|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council**  **Minutes of the August Parish Council meeting**  **At Bracon Ash & Hethel Village Hall**  **On Monday 14th August 2023 at 7.30PM** | |
| **Present:**  Mr Colin Rudd – Chairman Mr Roy Hayes Mrs Zoe Barr  Cllr Nigel Legg Mrs Anne Howlett Mr Steve Horton  Mrs Mary Gray Mr David Biddle  Cllr Webber  Clerk Mrs Carole Jowett  2 members of the public attended | |
|  | **To consider apologies** **for absence**  Mr Dyer had sent his apologies for absence. |
|  | **To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda**  There were no declarations of interest made. |
|  | **Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation, District and County Councillor reports**  **District councillor report**  Cllr Spratt had sent a report which was presented by Cllr Webber and is attached at appendix A  **Public participation**  The had been complaints of vehicle noise due to the Lotus night shift workers driving through village between 1:30 and 2 am and this had been raised with Lotus and the company was carrying out a full investigation. This issue had been on the front page of the EDP.  A letter had been from Helen Bowman apologising for the planning portal not being updated but the application for the site adjacent to the village hall would not be going to the development management committee until at least October.  The Norfolk Wildlife Trust used village hall for a seminar and would be back on 28/09/23. There was a free place available and the chairman said he would attend.  Most of the planting last year had survived but had overgrown and needed clearing. Water was not running through to the ponds and testing had been planned but delayed due to excessive rain.  The glades would be cut in September.  There had been work on the road which was due to BT putting in fibre cables.  The Street had been reported due to the overgrown hedge , the response had been that it would be monitored but the landowner had been asked to cut back and this had been done. |
|  | **To confirm minutes and review matters arising from the annual general meeting held on 26th June 2023**  The minutes of the June meeting were unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman. |
|  | **To consider planning application 2023/2037 and agree any comments**  **Proposal: Hybrid Application: 1) Outline planning application (including access and scale) for the development of modern facilities to support Lotus' production requirements. Proposals include new manufacturing (B2), production (B2), logistics (B8) and office (E(g)) buildings. (Note: Logistics B8 is purely for Lotus requirements only). 2) Full application for new road infrastructure to facilitate masterplan and improve access by mitigating width restrictions to Potash Lane.**  **Location: Land West of Hethel Engineering Centre Chapman Way Hethel Norfolk**  It had been confirmed that the new factory units were for future use and it was suspected that the main reason for the application was for the road access at this time.  After discussion it was proposed by Mr Hayes to object to the proposals as there was no detail on what the buildings were to be used for and what their appearance would be. There was no timescale for the buildings to be built or brought in to use and no detail what the roundabout was needed for. A cheaper alternative to a very expensive roundabout would be instal peak time traffic lights at the junction with Potash Lane. Dr Legg seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. |
|  | **To review the asset register**  This item was adjourned to the next meeting. |
|  | **To consider the parish partnership scheme and agree any requirements**  There were no requirements identified. |
|  | **To consider any action on the uneven ground outside the village hall**  The grassed around the monument was uneven which had been caused by moles and a tree that had fallen down a number of years ago. There was excess soil at the playing field that could be used and a working party would be assembled to address the uneven ground and reseed it. |
|  | **Finance**  **9.1 To receive statement of accounts to 14th August 2023**  The accounts were reviewed and agreed.  The clerk suggested a transfer of funds from the current account to the reserve account as the interest rate was now risen and it would be worth getting interest on the funds that were not needed in the immediate future. Mrs Howlett proposed £9000.00 be moved, Dr Legg seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.  **9.2** **To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**  Chq no 1020 P Riches £307.50 Grounds maintenance  BACS C Jowett £339.88 Clerks salary  BACS HMRC £226.40 PAYE  BACS South Norfolk Council £146.64 Dog bin servicing  The water bill had been credited with a credit note of £91.80, a meter reading and photo would be required to get this money refunded. |
|  | **To review actions required from the RoSPA report**  A volunteer was needed to look after the playing field and there had been problems getting a contractor to undertake the repair work. Mr Rudd said he would ask the district council for recommendations. Dr Legg said he would approach his neighbour to see if he could help.  The backboard of the basketball needed to be replaced, Mr Horton showed an option, Dr Legg proposes this was done and it was seconded by Mr Biddle it was then unanimously agreed and would be paid for from CIL funding. |
|  | **To consider correspondence received**  The public spaces protection order information would be sent round by email.  Complaints about the traffic from Lotus had been discussed, Mr Horton said he had 84 days data from the SAM2 machine and this had also been in the sight line of the village hall CCTV.  The top speed recorded had bee 100mph at 8:30 on a Sunday morning, he said that the issue with Lotus was apparent on the records. |
|  | **To agree agenda items for annual parish meeting and annual general meeting next meeting on 14th August 2023 and close**  23rd October 2023  13th November 2023 |
|  | **Close**  The chairman closed the meeting at 20:50 |
| Signed …………………………………………. Date ……………………  Colin Rudd  Chairman to Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council | |

