

Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Shadingfield Village Hall on 15 March 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors C Ellis (Chair), Blunn, Chipperfield, Drane and Sheldrake.

In attendance:

Mr S C Blackburn (Clerk) and one member of the public.

23.032 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs R Ellis (business), R Mather (family commitments) and T Potter (unwell) and County and District Cllr Judy Cloke.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be accepted.

23.033 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations: None.

23.034 To sign as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Cllr Chipperfield, Seconded by Cllr Blunn and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2023 be signed as a correct record.

23.035 Public Participation: None.

23.036 Chair's Report

In addition to the circulated report I note that Cllr Potter has decided not to stand for re-election. I am sad to report this but fully understand and respect his decision and thank him for his service over many years.

Firstly, I hope each you who are intending to serve on the Council for the coming year have brought your nomination papers for Steve to check and submit. It remains to be seen if we will go to election, but at this stage it seems unlikely. On 1st March I visited the site of VC Cooke's recycling centre in Ellough to hear about their plans to construct and operate an energy recovery facility – essentially an incinerator – on their premises. There was much to commend the proposals, not least that the unrecyclable material that currently goes to landfill would be used as fuel for the incinerator and the output would be converted to electricity. On the upside this, as presented, would result in a decrease in HGV traffic, would provide locally produced energy and the system appears to be quite sophisticated in terms of controlling the emissions. However, when one of the Councillors from a neighbouring parish asked about the emissions and their possible effect on the students and staff at Worlingham Primary School, she was told that the particulate would be exiting the 35metre high chimney with some force (likened to a large hairdryer) so the emissions would be so high up in the atmosphere as to have little or no impact on the School. I asked what the temperature of the expelled 'air' would be and was told 150-160°C. I believe this would pose a significant risk to the users of the neighbouring aerodrome, in extremis posing a threat to life. I was advised that the developers had scheduled a meeting the following week with the CAA to discuss the proposal, but at the time of writing the outcome of this meeting has not been publicised. Accordingly, I would propose under item 8 b on tonight's agenda we have a debate with a view to submitting a revised opinion on this application. On the 3rd March I attended the East Suffolk Community Partnership annual forum. I attended two workshops, firstly on the Power of Neighbourhood Communication groups in building connections and encouraging Civic engagement. This was run by a group called Neighbourly Lab and it appeared to me that their approach is largely directed at larger town and metropolitan areas with populations more connected and tech savvy than most of our residents. Also, as Parish Councillors, we only have limited time to devote to our duties, and they agreed that any online groups or Facebook type pages set up must be properly managed and monitored. I'm afraid I couldn't find much to bring back to you. The second workshop I attended was on ideas for improving and sustaining rural transport. While this demonstrated more understanding of the issues in small rural parishes, there are no easy answers to this either. I have suggested that rather than full sized double-decker buses that smaller vehicles might be more economical. It was noted that a number of electric powered vehicles that had been running in East Anglia have been 'shelved' for the time being as they are no longer economic to run. The litter pick on the 4th was reasonably well attended and thanks to Alison and Andrew

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____

Chipperfield for driving this forward and generally managing it. With the high viz jackets, quite a significant portion of our road verges were cleared and, as previously seen, these are the areas with the worst litter. Thanks to everyone who turned out for this, including those who carry out alternative and ad hoc picks. Next Monday, 20th March, I will be joining Cllr Judy Cloke and others for a site visit to Attleborough digester, which is run on similar system to that proposed in SCC/124/22W. I will report my findings on this next month.

23.037 Reports

(a) County Councillor and (b) District Councillor: Reports had been circulated as and when received.

(c) Police: No report.

In her recent report, Cllr Cloke had urged the reporting of potholes. The Chair noted that there was an active link to the County's reporting tool on the Parish Council's website.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

23.038 Correspondence: None.

23.039 Planning Applications

(a) New Applications

DC/23/0233/FUL – 3 New Cottages, Ellough: A detailed objection had been lodged by the owner of the adjacent property, including, inter alia, structural and drainage concerns and the overbearing nature of the proposed rear extension.

RESOLVED: to object in support of the neighbour objections.

SCC/0063/22W – V C Cooke: The Chair met the applicants on site; waste is currently taken to Peterborough for landfill so the proposed facility will result in less road traffic, but the output of warm air from the waste stack (chimney) is likely to have a detrimental effect on airfield and the applicants are meeting the Civil Aviation Authority to discuss their concerns.

RESOLVED: to object to the proposals unless the CAA are satisfied that the effects on the airfield can be mitigated.

