5.3 Cllr Parker left the room.

5.4 Reserved matters application for the development of 7 dwellings, garages and provision of replacement clubhouse, Leziate Park Country Club – Several issues were raised including the size of the clubhouse and its construction, parking, 2 drawings on the application were not in the correct location. Overall, no extreme objections and the points to be noted in our comments for consideration not to support as is.

6. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. de Whalley –

Advised that he and Cllr Manning had met with the new police inspector and pressing for the clearways as discussed under point 2. Any antisocial behaviour to be logged with the police and continue to log on the website.

CIL funding meeting is on the 22nd and with a pot of £1.9m the applications received does not come to this figure so looking good. Advised not to spend the application funding in advance.

The incinerator proposal at Wisbech is only 12 miles away and could affect our roads with the additional HGV but the reinstatement of the rail link was under discussion and considered a good option.

There is a town fund meeting tomorrow with the Guildhall as a priority.

The proposed multi-user hub at the former Argos store is no longer going ahead. Concerns raised regarding the Carnegie Library building as considered not fit for purpose.

The Walking and Cycling route on the B1145 is under consideration with Matt Hayward.

Cllr. Moriarty –

Please accept my apologies for this evening's meeting, as you will know both Leziate and Shouldham PC meet on this respective Monday and so have to alternate but I am happy to submit my report as follows:

Since the PC's last meeting I have reported back to the Chair on my meeting with officers on site to discuss the possibility of both East Winch Road and Brow of the Hill becoming clearways and I await feedback from the PC and community. This will not be cheap, but it is a solution, and I will be a strong advocate and supporter.

Having received agreement from a recent SNAP meeting that ASB in Leziate would be one of the three adopted priorities from April to July, I noted that only one ASB incident had been reported to the police. This makes it harder to press the case for police presence. Perhaps we could discuss this at the next PC meeting ?

Tripling the number of Roadside Nature Reserves in Norfolk is among a range of green measures considered by county councillors last week at The Infrastructure and Development Select Committee.

Fewer cuts for rural roadsides, a pollinator action plan, and 188 more roadside nature reserves are all on the cards as part of plans to boost biodiversity along roads and paths across the county.

The report states that the proposals will help support ambitions in the County Council's Environmental Policy that was approved in November 2019. It says that sympathetic management of roadside verges can provide a connected habitat for insects and wildlife.

Also on the agenda were plans to help boost cycling and walking across the county, and development of a new verge management policy which will include information for parish and town councils wishing to take on responsibility for verge cutting in their local area. The aim is to help involve local communities more in decisions about verge management near them.

Members of the committee noted progress on a 3-year nature recovery demonstrator pilot project for roadside verges alongside Suffolk County Council. This will inform development of a monitoring mechanism for habitat connectivity for the emerging Norfolk and Suffolk 25 Year Environment Plan.

A plan set to drive the county's transport policy for the next 15 years was also to be discussed at the same meeting.

The Local Transport Plan allegedly has at its heart the aim to support a growing economy, strengthen communities and reduce our impact on the environment.

A carbon cutting commitment is central to the transport plan which supports the county council's pledge to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, which councillors adopted as part of the authority's Environmental Policy in November 2019.

The plan sets out how the county council will seek to make sure that shorter journeys can be made by active travel and meet the Government's objective for England to be "a great walking and cycling nation".

Key challenges that the plan seeks to address include carbon reduction and air quality. Rural bus services also feature heavily in the plan as it's acknowledged that connections to essential services and facilities remain a challenge, particularly in rural areas.

To help address this the authority has already committed to an enhanced bus partnership, setting out how the county council will work together with bus operators, and a Bus Service Improvement Plan is in development.

I have had the following response from officers following the email from School Governor Large:

"This is one which has been raised previously by residents and the parish council and if I remember rightly, Henry Bellingham got involved.

40 mph is the appropriate limit as per the speed management strategy. Although I can imagine it is difficult to walk or cycle to the school with there being no footway the provision of such a facility would be massive undertaking as there would need to be extensive land purchase etc to install at a massive cost for which the funds are not available.

The implementation of such things as weight restrictions only serve to push the traffic onto other less appropriate routes.

We have also had requests for traffic calming in the past, but this is based on the accident record in the main but backed up by data such as average speeds etc. I recall attending a Parish Meeting where the data was presented from the SAM 2 signs which showed that the average speed down there was 42MPH which we consider good compliance."

7. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Church Lane Bus Shelter – SD had received a complaint regarding the condition of this bus shelter and the road sign. The shelter is checked regularly and is in good order and the sign has been reported to Borough as advised by Cllr Mathias.

7.2 The Voice – as discussed under item 2

7.3 Play area equipment – one quote had been received and the clerk was asked to obtain 2 further quotes.

ACTION CB

8. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:

8.1 JE - SAM Warden: current locations have another week to run. On East Winch Road at the school end the 85% percentile was 39.3mph with 1 at 66mph at 16.40pm. Average vehicles 557 per day which shows a slight increase.

8.2 JE – Village Hall – Minutes sent out by clerk and to discuss moving our meetings from the 3rd Monday to the 2nd Monday each month. This was passed and clerk to confirm with the booking officer.

ACTION CB

Quotes for the gates are £2k plus planning permission with the retractable bollards at £890 plus VAT, 2 speed bumps would cost £1650 plus VAT.

8.3 JE/ABL- Play Areas: ABL advised in Glosthorpe area in regular use and JE advised the Village Hall play area looking very tired.

8.4 GM – Bus Shelters: these require the overgrown foliage still to be removed and clerk had asked P Jones to clear.

8.5 AP – Fen & Brands Wood: no problems.

8.6 AB – Neighbourhood Watch – new campaign launched “why ‘sling your hook’? which looks at how scammers work. Looking at the psychology around why people fall victims to scams and to help them.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectfromfraud>

8.7 JL – Footpaths – JL had sent out an updated comprehensive report on footpaths and highways to follow. Jon was thanked for his dedication.

8.8 JL – Highways – suggestion to reinstate verges rather than trying to cover them when pot hole repairing which leads to deterioration.

8.9 CB – Clerk update – The new co-option policy and all policies and procedures to be checked in August and duly dated with key ones to be approved at the September meeting. This gives more time to ensure all are up to date.

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- 8.10 SD- The village sign has been checked and the best route would be to have a new oak post – as per quote £130 from SD.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1 The June Bank Reconciliation, payments & receipts, bank statements had been sent out to all councillors. Approval proposed by AB and seconded by AP. Motion accepted.
- 9.2 Payments for July ,
P Jones 420.19
East Coast Signs 316.80
Village Hall Hire £36.00 (2 months)
Staff costs – standing order.
proposed JL, seconded ABL and motion carried.
Statement of Account:
Current balance was £17,901.94 as at 30.06.21 as on bank reconciliation.
- 9.3 The Quarter 1 review was discussed, and clerk covered the notes.
Acceptance proposed AP, seconded SD and motion carried.

10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- a. Receive updates on Ashwicken Lakes planning application.
- b. Receive updates on anti-social behaviour, parking and speeding.
- c. School speed limit discussions.
- d. Speedwatch update.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting scheduled would take place on Monday the 13th of September from 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm