**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRITTON WITH ST OLAVES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 26th JANUARY 2017 AT FRITTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

Chairman - Allan Mendum

Deputy Chairman – Stannas Bellaby

Parish Councillors **–** Fiona Cowan, Margaret Johnson, Chris Nash, Keith Nunn, Jill Rose, Dennis Sewell, Peter Storey, Doug Youngs

**In Attendance:**

Borough Councillor: Adrian Myers

4 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Thursday 24th November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24th November 2016.**

1. **Japanese Knotweed at the Dell:**

B Cllr Myers reported that he had informed the DOE of the problem and had received a positive response, indicating that they will take appropriate action if the matter is not addressed promptly by the Borough Council, who own the land. This would involve the issue of an ASBO. B Cllr Myers will continue to monitor progress.

1. **Footpath between Fritton and St Olaves:**

 a) B Cllr Myers has provided guidance on whom to approach regarding lack of action by J Cotton on this matter.

 b) Armed with this information, the Chairman will now write an appropriate letter of complaint.

 c) A response has now been received from Lord Somerleyton about making available a strip of land to allow the creation of a footpath on the other side of the fence. He has indicated a willingness to help and the Chairman will be meeting him shortly to discuss the matter. Cllr Storey noted that, in order to make the path continuous from the cottages to the transformer/pumping station, it will also be necessary to obtain a right of way over a small stretch of land not owned by the estate. An approach to the landowner will be made once discussions with Lord Somerleyton have been concluded.

 d) B Cllr Myers has ascertained that the ‘Trod’ path created in Belton was funded partly (c. £2,000) by Belton parish council and partly by way of a grant. He undertook to obtain a quote for our path construction once plans are finalised.

1. **Traffic speed in New Road**:

Cllr Nunn reported that, following his letter to the Highways Department asking that one of their officers attend a meeting to advise on possible speed calming measures for New Road, they had agreed to do so but had then failed to turn up on two separate occasions. In spite of subsequent promises to send someone to this council meeting, they have failed once more to do so. Cllr Nunn will now pursue the matter with the head of the department, John McCabe.

1. **Rubbish Bin at Fritton Woods:**

Cllr Sewell reported that a letter had just (24th January) been received from Newcore in response to ours of 28th September. They state that they are not prepared to allow the re-opening of the car park at the woods in the foreseeable future as they intend to use it for timber storage over the next 12 to 18 months. They also note that: *“both parishioners and residents of New Road have raised concerns that re-opening the former car park on New Road would result in increased traffic volumes and disturbance to the residents of New Road.”*

[N.B. this is presumed to refer to a submission made to Newcore privately by Cllr Nash as a result of his dissatisfaction with the way attendance at the meeting with Harry Savory of Newcore on 28th October 2016 had been organised. He has expressed concerns that councillors not in favour of re-opening the car park were excluded from the meeting in order to facilitate attendance by other parishioners.]

Cllr Nunn said he wished to make a statement which he thought would clear the air regarding the meeting with Newcore Capital Management LLP as follows:

‘He had been surprised that two councillors had felt left out of the meeting, particularly in view of the fact that one of them had previously indicated he wanted nothing to do with the matter. If Cllr Nunn had been present at our last meeting he would have been able to read out an email of his to B Cllr Myers, in which he had suggested that two members of the Woods action committee be allowed to attend because they had offered their services to help clean up the car park site.

It seems that one of the offended councillors felt so aggrieved that he wrote as a member of the public to Newcore saying that several of the occupants of New Road wanted the car park to remain closed. This effectively gave Newcore the opportunity to refuse reopening and negated all this council’s efforts over the last two years.

Cllr Nunn said many local residents would not agree with the sentiments which had been expressed and he felt that the Friends of the Waveney Forest would be checking the situation for themselves. They felt that continued access to the woods by visitors was essential in order to support their objections to the noise, pollution and dust which would be generated from a possible mineral quarry so close to the residential area. As regards any possible increase in speeding traffic that might follow a reopening of the car park, some form of traffic calming would eventually be effected in New Rd to combat this.