SCC/0124/22W – Proposed Anaerobic Digester: The Chair will attend a site meeting with County Cllr Judy Cloke on 23 March.

(b) Updates on previously considered applications

DC/19/2195/FUL – Intensive Poultry Units: It was reported that the application will resume with new Environmental Impact Assessments. The Neighbourhood Development Plan will strengthen the case for refusal notably the need for direct access to an A or B road.

Barnes Cottages and Crossbow Cottage (DC/23/0160/FUL): Cllr Sheldrake asked if further applications had been made. None had been advised to the Clerk.

Damage to Bridle Path at Ellough Airfield. Cllr Chipperfield showed photographs of the damage, including the surface, removal of the hedge and the installation of what appears to be a metal shed on the line of the path. She will send the photographs to the Clerk who will forward them to the County Council.

23.040 Finance

(a) To approve payment of outstanding invoices: Proposed by Cllr Sheldrake, seconded by Cllr Chipperfield and RESOLVED: That the payments listed in Appendix 1 be authorised.

(b) To note the financial situation and bank reconciliation as at 28 February 2023: Proposed by Cllr Blunn, seconded by Cllr Drane and RESOLVED: That the situation be noted.

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____

c) Precept for 2022/23: The increase to £8,000 represented a 9% uplift, a first notable increase for many years. In discussion it was agreed that this need not be referred to directly and that any questions could be passed to the Clerk.

23.041 Cemetery and Chapel

Graves of Geoffrey and Stella Wright: The daughter had restored the grave to its former state.

Land Registration: The Clerk had been requested by H M Land Registry to complete a Statement of Truth regarding the missing deeds and the efforts made to find them.

Mrs M Goldsmith had surrendered one of two reserved plots and would be entitled to a return of the fee, at that time £80.00.

The decision of Cllr Potter not to seek re-election meant that a further member of the 2+2 committee would be needed. A volunteer was asked for.

23.042 Playing Fields

The sign declining responsibility for injury etc had been installed.

Further mole activity had been seen; there had been no invoice following the previous request and the clerk would remind Mr Riches and ask for further work.

23.043 Road Safety

(a) Installation of speed indicator devices

Delays at manufacturers continue to cause concern. Another delivery date had been missed. The Clerk had contacted Suffolk ALC who could arrange initial advice. It was agreed to write by Recorded Delivery. A suggestion of the Small Claims Court was made, if Parish Councils were eligible to use it.

(b) Additional road signage for the play area

Now installed.

23.044 Village Matters

(a) Spring litter pick – Sunday 4 March

Seven residents turned up; another pick is needed in the autumn, say October. The Chair thanked Cllr Chipperfield for her work and Spencer at the Fox Inn for providing refreshments.

(b) Arrangements for a picnic and/or celebration of the Coronation including Church service(s)

To be a joint effort with the Village Hall committee on 7 May, from 12.00 – 5.00pm. Residents to bring own picnic and contributions to the communal table. An ice cream van would be ordered and the village hall would provide tea and coffee. It was decided against a Pizza van, food might be available at the Fox Inn. Cllr Drane would bring donkeys if the weather and ground was dry. Further discussions at the next meeting including arranging signage with Sotterley Estate.

(c) Neighbourhood Development Plan – update

The referendum would be held alongside the parish and local elections on 4 May. The count will be on 9 May and two observers would be allowed to be present. The draft flyer was agreed, for house to house delivery. A hard copy of the final version of the NDP would be available from the Clerk if requested.

(d) Future articles for Sheaf Magazine

Cllr Chipperfield agreed to write the next entry, to include a reminder about Voter Photo ID and encourage the reporting of potholes, for which there is a link on the parish council website.

(e) Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____

Deferred to the next meeting, the Clerk to write up the options as to how and when to conduct this meeting.

(f) Notice Boards

The Clerk had asked if the Beccles Mens Shed could build a replacement notice board for the Village Hall entrance and it is possible that this work is already under way. Discussion has not taken place on the need for new legs, fitting and whether the village hall committee could be approached for a contribution towards the cost.

23.045 Items for discussion at the next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting, Coronation Picnic.

23.046 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Appendix 1 – Payments Authorised

	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
219	Mrs M Goldsmith	Refund of ERB Fee	80.00	-	80.00
220	S C Blackburn	March salary and expenses	411.95	-	411.95
221	Suffolk ALC	Payroll charges 6mths to 31.3.23	45.00	9.00	54.00
222	Shadingfield Village hall	Hall hire April 2022-March 2023	121.00	-	121.00

_____ Chair

_____ Date

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____