

**GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

**Virtual Meeting – Held via Zoom**

**Mr. R. Barker – Chairman\***

**Mr. I. Sadler\***

**Mrs. N. Calderbank\***

**Mrs D. Stick\***

**Mr. B. Fitch\***

**Mr A. Peake\***

**Present: All marked\***

Suffolk County Councillor Jane Storey attended for part of the meeting.

District County Councillor Rick Meyer attended for part of the meeting.

Mrs C. White took the minutes.

**1. Record Councillors' apologies for absence**

None received.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None declared.

**3. Suffolk County Councillor**

Cllr Storey joined the meeting at 19.46pm. A written report for January had previously been circulated prior to the Parish Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Cllr Storey confirmed that she had that afternoon emailed Cllrs and the Clerk to advise the situation regarding funding for poles in connection with the Quiet Lanes initiative, and it was hoped that this funding may be forthcoming. Cllr Storey also responded to the expression of concern raised at the previous meeting about the necessity of a vaccination centre in the Bury St Edmunds area. She advised that any request for a vaccination centre had to go before the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) and it was they who made the decision as to the location of such centres. However, it was Cllr Storey's understanding that there is likely to be a centre opening at the Apex in Bury. She was also pleased to report that Woolpit Surgery are progressing well with their vaccination programme, and vaccination of the 75+ age group is starting next week. Cllr Storey left the meeting at 19.53pm.

**District Councillor**

Cllr Meyer briefly attended the meeting. A written report for January had previously been circulated and outlined at the Parish Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Cllr Meyer advised that he had nothing new to report and as the Parish Council did not have anything further to discuss with him, he left the meeting.

**Public Forum**

No members of the public attended.

**4. To Sign the Minutes of the Previous Meeting as a True Record**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, had previously been circulated and were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

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## 5. **Planning**

- i) DC/21/00272 Application for Planning Permission – Household Application for Erection of Detached Double Garage and Log Store at Pinefield House, School Road, Great Ashfield, IP31 3HN. Comments required by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

This Application was discussed and in general it was felt that locating the Garage & Log Store at the front of Pinefield House meant that the parking and turning space would be very cramped and queried whether there was sufficient space for turning vehicles.

However, it was felt that providing the following criteria are met:

- That the turning circle is maintained and is adequate.
- That the construction materials used match the existing house, and
- That no trees are removed to facilitate the construction.

There were no objections to this planning application.

All Cllrs were in agreement with this decision.

- ii) No further planning applications had been received or decided since the last meeting.

## 6. **Finance**

- i) Prior to the meeting Cllr Peake had circulated an email with an update on the progress being made to change the address in connection with the bank accounts and the process of moving the accounts online. Making the required alterations would necessitate updating the bank mandates and Cllr Peake had the forms to begin this process. It was advised that the Parish Clerk would need to be included on the bank mandate to enable her to register and manage the accounts online.
- ii) To consider an upgrade to Zoom Pro. It was generally felt that this was an unnecessary expense at the present time. Whether it would be needed in the future would depend on the progress/length of the pandemic. In the meantime, Cllr Sadler offered an option to try out Zoom Pro, without commitment to expenditure, and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with him with regard to setting up the next Parish Council meeting in March.
- iii) Payroll – Ladywell Accountancy. The Clerk advised that Ladywell Accountancy would no longer be doing the Parish Council payroll after the end of March 2021. The Clerk offered to carry out the payroll using HMRC free to download software. It was agreed that this would be reviewed later in the year.
- iv) Invoices received for payment – no invoices had been received for payment since the last meeting.
- v) The Clerk advised that the Precept Request had been submitted and confirmation had been received that a Precept of £2,450 would be paid for the year 2021-22, together with an extra payment of £115 to be paid in April.

7. **Correspondence received** – all correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated and dealt with as necessary.

## 8. **Councillors Reports, Matters Arising and Any New Issues**

- i) Cllr Sadler informed the meeting that he had had discussions with a resident who was willing to serve as a Parish Councillor. After consideration it was agreed that a new councillor should be co-opted to fill the current vacancy. Cllr Sadler proposed this motion, it was seconded by Cllr Stick and all Cllrs confirmed they were in agreement. The Clerk was asked

Signed.....

to make contact with the new councillor with all the relevant information and documentation to enable him to join the next Parish Council meeting.

- ii) Cllr Sadler advised that he was still waiting to hear back from 'County Broadband' but hoped to be able to give more details at the next meeting in March.
- iii) Cllr Calderbank confirmed that the telegraph pole in Elmswell Road which had been damaged by a speeding vehicle crashing into it, had been promptly repaired.
- iv) Cllr Stick passed on a message from our Community Policeman, Stefan Henriksen, that when he is in and around the village he would like residents to know it was ok to approach him and talk to him about any policing concerns they may have. It was suggested that publication of a picture in the Village Newsletter might be useful. Cllr Stick agreed to contact PC Henriksen in this connection.
- v) Cllr Fitch queried whether there had been any feedback concerning the cutting back of vegetation next to footpaths, as a considerable amount of clearing had taken place, and it was now possible to walk on the correct line of the footpath.

#### **9. Time and Date of the Next Meeting**

Cllr Stick asked if the next meeting could be brought forward by a week due to an unavoidable clash of appointments, it was therefore agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30pm via Zoom, invitations to join the meeting to be sent out in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signed.....