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Pettistree Parish Council



Minutes of the Pettistree Parish Council meeting held in the Parish Room on 16 February 2022

Parish Councillors: Jeff Hallett (Chair) Sue Jones (Vice Chair) Chris Cook, Mike Watts, Mary Chilvers, James Clarke.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Philip Westrope, James Hayward, County Councillor Alexander Nicoll and District Councillor Carol Poulter
2. It was agreed that Councillor Jones be the Meeting Clerk as per Local Government Act 1972 Section 112 (5).
3. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation:** None received.
4. **No members of the Public were present.**
5. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes of the meeting on 11 November 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair
6. A written report was received from District Councillor Carol Poulter
7. **Matters Arising:**
 - 7.1 **Recruitment of new Parish Clerk:** No applications have been received for the position of Parish Council Clerk despite wider advertising. But Simon Ashton had applied for the role of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). He is currently RFO for Walberswick Parish Council. Simon was interviewed by Cllrs Hallett and Jones who reported they were impressed with his knowledge and background in Internal Audit. Chair had checked with SALC that splitting the roles would be legal and was told that more parish councils were doing this. Simon was prepared to contract for two hours per week for Pettistree, half of the time we had allocated for a combined Clerk and RFO. This leaves the council with the flexibility to pay someone for purely clerical duties. It was agreed unanimously that Simon Ashton should be contracted for 6 months initially and extended as preferred by all parties.
 - 7.2 **Solar Park and Community Benefit Fund:** Chair reported that he had been in contact with a local resident near the site who had objected to use of his land for access. Westrope Farms looked into the matter and the planning application was amended. The long-term access will be near the A12 bridge in Loudham Hall Rd. Chair also

JPH

reported that there had been objections to the Solar Park by some Wickham Market residents. The matter is now with the planning authority.

Cllr Hallett reported that no contract had been received from the Solar Park developers for the Community Benefit Fund that would be paid to Pettistree in the event of planning permission. Nevertheless, the council would have to produce ideas for using the £22,000 fund. He suggested:

- The cost of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022
- A village car park
- Pollarding the Hornbeams in the churchyard
- A Defibrillator sited at the Greyhound Pub

The VChair proposed that the Parish Room should receive some of the funding for maintenance so that it could be used as an occasional village meeting place and heritage centre.

Agreed:

- Potential sites for a car park for 20 cars should be investigated. One possible site was off Walnut Lane near Rogues Cottages. Cllr Hayward had indicated that he was prepared to rent the site to the village. A report will be prepared for the next council meeting.
- A tree expert from ESC had checked the hornbeams which are in a poor condition. They are unlikely to fall but significant pollarding has been suggested as a remedy to improve their health. This is now a matter for the PCC.
- The Greyhound Pub tenants have agreed that a defibrillator could be sited on an exterior wall. Further checks are needed to ensure there would be public access at all times. In the interim it was agreed that an application be made for grant support.
- The feasibility of more use for the Parish Room would be considered further.

7.3 Offer of financial help from ESC for broadband connection: Councillors agreed that a broadband connection at the Village Hall or Parish Room or both would be useful. It would enable members of the public, councillors and the new RFO to join parish council meetings when they were unable to join in person. Cllr Hallett will take this forward.

8. To consider planning issues:

Councillors were informed of the following, but no new objections were offered:

- Variations in the Hopkins conditions related to 'Wickham Gate' which is said to be a name for marketing purposes not a postal address
- DC/22/0273/OUT Land next to Newstead: A new appeal had been lodged by the applicant on a technical issue relating to the previous appeal rejection
- DC/21/5667/TCA tree felling and trimming at The Laurels

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- DC/21/5550/FUL erection of a solar array at Park Farm, Loudham
- 9. **The Platinum Jubilee:** A successful meeting had been held to plan events over four days in June. The Chair undertook to send the Minutes of the meeting to councillors.
- 10. **Road names for 'Wickham Gate':** As advised by the parish council, these would be Observers Road, Barrows Close, Damsons Drive, Robin Close, Ethelwold Drive.
- 11. **Parish boundary change:** Wickham Market Parish Council is dealing with the petition for a boundary change to bring Wickham Gate into WM parish. This may be superseded by the ESC's Community Governance Review of towns and parishes. A report on the Review progress will be made to the next meeting.
- 12. **Speed Indicator Device:** James Clarke reported that the device was being moved every 2/3 weeks between three sites and was producing useful data on the number of vehicles, speeds and time of day. He had discovered that the Police had just one hand-held device for residents to check speeds so there was a long waiting list for its availability. Cllr Hallett commented that it was surprising how many vehicles were travelling down The Street above 30mph.
- 13. **Replacement of marquee:** A stronger and fire-resistant version of the original had been ordered and paid for. The Village Hall Committee would make a contribution. The supplier does not take cheques, so Cllr Hallett paid on behalf of the Council using his PayPal account.
- 14. **Sizewell C:** The Chair and VChair attended a meeting of parish councils with the BEIS Nuclear Director, Declan Burke. Cllr Jones reported that highly knowledgeable people had spoken for the parishes opposed to Sizewell C. Apart from traffic generation on the A12 and through villages during the build, the main concern was the fragility of the coast for a development of this sort. Declan Burke was in 'listening mode' but over the past 11 years EDF had not been listening or consulting in any meaningful way. The outcome of the planning inquiry is awaited but significantly on the same day the Government announced £100m to pump prime investment in the reactor.
- 15. **The Quiet Lanes application:** James Clarke reported that we are awaiting approval.
- 16. **Financial report and payments due:** Chair reported

Precept requested for 2022/2023 was £2541.93

Payments made

- Parish Magazine printing costs of £69.50
- Stationery for Pettistree People £65.50
- HMRC for Rod Caird's salary £25.80



Payments to be made

- Micropress for the parish clerk advertisement: £36.00
- East Suffolk Norse for the village litter bin £288
- Reimbursement of the cost of the marquee to J Hallett: £1,449.00

Bank Accounts

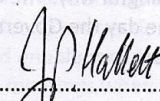
Cllr Jones had been added as a new signatory – in line with previous council approval – and would arrange for online banking and a debit card. The Council now has three signatories: Jeff Hallett, Mike Watts and Sue Jones. The RFO and Clerk will not be signatories in line with good practice.

The Council, on 15 February 2022, had £3696.04 in its current account and £2414.77 in its Savings account.

17. Correspondence and matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council:

-None reported

Date of next meeting. To Be Advised when Cllr Jones had spoken to the new RFO

Signed.....  Dated..... 24/03/2022

Jeffrey Hallett, Chair