

Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Shadingfield Village Hall on 28 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors C Ellis (Chair), Blunn, R Ellis, Drane, London and Potter.

In attendance:

Mr S C Blackburn (Clerk); no members of the public.

22.134 Prior to the formal business, the Chair expressed the condolences of the Council on the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

22.135 The Chair announced with regret the resignation of Cllr Helen Gartley due to other personal commitments and hoped that, should her situation change, she would feel able to re-join the Council.

22.136 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Chipperfield and District/County Cllr Cloke.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be accepted.

22.137 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations: None.

22.138 To sign as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meetings

Proposed by Cllr Drane, Seconded by Cllr R Ellis and RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 20 July and 24 August 2022 be signed as correct records respectively.

22.139 Public Participation: None.

22.140 Chair's Report

Good evening everyone, and welcome back. I hope you've all had a good summer. As you already know, Cllr. Gartley has resigned from the Council for personal reasons. On behalf of the Council, I thank her for all her work and the youthful and positive attitude she brought to this Council, and wish her well for the future. If circumstances permit, we may be able to welcome her back in the future but in the meantime, if you know anyone who would bring something to us and might be interested in serving on the Council, please encourage them to join us, particularly from our Parishes of Sotterley and Ellough.

We had to call an extraordinary meeting in August as there were a number of planning applications that required our attention; thank you to all those who attended. Planning still seems to be the most contentious aspect of our work, and old applications being 'tweaked' to get them in through the 'back door' is an increasing feature. Unfortunately, with the system as it stands, there is little we can do aside from remain vigilant to new applications and keeping up to date on planning policies.

We've now welcomed Spencer and his partner Clare as the managers of the Fox Public House and we wish them every success in bringing our pub back into the heart of the community.

It was sad that we had to pull the plug on the Picnic on the Playing Field; unfortunately, because of the charity 'Churches' Bike ride', Village hall custodians were unable to offer refreshments and cakes as they had previously committed to being at St. John's. Similarly, our usual Ice Cream van was already booked up for the day. I had designed the flyers, but there was little in the way of offers to deliver them – only Alison for Ellough and Amanda Potter for Shadingfield south of Mill Lane. I am afraid that, given the lack of enthusiasm from fellow Councillors and other pressures on my time, I was unable to commit to delivering to the remainder of Willingham, Shadingfield, Redisham and Sotterley so took the decision to pull the plug. Hopefully, we can organise something for our residents in the Spring, and I will be in discussions with Spencer at the Fox to see if it will be practical to jointly do something for bonfire night and/or Christmas.

On a more positive note, I can confirm that the maintenance of the Defibrillator is in hand, and new pads were

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____

installed this month following the expiry of the originals.

I have learned in the last 24 hours that 'Meet up Mondays' may be resuming, albeit on Thursdays, at the Shadingfield Fox. The cost of one member of staff will be funded for 2 hours per session from the residual Lunch Club funds that the Council are holding for community activities in Shadingfield.

Lastly, I can confirm that the marquee was paid for and collected by one of our residents, as previously agreed.

22.141 Reports

- (a) County Councillor and (b) District Councillor: Reports had been circulated as and when received.
 (c) Police: No report.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

22.142 Correspondence: The Clerk circulated correspondence as and when received.

East Suffolk Council had asked us to publicise a 'Cuppa and Chat' session run three times a week via Zoom. The next Community Partnership meeting will be held at Shadingfield Village Hall on 10 October. Marie Allen is organising a craft fair at 11.00 am on Sunday 6 November at Ditchingham Village Hall, the first since 2019.

22.143 Planning Applications

(a) New Applications

DC/22/3315/CLP – Nine additional units at Glebe Farm, Ellough

Cllr Chipperfield had commented that many residents of Ellough were against this plan and felt that there was no intention to provide the equestrian units. Cllr Potter noted that the development was contrary to the local plan WLP 8.15, limiting the number of units not accessible by A or B road or public transport. A reasoned objection had been prepared by the Chair and will be submitted to ESC Planning Department for consideration.

RESOLVED: to object to the proposals.

DC/22/3385/CON – Small scale energy recovery facility at V C Cooke, Ellough

The application proposed burning waste which would otherwise go to landfill; the meeting RESOLVED to support the application subject to emissions being properly cleaned before release.

DC/22/3506/AGO – Proposed reservoir at Jays Hill Road

RESOLVED: to support the application subject to any guidance from the Conservation Officer and Historic England.

(b) Updates on previously considered applications

DC/22/2251/FUL: Mill House Farm, Mill Lane: new porch: Application permitted

DC/22/2800/FUL – Proposed new industrial building at Ellough Industrial Estate – Application permitted

DC/19/2195/FUL – Intensive Poultry Units: numerous identical objections had been received, possibly at the instigation of animal welfare charities, but no further progress had been advised to us.

