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| **Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council**  **Minutes of the March Parish Council meeting**  **At Bracon Ash & Hethel Village Hall**  **On Monday 26th June 2023 at 7.30PM** | |
| **Present:**  Mr Colin Rudd – Chairman Mr Roy Hayes Mr Neil Dyer  Cllr Nigel Legg Mrs Anne Howlett Mr Steve Horton  Mrs Mary Gray Mr David Biddle  Cllr Webber  Clerk Mrs Carole Jowett  3 members of the public attended | |
|  | **To consider apologies** **for absence**  Mrs Barr had sent her 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 Webberattended and tendered apologies for his fellow councillors. He reported that he would be on the finance and resources committee.  He said that there was a £90m reserves underspend on capital budgets and use of this would be accelerated but there was likely to be pressure on finance and budgets going forward.  The £9m Rural England prosperity fund was originally to be spent on a roundabout at Hethel but it had been changed so that two thirds matching funds would be made available to businesses. The proposed roundabout had been a concern to the parish council as no reasoning had ever been provided and concerns were expressed about the lack of transparency. The remaining third would be spent on an electric vehicle charging fund.  Potash Lane had been renovated last year and a significant amount had been spent on it there had been concerns that there had been a plan to reopen the road.  There was further concern that the roundabout was about the possible development of housing.  Cllr Webber said he had attended a training session on the help hu tat provided a range of services, social provisioning etc.  The community action fund would open for applications from £1k - £5k the following week.  There was also the members grant of £1k each for the ward.  Consultation was ongoing on a very large battery storage at Swainsthorpe, close to the substation at Swardeston. The site would last for 40 years but batteries would only ast 10 years and would need to be replaced.  Mr Rudd expresses concern about the industrialisation in this area and there was no plan or policy for these developments in a rural area.  The substation development on A140 was causing problems on the B1113.  Anglian Water had submitted a planning application for a mast for smart meters on Cuckoofield Lane.  **Public participation**  A second session of wood chip laying by volunteers had taken place.  There was a tree down on the common.  Concerns were expressed about the lack of response from South Norfolk regarding the proposed solar farm and the proposed development adjacent to the village hall. The planning department was totally ineffective at present with late posting to website and not responding to emails and letters.  There was a suggestion that the piece of land outside the village hall where the bench and village sign were could be gifted to the village hall as it had been maintained for the past 40 years. It belonged to the owner of Bracon Hall and a request had been submitted. It could be registered as an asset of community value and if sold the parish council would be notified. |
|  | **To confirm minutes and review matters arising from the annual general meeting held on 15th May 2023**  The minutes of the annual general meeting were unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman. |
|  | **To agree the annual governance statement**  The governance statement was reviewed and agreed.  The chairman and clerk signed the form. |
|  | **To approve the annual accounting statement.**  The accounting statement was reviewed and agreed.  The chairman and clerk signed the form. |
|  | **To approve the exemption certificate.**  The exemption certificate was agreed and signed. |
|  | **To consider and agree an additional signatory for the bank.**  Mrs Gray volunteered to be the fourth signatory. Dr Legg proposed that Mrs Gray was agreed as a signatory and Mr Hayes seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. |
|  | **Finance**   * 1. **To receive statement of accounts to 26th June 2023**   The accounts were reviewed and agreed.  **6.2** **To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**  DD BT Plc £47.94 Community hub  BACS Playsafety Ltd £157.20 Annual playing field inspection  The water bill had been credited with a credit note of £91.80, a refund would be requested. |
|  | **To review actions required from the RoSPA report**  Maintenance was required on a number of items and could be paid for using CIL money.  The zip wire post had been changed but the chain was now requiring replacement.  The backboard of the basketball board and hoop and net were broken and had been removed it was agreed to get this work done immediately.  2 quotes would be sought for the maintenance work, Mr Dyer suggested metal frames be favoured as they had a much longer life.  A grant could be sought for new equipment and CIL used for maintenance work.  The grass needed cutting at the play area, Mr Horton said would speak to the contractor. |
|  | **To consider planning application 2023/1489**  **Location: Lotus Cars Ltd  Potash Lane Hethel Norfolk NR14 8EZ**  **Proposal: Installation of solar carport**  After discussion it was agreed that no comment would be submitted. |
|  | **To consider correspondence received**  The parish partnership scheme had been launched.  Items to report to highways:  Hedge on the corner of Poorhouse Lane is reducing visibility.  Footpath from Poorhouse Lane to Laws Lane needs clearing.  Footpath Rectory Lane to the stile needs clearing. |
|  | **To agree agenda items for annual parish meeting and annual general meeting next meeting on 14th August 2023 and close**  To review and agree the asset register  Parish partnership scheme  To sign bank signatory  To consider any action on the uneven ground outside the village hall  14th August 2023  23rd October 2023  13th November 2023 |
|  | **Close**  The chairman closed the meeting at 21:10 |
| Signed …………………………………………. Date ……………………  Colin Rudd  Chairman to Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council | |