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| **Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council**  **Minutes of the July 2020 Parish Council**  **via Zoom**  **On Monday 13th July 2020 at 7.00PM** | |
| **Present:**  Mr Colin Rudd – Chairman Cllr Nigel Legg Mr Neil Dyer  Mrs Anne Howlett Mrs Mary Gray  Mr David Biddle Mr Roy Hayes  District Cllr Vivienne Clifford-Jackson and Gerry Francis  Clerk Mrs Carole Jowett  1 member of the public attended | |
| **1** | **To consider apologies** **for absence**  Mr Steve Horton had sent his apologies. |
| **2** | **To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda**  None |
| **3** | **Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation, District and County Councillor reports**  **Public participation**  A report had been submitted by the foot path and tree warden and raised the following points  Wymondham Tree Services had delivered more wood chippings to the central  tipping site and were asked to give an opinion of some of the ash trees  suffering from die-back and whether they could work near the electrical cables. There was no problem on the group of trees reviewed a rough indication of cost of £400 was given. There was no urgency on the work, and it was the wrong time of the year to do such work. The tree warden asked if parish councillors could meet him on site to consider the work required. s  A request had been made by Mr Hayes for free hedging from the South Norfolk Council in respect of the area at the top of Poor House Lane.  This would require a letter from the council confirming ownership of the land.  The telephone box had been given a fresh coat of paint in preparation for the next exhibition currently being created.  A revised report of the footpaths was being done.  The gift of an additional sand/grit bin had been emailed to the members for suggestions as to where to place it. And after consideration it was agreed that when it could be filled by the county council it would be sited at the junction of B1113 and Mergate Lane.  The county council had cleared paths along the B1113 and the layby adjacent to the telephone box.  There were some decaying trees on the common although they were away from the pathway. It was suggested that the parish council needed to have a policy and risk assessment for tree maintenance on the common. This would be discussed along with signage at the next meeting.  **District councillor report**  An issue was raised that closing town centres had resulted in the footfall in Wymondham dropping as a result. |
| **4** | **To confirm minutes and review matters arising from the meeting on 18th May 2020**  The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2020were agreed and signed. |
| **5** | **To review the effect of COVID-19 on the village and facilities**  The vicar of Mulbarton had been distributing prescriptions and also volunteers in the village had been helping to support vulnerable residents, no help had been required from the parish council.  The village hall had reopened the previous week. |
| **6** | **To discuss and agree opening of playing field**  Many parish councils had not opened their playgrounds. Many people were using the Bracon Ash playing field but were social distancing. The bins were full, and Mr Rudd had spoken to the bin man who would ensure they were emptied the following day.  People needed to take responsibility for their own actions, and it was not possible to adhere to the governments guidelines but if there are less than 5 employees the guidelines did not apply.  Mr Howlett raised concerns about the additional hazardous waste being generated and suggested a closed bin and the connection of water for hand washing. For the time being it was agreed to put messages on every bench and seat and ask people to take their rubbish home. It was agreed that the measures in place were sufficient and the playing field cold remain open |
| **7** | **To consider options for playing field car parking**  This was adjourned to the next meeting.  Mr Rudd suggested that the work required from the RoSPA report could be funded from the remaining funding available, this was unanimously agreed. |
| **8** | **To approve the annual governance statement for 2019/20**  The annual governance statement was reviewed, and the answers agreed, the chairman signed the form. |
| **9** | **Finance**  **9.1 To approve the annual return for 2019/20**  The annual statement of accounts was reviewed and agreed and signed by the chairman.  **9.2 To receive statement of accounts to 13th July 2020**  The accounts were reviewed and agreed, the balances are healthy and the use CIL needed to be discussed at the next face to face meeting.  **9.3 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**  Chq no 944 Playsafety Ltd £149.40 Annual playing field inspection  Chq no 945 Anglian Water £1.57 Water bill  Chq no 946 C Rudd £15.99 Padlock for play area  DD BT Plc £47.99 Community hub  Chq no 947 P Riches £150.00 Grass cutting at the playing field  Chq no 947 P Riches £140.00 Grass cutting at the village hall  The payments were agreed. |
| **10** | **To consider correspondence received**  A letter had been received from Wave about the water billing that had been suspended due to covid19 it was agreed that the billing should recommence.  Planning application 2020/1197 had just been received  Location: 5 Long Four Acres Avenue Bracon Ash NR14 8SY  Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of 2018/2244 - re-position of dwelling within plot  It was agreed to support the application as long as footprint of the building did not change. |
| **11** | **To consider agenda items for the next meeting on 13th July 2020 and close**  **Agenda items**  To consider options for playing field car parking.  To consider a policy and risk assessment on the common including the provision of signs.  **Future meeting dates**  14th September 2020 19th October 2020 30th November 2020 |
| **12** | **Close**  The chairman closed the meeting at 20:00 |
|  | Signed …………………………………………. Date ……………………  Colin Rudd  Chairman to Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council |