22.144 Finance

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

- (b) To note the financial situation as at 31 July and 31 August 2022: Proposed by Cllr R Ellis, seconded by Cllr Blunn and RESOLVED: That the situation be noted.

(c) Renewal of the council's Insurances

The Council has a three year commitment with BHIB which reduces the premium and guarantees it against some, but not all, inflationary and market pressures. In 2020 the amount paid was £562.06; this year it is £575.08, an increase of £13.02 or 2.32% and within the budget of £579. RESOLVED: that the policy be renewed.

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(d) Arrangements for External Audit

The current arrangements come to an end after 2022/23 and all Parish Councils have the opportunity opt in again or to sign up for the standard external audit service or to make their own arrangements. The latter option would be more onerous and involve greater cost. Proposed by Cllr C Ellis, Seconded by Cllr Blunn and RESOLVED: to continue to take part in the standard arrangements.

22.145 Deterrence of Speeding(a) Community Speedwatch

Despite the repeated invitations for members of the community to join the scheme, we have still not received the required minimum of 6 for the Police to support the scheme. RESOLVED: to take no further action with regard to Community Speedwatch at the present time.

(b) Speed Indicator Devices

The Clerk had circulated options from five companies for replacement Speed Indicator Devices.

The Clerk had had numerous suggestions for grant funding from Mr Sam Kenward but unfortunately none were specifically targeted at the speeding issue. It was felt that Cllr Cloke may have some available funding and this would be followed up by Cllr C Ellis. Cllr Drane offered to look after the sign near The Fox if Mr Lancaster was unwilling to resume the role.

Propose by Cllr Blunn, Seconded by Cllr London and RESOLVED: to purchase 2 indicators and associated equipment from Smart Group at a cost of £1,645 each plus accessories.

22.146 Cemetery and Chapel

(a) To receive a report from the 2+2 committee meeting held on 26 September Draft minutes prepared by Mr Blackburn on file.

(b) To consider a proposal for the cost of annual tree inspections by the PC Tree Warden

The proposals outlined in Dr Bynum's offer of seasonal reviews were agreed in principle. Cllr Potter had also drafted an outline of what was needed, namely a survey of tree health, management of existing trees and creation of guidance on future planting, whether it be to enhance variety or by way of guidance to anyone wishing to donate a commemorative tree. It was agreed that Cllr Potter and Dr Bynum would take this matter forward and bring further proposals to the next meeting and that the expertise of Mr Graham Fisher should be utilised as part of the proposed reviews.

(c) To consider the initial proposals for a new churchyard plan

The Clerk reported that work on this is under way. It was noted that, whilst baptism records for Sotterley had now been found, little additional information, for example on dates of interment, would be available unless the burial registers from 1885 onwards were located.

22.147 Playing Fields Management:

(a) Grant for replacement of the slide

The slide had been repaired and passed a safety inspection. As there was no progress on the lease and therefore further grant applications it was proposed by Cllr Potter, seconded by Cllr London and RESOLVED: That the acceptance of a grant from East Suffolk Council be declined. No funds had been received.

(b) Arrangements for future management

The Clerk had written to Mr Tom Barne without reply and followed up by contacting the Estate Office but with no response to date.

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22.148 Village Matters

- (a) Arrangements for the next litter pick. Deferred.
- (b) Appointment of a village history recorder. Deferred, all asked to consider possible volunteers, Cllr Chipperfield to approach Mrs Brenda Bennett.
- (c) Proposed improvements to road signs at Shadingfield.
- Play Area warnings: Deferred pending details of potential costs
 - Planting: Cllr London had looked at living plants but was concerned about shade and the need for watering in safety. Cllr Potter will seek advice from keen gardening friends.
- (d) Ellough Village Sign: Cllr Chipperfield to be asked to monitor this issue.
- (e) Jubilee Tree Planting: Cllr Potter reported that existing planting was OK, the Ellough tree would be planted as soon as the ground was wet enough. Both commemorative plaques could then be fitted.
- (f) Neighbourhood Development Plan: Cllr R Ellis reported that Mrs Janet Cheesely was the preferred examiner. No further dates had been agreed. The proposed creation of three assets of Community Value would require Land Registry maps of ownership.
- (g) Future articles for Sheaf Magazine: Cllr Chipperfield had volunteered to write the next article.
- (h) Telephone kiosk: Deferred.

22.149 Items for discussion at the next meeting

- Litter pick
- History Recorder
- Ellough Sign
- Management of cemetery trees

22.150 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Appendix 1 – Payments Authorised

	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
199	BHIB Insurance Brokers	Annual Insurance Premium	575.08	-	575.08
200	S C Blackburn	Aug and Sept Salary & expenses	766.47	7.88	794.73
		inc Tax deducted and paid over £207.00			

_____ Chairman

_____ Date

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____