

# MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## (Draft) Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 held at the Bedfield Community Pavilion

The meeting commenced at 1902

### **09/21 – 01 Introduction**

GW welcomed everyone and as CAS and JG did not arrive until circa 1930, GR apologized for incorrectly showing the starting time of the meeting on the agenda as 1930. GW summarised the aspects of the meeting that had taken place between 1900 and 1930.

### **09/21 - 02 Present**

- Graham Wigley (GW - Chairman), David Entwisle (DE – Vice-Chairman), Julian Sayer (JS), Cliff Arndt-Snelling (CAS), Julie Giles (JG) and Caroline Berkley (CJB).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Matthew Hicks (MSDC District & SCC Councillor) for Items 09/21 – 13 & 15 below).

### **09/21 - 03 Apologies for Absence**

- Charles Bagnall (approved absence).

### **09/21 - 04 Declaration of Members Interests.**

- Councillors were reminded of the need to notify any changes to their circumstances which may affect their Declaration of Members Interests. None were declared.

### **09/21 - 05 Public Open Session**

- There were no members of the public present.

### **09/21 - 06 Minutes of the Last Meeting (AGM 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

- These were agreed and were signed as an accurate record by GW.

### **09/21 - 07 Action Points from the Minutes**

- JS stated that the seat had been installed and the councillors agreed that it looked fantastic. All agreed that thanks were very much due to JS and Sid. JS to pass on our thanks to Sid.
- The new website was up and running and again thanks were also expressed to Lisa Crane for doing such an excellent job.

### **09/21 - 08 Minutes of the 2021 Annual Village Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

- These were agreed and were signed as an accurate record by GW.

### **09/21 - 09 Action Points from the AVM**

- There were none.

### **09/21 - 10 Minutes of the Meeting (29<sup>th</sup> June 2021)**

- These were agreed and were signed as an accurate record by GW,

### **09/21 - 11 Action Points from the Minutes**

- GR had posted the parish council's views onto MSDC Planning Portal.

### **09/21 - 12 Police Report**

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website for the period March to July 2021 showed no recorded crime in Bedfield or Monk Soham.

#### **09/21 - 13 Report of District & County Councillor (MH)**

- GR had previously circulated MH's written report MH wished to emphasize the main point, which was that SCC are actively involved in climate change through their Emergency Climate Plan, which is deemed as a top priority. One aspect will be the forthcoming solar panel initiative, which will commence by assessing public interest before approaching a preferred contactor.
- MH was also involved in a discussion regarding the small triangle at the junction between The Green (U5620) and The Green C540). See also Item 09/21 - 15 below.

#### **09/21 - 14 Financial Update**

- The 2020/21 accounts had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn and accepted.
- There have been no receipts since the May 2021 meeting.
- Payments so far since the last May meeting have been £10.00 to the Clerk for an underpayment of salary in the 2020/21, as highlighted by the internal auditor and £58.01 to JS for materials to fix the seat on Long Green.
- Imminent payments due are £637.83, £43.08 and £ 147.45 for the Clerk's first half salary, expenses and PAYE respectively and £146.57 to CAS Limited for the 2021/22 insurance renewal. All were authorised.
- GR stated that the rest of the year should be broadly similar to 2020/21. If so, that would produce a balance to 2022/23 of approximately £1400.
- GR also stated that we can no longer have a Community Account and would therefore start charging us for its services. GR to research an alternative bank.
- The 2021/22 Financial Risk Assessment was approved.

#### **09/21 - 13 Planning Applications**

- DC/2 (Next to The Old Post Office - One Self-build House). Decision still awaited from MSDC.
- DC/21/01683 (7 Oaklands - erection of Garage )- Approved by MSDC.
- DC/21/01925 (The Oak - Listed Building Variances) - Approved by MSDC.
- DC/21/02082 (The Long House) - Listed Building Variances) - Approved by MSDC
- DC/21/04440 (Oak Cottage – Amendment to DC/20/05797) – Refused by MSDC.
- DC/21/04842 (Monks Cottage - single story extensions) – discussed and supported. GR to advise MSDC accordingly.

#### **09/21 - 14 Countryside Group.**

- GR stated that the tree planting initiative for Bedfield and Monk Soham had, in general, been agreed by MSDC, other than two proposals that were deemed to be on private land and not appropriate to the scheme. The MSDC response was currently with Paula Booth for assessment and agreement on the way forward. JG to liaise with Paula reading some of the Monk Soham aspects of the scheme.
- JG stated that Hungers Green was looking "fabulous" with many wildflowers thriving. This was mainly due to the management of cutting and raking. Some of the hay will be taken by the residents of Abbey House to assist with their planned wildflower garden.
- Access to various footpaths was discussed and GR will clarify from the official footpath map and advise councillors accordingly.

#### **09/21 - 15 Other Correspondence and Any Other Business**

- GR stated that he had complained via the SCC Highways reporting tool but that he had had to subsequently contact MH to report that verges had not been cut within the time scales set out by SCC Highways. They had then been done immediately. It was agreed that whilst this had led to some beautiful wildflowers being allowed to thrive, in places it had been dangerous to both drivers and pedestrians.
- A resident had offered to place soil on the triangle of School Road (U5620) and The Green (C540). Whilst it was agreed that the current state of the triangle needed urgent attention, the use of soil alone was not thought to be a long-term solution. This was mainly due to

potential historical pollution issues, the fact that it would simply continue to be used by traffic as a passing refuge and for access by farmers to their fields at that spot. Accordingly, a majority decision indicated a strong view that the offer should be declined (GR to thank the e resident and advise him accordingly). MH asked GR to email him with the details and he would aske SCC highways about ownership and potential repairs to the triangle (see Item 09/21 – 13 above).

- It was agreed to await the outcome of a MSDC initiative regarding providing a large screen to assist in the notification to villagers of planning applications.
- GR stated that he had returned a “Sustainable Travel” questionnaire on behalf of the village.
- GR also stated that despite receiving details of a planned fly-tipping campaign, nothing further had been received from MSDC.
- A discussion took place regarding the possibility of providing dog-waste bins on or near Snares Lane. GR had circulated the requirements of MSDC for these. It was agreed that perhaps the way forward was to ask users via the newsletter to remember to clean up after their dogs and then to monitor any improvements. However, the current situation was not though to be a major problem.
- Requests for comments to MSDC on the Gambling Act Consultation and the Hackney Carriage Consultation had been circulated by GR.

**09/21 - 16 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was fixed for 1900 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at the Bedfield Community Pavilion, commencing at 1900.

The meeting closed at 2010.

Signed.....(Chairman)