B Cllr Myers had worked hard to set up the fact-finding meeting and he obviously did not want too many councillors to attend merely to pursue a course of action previously agreed by this council. The meeting was not, however, wasted. We were told that the owners had granted an option to the big mineral company (Bretts) and it was reasonable to assume that we should, in the near future, have to face up to a new quarry threat. Councillors would then have to stand up and be counted.’

Cllr Nash responded that, whilst he had great respect for Cllr Nunn, he had received so many representations from local residents about the traffic and speeding in New Road that he felt he had to act on their behalf and write to Newcore requesting that the car park remain closed. However, the response he had received from Newcore suggested that their decision to keep the car park closed had been made before they received his letter.

Cllr Storey denied that he had said he wanted nothing to do with the car park issue; it was the proposed installation of a rubbish bin at the site that he wished to disassociate himself from. As regards the car park, he feels that traffic and pollution will both be increased by reopening it and he is, therefore, opposed to it. As regards the question of the particulate pollution which might accompany a redevelopment of Fritton Woods as a gravel quarry, this was a matter that had been fully debated at the time of the quarry proposal and, in spite of it, he believes a majority of the Fritton parish councillors still oppose a reopening of the car park.

In the debate which followed, the potential problems associated with road congestion and damage to the verges adjacent to the car park since its closure were discussed. Cllr Storey stated that, in his view, problems with parking on the verges at the car park entrance preceded its closure and the recent increase in damage to them resulted from increased traffic, not from the car park closure. This was disputed by some of the other councillors.

It was also suggested that traffic congestion in New Road was compounded by local residents parking their vehicles on the verges outside their houses and by tradesmen’s vehicles blocking the road. However, it was noted that parking on verges by residents had been specifically authorised by the parish council.

In view of the disagreement over whether or not a majority of local residents favour the reopening of the car park, it was suggested that a letter be sent to all residents asking their views. The Chairman undertook to give this further consideration, but there may be little point if Newcore’s decision in this regard is final.

Cllr Bellaby asked whether any details are known about the option(s) which may have been granted by Newcombe Estates over the mineral rights at the woods. No such information is available.

Cllr Sewell noted that the letter from Newcore also indicates that they are still happy for a bin to be located in the woods near the car park and are preparing a license to facilitate this. The council will need to decide whether, in view of the fact that there is now little prospect of the car park re-opening, it still wishes to install the bin and take an active part in clearing up the woods.

1. **Fritton Village Sign refurbishment / replacement:**

 Cllr Sewell reported that a decision on possible grant funding from GYTBIA for the new sign project for Fritton is due to be made at their Board Meeting on 31st January. Once the outcome is known, it will be possible to decide the best way forward.

1. **Possible designation of Fritton Woods Car Park as a Green Space**

Cllr Nunn reported that consultation on this matter is now scheduled to take place in the spring.

1. **Footpath adjacent to Redwings:**

B Cllr Myers reported that he has written to the relevant authorities and has received a reply. Chris Skinner will be handling the matter on behalf of GYBC. Cllr Bellaby noted that, although the hedgerows have still not been pruned along the path edge, the trees on the opposite side of the hedge have been lopped and the lopped branches left lying in the field, thus blocking the only way around the now impassable footpath. Cllr Youngs suggested that the county council normally carry out the path trimming.

1. **Doctors’ Surgeries:**

Cllr Nunn has received a reply from Health East to his request to see the results of their public consultation on the future of doctors’ surgeries in the area. This consists of about 60 pages of ‘bumpf’. It seems that the ‘consultation’ offered only three sites for the reorganised surgeries: The James Paget, Beacon Park and Shrublands. No alternatives involving the retention of all or any of the existing surgery sites was offered. B Cllr Myers has complained in the strongest terms about the standard of this consultation, but it seems likely that consolidation at the Shrublands site is now virtually a forgone conclusion. It was noted that Dr Penn at the Falkland surgery is due to retire very shortly, which will further increase pressures.

