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| **Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council**  **Minutes of the March 2020 Parish Council Meeting**  **At Bracon Ash & Hethel Village Hall,**  **On Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.30PM** | |
| **Present:**  Mr Colin Rudd – Chairman Cllr Nigel Legg Mr Neil Dyer  Mrs Anne Howlett Mrs Mary Gray Mr Steve Horton  District Cllr Vivienne Clifford-Jackson and Gerry Francis  County Cllr Colin Foulger  Clerk Mrs Carole Jowett  No members of the public attended | |
| **1** | **To consider apologies** **for absence**  Mr Biddle and Mr Hayes had sent their apologies. |
| **2** | **To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda**  None |
| **3** | **To co-opt a new member to fill the vacancy following election**  There were no nominations. |
| **4** | **Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation, District and County Councillor reports**  **District councillor report**  Cllr Legg reported that the South Norfolk precept for council tax would increase by £5 for a band D which equated to approximately 3.3%. He said that future years would bring some financial challenges with doubt over the future of the new homes bonus.  Cllr Legg said that that he had received a number of complaints about the service from the The Humbleyard group of medical practices. He would be meeting the head of the new Clinical Commissioning Group to raise concerns.  Cllr Clifford-Jackson gave an update on the Community Actin Fund grant awards and announced that the new fund would commence in April. Mr Rudd said he had been very disappointed with the response to the last application as it had been judged that there was insufficient information despite having rung in to ask if everything that was required had been submitted. He asked Cllr Clifford-Jackson to feed this back. She said that there had been applications for £250k but the fund had only been £50k to allocate, she added that the fund would double next year to £100k. She also reminded attendees that the fund was still available until 1st March for the WWII 75th anniversary grant.  She said that the council was looking for feedback on the consultation process for the Greater Norwich Local Plan.  Cllr Clifford -Jackson explained that the back office merger between South Norfolk and Broadland was complete giving a saving of £8m.  Cllr Francis reported that the members grants totalling £3k had been fully allocated over the year.  **County councillor report**  Cllr Foulger said that there were issues to report from Norfolk County Council. |
| **5** | **To confirm minutes and review matters arising from the meeting on 13th January 2020**  The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020were agreed and signed.  Mr Dyer said that he had raised some issues by email about the safety matting and the way it had been laid. Mr Rudd said 3 separate inspections had been done and this had not been raised as an issue, he added that the matting had since settled into the ground. Mr Dyer still held concerns about the matting as it appeared to be excluded from the certification process. If it was raised at the annual inspection it would still be under guarantee.  Mr Dyer said he was concerned about the raised ironwork in the parking area, it had been backfilled with earth but this had been done a number of times because of the lack of an appropriate surface.  Mr Horton and a contractor had looked at the various options for surfacing and suggested digging out to 150mm, lay Teram and lay 100mm crushed concrete finishing with 50 mm of MOT type 1. The cost of this would be c.£8k for the whole area. Discussion took place about the potential to just do part of the area to reduce the cost. A further option to use plastic tiling would be obtained towards the end of March. The options would be further considered along with the available finances at the next meeting.  The existing equipment would benefit from being pressure washed and it was agreed to go ahead with this if the cost was no more than £200.00.  Cllr Legg had managed to secure a discount from NR Asphalt to surface the entrance to the village hall. The village hall committee had agreed to contribute £500 and the neighbour had agreed to contribute £100. When the VAT reclaim had been received the work would be done, it was provisionally booked for early April.  Mr Dyer asked about the provision of a light for the defibrillator, Mr Rudd agreed to ask the village hall committee about this. |
| **6** | **To consider and agree any comments on the Greater Norwich Local Plan**  It was noted that there had been no additional sites included in the latest plan for Bracon Ash or Hethel.  It was agreed that the existing allocation adjacent to the village hall should be removed from the local plan as there has already been a number of new homes built in the village. The planning applications that had been submitted to develop the site had been refused for a number of reasons.  The clerk would draft a to draft a response to the consultation and circulate for comments.  South Norfolk would be releasing a separate plan for smaller village clusters for consultation. |
| **7** | **Finance**  **7.1 To receive statement of accounts to 24th February 2020**  The accounts were reviewed and agreed.  **7.2 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**  DD £60.23 BT Community Hub  Chq no 930 £15.00 C Jowett Website domain annual fee  DD £51.40 BT Community Hub  The payments were agreed and the cheque was signed. |
| **8** | **To consider correspondence received**  Norse had written to advise the contract price would rise by 5% for the coming year.  Norse would be restructuring its grounds division but the Norwich depot was expected to continue, further notification would be sent to customers.  Priscilla Bacon had sent a fund raising brochure for the new hospice planned.  A new design for the old control tower at Lotus had been discussed, Mr Rudd had suggested that the replacement should reflect what the original building was. There would be a meeting once the plans were progressing.  It was reported that Mulbarton Parish Council wanted to purchase part of The Meadows from South Norfolk Council. |
| **9** | **To consider agenda items for the next meeting on 30th March 2020 and close**  **Agenda items**  To consider options and costings for surfacing for car parking at Bonds Green  **Future meeting dates**  30th March 2020 18th May 2020 13th July 2020 14th September 2020 19th October 2020 30th November 2020 |
| **10** | **Close**  The chairman closed the meeting at 20:50 |
|  | Signed …………………………………………. Date ……………………  Colin Rudd  Chairman to Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council |