

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM VIA ZOOM.

Present: Cllrs P Bate (PB), T Birt (TB), Dave Welsted (DW) Karen Weir (KW) and Jeremy Woods (JW).

In attendance: The Clerk, CC Bowes, DC Crane and two members of the public

840. To receive any apologies. None

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

842. Minutes of the meetings held in November 2020 were **approved**.

843. Matters Arising.

- TB has been contacted by residents who expressed concern over the plans for Re-Evolution and any planning consents that may be needed for their future works. Breckland Planning have confirmed they will be working with the group.

844. Correspondence

- Request from Allotment Association for a donation towards maintenance costs.

Meeting closed at 7.36pm to allow a member of the public to speak

Chris Lewis explained that the Allotment Association are looking to repair the entrance drive with the use of crushed concrete at a cost of £170. They also need to replace rotten fence posts at a cost of £100.

DW explained that the PCC have also asked for donations towards hand sanitisers for use before services.

Meeting opened at 7.45pm.

It was agreed to donate £270 to the Allotment Association. Proposed: TB, seconded: KW **Clerk to action**

The clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council do not have the power to donate to places of worship and therefore it was agreed that the Council would not donate towards the PCC.

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

- Planning Applications:
None
- Planning Applications received with comments submitted:
 - 3PL/2020/01074/HOU: Wood Farm, Dereham Road, Ovington – remodel of existing bungalow including altering roofs, re-tiling and cladding and rendering walls. No comments
- Planning Notifications:
 - 3PL/2020/1142/F: Ruxley House, Carbrooke Road – change of use from garage to ancillary living accommodation APPROVED by Breckland Council
 - 3PL/2020/01074/HOU: Wood Farm, Dereham Road, Ovington – remodel of existing bungalow including altering roofs, re-tiling and cladding and rendering walls. APPROVED by Breckland Council

846. Payment of Accounts and precept update

Payments Received

- None

Payments to be made

• Clerks Wages (Monthly)	s/o	£185.34
• Norfolk Pension Fund	s/o	£63.82
• H Frary (reimbursements (Dec / Jan)	l21	£15.98
• Yaxham PC (donation)	l22	£4.00
• Citizens Advice Mid Norfolk	chq 025	£100.00
• Village Hall Hire	l23	£9.00
• Allotment Association	l24	£270.00

These were agreed. Proposed: KW, seconded: TB

847. To agree the budget and precept for 2021/22

The clerk shared information before the meeting and Councillors requested a 5% increase which equates to just under £1.50 per band D household. The precept request therefore will be £5,182. Proposed: KW, seconded: TB and unanimously agreed. **Clerk to submit**

848. Village or Highways Issues

JW reported that the ditch on the western edge of the village floods when there is excessive water. The ditch has been cleared as far as the cross drain. The landowner is concerned that the ditch may have some sewage escaping into it and therefore they are not happy to clear it themselves. It was agreed that an article in the Oracle to remind residents to act responsibly and check that their septic tanks are discharging correctly would be useful. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this to the Environment Agency. **Clerk to action**

It was noted that the Give Way sign at the end of The Street has not been repaired despite being reported in September. **Clerk to chase Highways**

849. Future Business:

None

850. Open Forum

Six trees have been cut down outside Fairview, Carbrooke Road. **Clerk to ask Highways for information.**

CC Bowes reported that there have been significant flooding issues in many villages across the County. A new area Highways Engineer will be appointed in February and will contact parishes in due course to introduce himself. The cabinet have agreed resources to increase staff in the flood and water management team as a priority. The Covid vaccination role out is progressing well, any questions can be referred to Norfolk and Waveney CCJ NHS website.

DC Crane reported 'at the 4th January cabinet meeting the draft budget was announced. I am pleased to say that we have, even in this difficult time, a balanced budget which will protect frontline services, there will be no cuts to service delivery, in fact there will be enhanced services for waste, Covid support, Animal welfare. The budget will continue to support the Vulnerability programme and climate strategy/sustainability programmes. This has been done through prudent financial planning. There will be an increase in Council tax of £4.95 for a band D property. This equates to £1.90 Breckland Council tax per week for residents in a Band D property. 75% of residents are in band A-C and will be paying significantly less. Less than £99 per annum for £750 worth of services. Breckland Council is still the lowest council tax in Norfolk. Comments on the budget can be made until 22nd January. Covid grant application's for business are on the Breckland website including the ARG grant for Business's without premises such as market traders, hairdressers who rent a chair in a salon etc. There have been a few disruptions to the Brown bin collection due to COVID staff isolation. Residents are being asked to leave their brown bin in its normal collection place and it will be collected in due course.

A donation of £2500 has been made to the Mid Norfolk food bank to secure a new storage unit.

We have a Covid compliance team supporting the community, protecting the public, supporting test and trace, supporting the vulnerable and working with the regeneration team to help businesses remain compliant.' She added that there is much work being undertaken to promote the census

DC Birt explained that the decisions made about Barnham Broom Country Club have been made below the line and called into scrutiny. Opposition leaders were unhappy with the decision, however the committee resolved that the decision stands. The Green Britain Centre in Swaffham has been sold, and the details of the sale are not in the public domain.

839. Date of Next Meetings:

17 March, 19 May, 21 July, 15 September and 17th November 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.15pm