1. **Visit to Great Yarmouth Police Centre**

 This visit was cancelled at the last minute due to flood warnings.

1. **Recruitment of new Parish Clerk**

 The Chairman reported that we have 2 candidates for the position, both of whom live in Fritton. Interviews will be carried out by the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and Cllr Nunn as soon as possible. CVs of the candidates were available at the meeting for review by councillors, who were asked to give any feedback they might have to the Chairman promptly.

Departure arrangements for the retiring parish clerk were discussed and agreed.

1. **St Olaves Telephone Box**

 The Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to planning department requesting that the box be allowed to remain. It now seems likely that this will be agreed to.

1. **Traffic speed on the A143 through Fritton**

 The Chairman reported that a letter has been sent to Highways Department requesting that 30mph roundels be painted on the road at this spot and a reply is awaited.

Cllr Youngs noted that, since the recent resurfacing work to the road here, traffic speeds have further increased, especially at the ‘Jolly Anglers’ corner. The owner of the B&B opposite the Decoy PH has also contacted Highways directly to report the problems especially relating to HGVs, which are often forced onto the pavement when rounding this corner. His letter included photographs of HGV tracks on the pavement. Near collisions with pedestrians on this pavement have been observed.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

Cllr Sewell informed the meeting that the latest crime map (police reports are no longer issued) for the area, which is for November, shows 4 incidents in the parish: 1 of unsocial behaviour at Forest Mount, New Road; A burglary in Priory Gardens St Olaves; A Burglary at the car park in Caldecott Park, and some unsocial behaviour, also in Caldecott Park.

Although we have been told that a new police engagement officer, who will attend council meetings in the future, has been appointed, no one has yet made contact. Dates for future PC meetings have been given to the police dept.

**6. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

The sad news of C Cllr Colin Aldred’s death was noted. Colin has been an important and valued contributor to parish council meetings since his appointment. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to his widow to express our condolences.

A service will be held for Colin at Hopton Church at 12 p.m. on 1st February, followed by burial in the green park at Corton Long Lane, after which there will be a wake.

B Cllr Myers reported that he recently attended a GYBC budget meeting, at which it was clear that central government are progressively pushing the funding responsibility for various activities (e.g. social care) down to local authorities, and serious funding problems are likely to result, exacerbated by the progressive reduction of the central support grants between now and 2020. GYBC expect a funding shortfall of £4.7m to emerge over the next few years.

B Cllr Myers noted that increased mineral extraction has been licensed in the region recently and this may have the beneficial effect of delaying any pressure to develop Fritton Woods as a quarry.

