

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM IN OVINGTON VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Cllrs Karen Weir (KW) Chair, T Birt (TB), Dave Welsted and Jeremy Woods (JW).

In attendance: The Clerk, CC Bowes and 8 members of the public

887. To receive any **apologies:** Cllr P Bate and DC Crane

888. To accept any declaration(s) of interests. None

889. Minutes of the meeting held in July 2021 were **approved**.

890. Matters Arising.

- There is no news about the Diocesan Tree Survey. **Clerk to request a copy of the report**

891. Correspondence

- None

892. To consider the view of the Council about the following planning applications

- Planning Applications: None
- Planning responses submitted under delegated powers:
 - 3PL/2021/1111/F: Redmoore Meadows, Saham Road, Saham Toney – change of use from agricultural grassland to dog walking / agility area. No comments
 - 3PL/2021/1043/HOU: Alston Farm, Dereham Road – raising height of roof including new windows to rear and other works. ‘Ovington Parish Council object to this application. The Council have no objection to the expansion as such, however this should be achieved with a less dominant roof. The current plans are for a very large mono-block structure with a hedge partly shielding the building. The roof however, as seen from the road, has a detrimental impact on the setting by dominating the rural visual scene. It also sets a precedent for upward expansion on the adjacent dwelling.’
- Any time limited planning issues: None
- Planning Notifications:
 - 3PL/2021/1029/HOU: Wagtail House, Dereham Road – ground and first floor garage extensions to create store room and ancillary annex. **APPROVED** by BDC

893. Payment of Accounts and precept update

Payments Received

- None

Payments to be made

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------|
| • Clerks Wages (Monthly) | s/o | £39.78 |
| • Norfolk Pension Fund | s/o | £15.20 |
| • H Frary reimbursements | I10 | £11.00 |
| • HMRC | I11 | £26.60 |

These were agreed. Proposed: TB, seconded: KW

894. Village or Highways Issues

- Surface of the Trod. The Clerk explained that Highways have asked for a map detailing the areas of concern and will be visiting to make good any necessary works. Councillors have requested extending this visit to cover other Highways issues and no response has been received to date.
- Memorial Trees in Crown Crescent. Carried forwards. **Clerk to add to next agenda.**

895 Future Business:
Precept discussions

896. Open Forum

Residents wished to express concern over the surface of the road. Issues included width and drainage. CC Bowes agreed to speak to our Highways Engineer

Residents expressed concern over speed and traffic through the village. Issues included: rat running and speeding (one particular vehicle swerved towards a resident). Suggestions involved: attending the next SNAP meeting to report the issue to the police, purchasing a replacement battery for the SAM sign, linking with Shipdham Community Speedwatch, development of a priority area for pedestrians and cyclists (being pursued by C Lewis), extension of speed limits, width / HGV restrictions.

Other issues involved wide agricultural vehicles damaging verges and forcing vehicles off the road, damaged speed sign that has not been repaired and logs on a verge which are now obstructed by high grass.

Actions:

Clerk to inform Councillors of next SNAP meeting date and time

TB to arrange for replacement SAM sign battery

TB to ask for Community Speedwatch volunteers in Ovington Oracle

TB to provide George Freeman MP contact details in the oracle for residents to lobby for speed limit assessment.

JW to arrange a traffic survey to compare with historic survey data as evidence of changes to traffic levels.

CC Bowes to request signage and arrange site visit with Highways Engineer to consider signage and other possible mitigations.

CC Bowes

Reported that the County Council are aiming to plant one million trees in the next five years. Applications can be made via the Parish Council. **TB to advertise in The Oracle**

DC Crane

I attended the opening of the new Ellenor Fenn pocket park in Dereham on Saturday, it was very well attended and the park area off Wrights Walk has transformed an area of Dereham that was wasteland hidden behind blue boarding. This was a collaboration between Breckland Council, The About Dereham group and dencora. Do pop and have a look if you are in Dereham.

There have been serious problems with the Serco contract and refuse collection. A presentation was given at Overview and scrutiny and the CEO had also been to full council to explain what the problems are and how they will be solved. There problems in filling vacancies, not just HGV drivers but others as well, this is a nationwide problem. There have been no changes of terms and conditions for staff.

An update was given at planning committee on the role of the chairman's panel and also for the role of enforcement in Breckland. The report for these can be found on pages 11-24 of the Agenda of the planning committee for 6th September.

DC Birt

DC Birt has met with Serco to discuss recent issues with rubbish collection. He explained that they have staff shortages and are working hard to maintain services whilst recruiting. He also reported that he had requested sight of the Serco contract many months ago but had been repeatedly refused. He is meeting the Council's solicitor on 23 Sept where he is hoping to hear legal justification for refusal

864. Date of Next Meetings:

7 May (including the Annual Parish Meeting), 21 July, 15 September and 17th November 2021 at 7.30pm
Meeting closed at 8.20pm