**Appendix a**

**Councillor Nigel Legg - Report for Parishes July 2020**

South Norfolk Council continues to operate using video conferencing due to the. Sars2 CV situation.

The possibility of holding a full Council meeting complying with the recommended safety measures is being considered at a suitable venue. At present it is difficult for members of the public to have access to the various meetings.

The Development Management Committee will continue to meet remotely at fortnightly intervals with a reduced number of members. The agenda is published on the Councils Website about a week beforehand. Those wishing to speak at the meetings should contact Democratic Services by the end of the preceding week, when suitable arrangements can be made.

Arrangements have been made in the Towns in the District to promote the local shops and businesses. The approach has been to encourage pedestrianisation with social distancing. This has meant that vehicular traffic has been restricted in the central areas.

The Councils finances have been severely affected due to loss of income from leisure centres, etc. The leisure centres will be reopened as soon as regulations permit. Any shortfall in revenue will be made good by transferring money from reserves for the current financial year. It is too early to know what the situation will be for the following years. There is no suggestion that any “cuts” will need to be made. The financial situation at The County Council is unclear. However it is unlikely to affect the functioning of South Norfolk Council.

**Councillor Vivienne Clifford-Jackson - Report for Bracon Ash & Hethel PC July 2020**

Over the lockdown the Early Help Hub had access to key, previously unknown information, enabling a lot of knowledge to be gathered about the population. One example is new forms of homelessness including unregistered houses in multiple occupation, which the council hopes residents will report any they are aware of, as they are required to be licensed for the safety of the occupants.

The emergency committee that was making decisions during the crisis has now finished and usual practice of Cabinet and Full council as well as committee meetings are reinstated. The last member briefing was sent this week and the final stats of the help given were released. Over the period 2500 prescriptions were collected, 3000 shopping trips were done, 400 households in food poverty were fed and 20,000 Covid related calls were dealt with by the Help Hub. We are very fortunate to have many local examples of exemplary volunteering and support. Locally we had Rev Adrian Miller who coordinated over 100 volunteers who served 100 vulnerable people and has now been nominated as one of our community heroes. Nominations are still open until the 17th July to recognise these fine local residents.

All South Norfolk Council meetings are now on-line and open to the public. The planning Committee continues fortnightly on line with five members currently (reduced from the usual nine). So far the members have rejected the officers’ recommendations on two applications since the committee went on line. The economic impact of Covid 19 is one of the considerations now due to the economic recovery imperative. A new commercial, trading, and customer focus policy committee had been formed to support this need. So far the council is stable financially having sufficient reserves at this time to maintain services. It is 25th in the national league tables in resilience and has less health needs and potential unemployment than elsewhere. So we are very privileged to live where we do. Churches are now open, as are pubs, restaurants and swimming pools from the end of the month, so it appears we are over the worst of this phase of the infection.

I attended the Equinor webinar to discuss the next phase of sub-stations to be erected locally and all residents will have seen the consultation documents for this. The proposals for the Thickthorn extensions continue and consultations for the Western access road are also on-going. So there is plenty to be involved with!