B Cllrs’ ward budgets have been halved for the current year but there are still funds available for parish projects. In the case of Fritton with St Olaves, a total of up to £600 will be available for nominated projects. It is now up to the parish council to specify the project(s) and apply.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was tabled for review and discussion by councillors:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of**  | **Summary of content** | **Action taken** | **Further action proposed** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 25.11.16 | Memo from A Myers re Belton ‘PAT’ path | None | None – PAT path would be too expensive |
| 02.12.16 | Email from GYBC re tax base for Council Tax 2017/18 | None – information only | None |
| 06.12.16 | Letter from A Mendum to Lord Somerleyton re Footpath | Response received see 16.01.17 | Pursue with Lord Somerleyton |
| 12/13.12.16 | Email exchange with L Andrews re Fritton Woods | Replied | None |
| 14.12.16 | Letter from A Mendum to Strategic planning re Telephone Box in Herringfleet Road | Letter requests retention of the telephone box or conversion to relay station | None |
| 21.12.17 | Letter from Lord Somerleyton re re-wilding scheme | Passed to D Youngs  | Meeting with Lord Somerleyton |
| 05.01.17 | NALC Newsletter | None | None |
| 09.01.17 | Letter from A Mendum to J Cotton re speed roundels for Fritton | Awaits response | Awaits response |
| 09.01.17 | Letter from A Mendum to Lord Somerleyton re re-wilding scheme and footpath | See 16.01.17 | Pursue with Lord Somerleyton |
| 10.01.17 | Email exchange with Brian Swann re VV deliveries | Fritton V H committee informed | Ask P Cllrs for any suggestions |
| 12.01.17 | NALC Newsletter | None | None |
| Undated | Paper from BSHF re Community-led housing | None | None |
| Undated | Memo from ‘Battles Over’ re Beacons on 11.11.18 | None | ? |
| 11.01.17 | Email from NALC re ICT courses | None | Consider training nneds |
| 12.01.17 | Email from NALC re Audits and Audit Fees | None | Take into account when forecasting expenditure |
| 13.01.17 | Email from South Norfolk Council re Dog Bin Emptying Service | None | Take into account when forecasting expenditure |
| 17.01.17 | Letter from Lord Somerleyton re re-wilding and footpath | None | Meeting with Lord Somerleyton |
| 18.01.17& 24.01.17 | Emails from NALC re meeting with Police Commissioner on 30.1.17 | None | Cllrs wish to attend? |
| 23.01.17 | Letter from Newcore confirming their decision not to re-open the car park at Fritton Woods | None | Acknowledge |

Cllr Youngs reported that he had attended a meeting with Lord Somerleyton regarding the estate’s re-wilding project and the possible inclusion of the poor lands. Lord Somerleyton expressed interest in renting the land if it becomes available. The intention would be to fence the land and construct cattle grids so that it could be included in ‘safari’ trips around the estate, on horseback and in land rovers.

**8. FINANCE MATTERS**

The following payments were authorised:

 £ 27.00 – Fritton Village Hall re 26.01.17 council meeting

 £ 30.44 – Advert for Clerk in V Voice, plus purchase of postage stamps

 £150.00 – Biennial Donation to Fritton Village Hall

 £150.00 – Biennial Donation to St Olaves Village Hall

**9. PLANNING MATTERS**

The following documents have been received and processed since the last meeting and were tabled for review:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of documents** | **Summary of content** | **Action taken** | **Further action proposed** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.12.16 | Planning Approval of kerb lowering at Rosedene, Fritton, ref: 06/16/0618/F | None | None |
|  |  |  |  |
| 16.01.17 | Notice of appeal against refusal of request ref:06/16/0663/EU to grant certificate of lawfulness for permanent residential use of Pine Lodge, Fairway Lakes Village. | None | Advise Appeals Officer of continued objections by the parish council. Send copy of earlier correspondence. |
|  |  |  |  |
| 19.01.17 | Advice of Broads Authority Planning Application No. BA/2017/0008/HOUSEH – extension at The Moorings Priory Road | Being reviewed by St Olaves Councillors | Respond by 9/2/17 – No objections |
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**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Transparency Code**

 Cllr Sewell informed the meeting that the parish council will need to comply urgently with the new Transparency Code recently introduced for small parish councils such as ours. Compliance is compulsory with effect from April this year. The code requires the council to publish various information, including details of councillors, minutes of council meetings etc. by means of a website on the internet. Financial and other assistance is available to help with the cost of computers, software, internet connection and training. The relevant deadline for grant applications this financial year is early in March. It was agreed that this project should be made a priority for the new parish clerk.

**Council membership**

 Cllr Sewell informed the meeting that, after six years as a councillor, he has decided to stand down with immediate effect and has tendered his resignation to the Chairman. He wished the council well for the future.

Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr Nash also tendered his resignation with immediate effect, after 28 years as a councillor.

**12. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting (and Parish AGM) is scheduled for Thursday 30th March 2017 at St Olaves Village Hall commencing at 7:00 p.m.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at approximately 9:45 p.m.**