Appendix A

**Bracon Ash & Hethel PC report 14th Aug 2023.**

**Sale of Long Stratton Building.**

This has been deferred once again due to the application by Long Stratton Town Council to secure **‘Assets of Community Value’** status on the building. A statutory process now has to follow. It appears likely that a sale will not be secured until Spring 2024.

**Vehicle-related anti-social behaviour in South Norfolk.**

I attended an informal meeting for members on 25th July. **Slide set attached**.

Concern has been expressed regarding vehicle related anti-social behaviour, a **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER** is being considered. The members that attended the meeting were generally supportive but it was agreed that a longer consultative period be applied as it is summer giving Town and Parish Councils more time to respond.

Officers will now carry out a public consultation over a period likely to be eight weeks in duration. They will then bring forward a formal report containing the results of consultation. The report will also formalise proposals to establish a proportionate **public spaces protection order** containing powers to deal with those who persist with anti-social behaviours associated with vehicles.

***East Anglia Green (Pylons) now, ‘Norwich to Tilbury’ update:***

We are now in the second non-statutory consultation period **which runs until 21st August**. A series of briefing sessions have taken place for Councillors, Parish Councils and members of the public.

**Cross party concern was also expressed at the full council meeting on 24th July 23.**

***South Norfolk Council*** *has written to National Grid calling for a rethink on the Norwich to Tilbury Grid reinforcement consultation process, taking place between July and mid-August 2023.*

***Stating: ‘Concerns have been raised about the completeness of the Consultation information provided. Members of the public, parish councils and other interested parties will be unable to fully assess the proposals and alternatives at a time when many are on holiday and with Councils unable to make formal representations before September.’***

*Councillor Lisa Neal (Con) has also written to National Grid (her letter was published in the EDP on 17th July) highlighting South Norfolk Council’s concerns over the company’s Norwich to Tilbury scheme and* ***calls for the consultation period to be extended****. She also queried why information regarding options for complete or partial burying of the lines and accurate information about why an offshore implementation has not featured in this process.*

**These statements can be found in full on the South Norfolk website.**

**It does however all seem somewhat contradictory as Energy Secretary, Grant Shapps, has told the BBC the government plans to "halve" the time it takes for more power lines to be built across the UK.**

And National Grid says five times more power lines need to be built in the next seven years than in the past 30. But it adds that planning reforms will be required to get them built.

The Government appointed energy expert Nick Winser in his capacity as the **Electricity Networks Commissioner** has released the **Winser Report**. Not read it fully yet but it includes recommendations on streamlining the processing of planning applications for electricity transmission infrastructure, such as pylons and substations.

**Two sources of further information via Facebook are local campaign groups:**

**Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons (Lead, Rosie Pearson)**

**Forncett & South Norfolk Pylons Action Group (Lead, Martin Starkie)**

* Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons have conducted and published a survey of which 1,111 people contributed. This shows overwhelming concern regarding the manner in which NG are handling the project and a continuing opinion to explore alternative methods including underground or offshore alternatives
* Charles Banner KC continues to advise the campaign group and has issued a six page document examining the ‘legal adequacy’ of the latest non-statutory public consultation exercise. Advising on the first non-statutory consultation in June 22 he concluded it was ‘deficient’. In his latest report Charles Banner concludes, ‘Further, there is a real risk that the legal deficiencies in the current consultation will, if still left uncorrected, infect the later statutory consultation (which would in turn mean that the intended DCO application cannot lawfully be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate).

Both of these documents can be found on [www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk](http://www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk)

Ian Spratt