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| **Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council****Minutes of the February Parish Council meeting****At Bracon Ash & Hethel Village Hall** **On Monday 26th February 2024 at 7.30PM** |
| **Present:** Mr Colin Rudd – Chairman Mr Roy Hayes Mrs Anne HowlettCllr Nigel Legg Mr Steve Horton Mrs Mary Gray Mr David Biddle (until 19:45) Mrs Zoe Barr Mr Neil DyerClerk Mrs Carole Jowett 2 members of the public attended  |
|  | **To consider apologies** **for absence**There were no 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** The district councillors had sent their apologies but a report had been sent which is copied at appendix a to these minutes. **Public participation**A request was made for a dog bin at Hawkes Lane/Mergate Lane area.There had been issues with dog waste not being cleared from pathways. There was ash die back around the pond There was still further cutting to be done around the common.The bus shelter costs still needed to be obtained.  |
|  | **To confirm minutes and review matters arising from the meeting held on 13th November 2023**An article had been in the local press about the planning application for the 23 houses on Norwich Road highlighting residents’ concerns and flooding issues. The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman.  |
|  | **To consider and agree to provide a dog waste bin in the Hawkes Lane/Mergate Lane area**There had been multiple requests to have a dog bin. The cost of providing a bin and ongoing servicing was discussed emptying was unanimously agreed. The location was agreed for it to be opposite the entrance to Marsh Lane. A green bin was the preferred option. It was agreed the clerk would place the order.  |
|  | **To consider traffic issues on the B1113 and agree any action**The chairman had sent an email to the resident at the end of Potash Lane to check on the night shift traffic noise on the C1135 and it had not been too bad. The planning enforcement case had been closed as there were no restrictions on the hours of operation.  |
|  | **To consider planning application 2024/0275 and agree any comments****Proposal: Alterations to pre-approved garage to raise the roof height to provide a room in the roof and installation of velux windows****Location: 1 Bracon Hall Farm Cottages East Carleton Road Bracon Ash NR14 8HN** It was agreed to not submit any comments. |
|  | **To review the checks on the defibrillator**The recommendation by the Ambulance Service was to check the machine every week. Mr Biddle undertook these checks using the recommendation on what to look for, the unit checked itself and alerts. There were 3 symbols 1 for the pads 1 for the battery and one for the circle of life, if there is across on this one the unit must be checked to find out what the problem is. The date was written on the battery but the unit will highlight when it needed to be changed. He also checked the external box. |
|  | **To review and adopt the biodiversity policy and action plan**The model policy was discussed and it was agreed that changes would be need to be made before it was adopted. This would be reviewed at the next meeting. The action plan would also be considered and reviewed. |
|  | **To consider a request to reimburse the cost of litter picking equipment** The volunteer litter picker had purchased some bin bag holders to make it easier when doing the litter picks; he had requested the parish council reimburse the cost. This was unanimously agreed.  |
|  | **Finance****11.1 To receive statement of accounts to 26th February 2024** The accounts were reviewed and agreed. The broadband contract had been renewed with a small reduction in the monthly costTo raise funds for the playing field ZB was suggested to put a QR code in the park and use a go fund me facility. **11.2 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**BACS £15.98 H Marriott Bin bag holdersThe payment was agreed.  |
|  | **To consider correspondence received**Nothing to consider.  |
|  | **To consider and agree an alternative date for the AGM and annual parish meeting**The next meeting date was changed to Thursday 16th May 2024.  |
|  | **To agree agenda items for the March parish council meeting on 25th March 2024 and close****Agreed dates of meetings in 2024**15th April 202416th May 2024 AGM at 19:00 followed by the annual parish meeting 8th July 20242nd September 202414th October 20242nd December 2024**Agenda item for next meeting**To review and adopt the biodiversity policy and action plan |
|  | **Close** The chairman closed the meeting at 20:45 |
| Signed …………………………………………. Date …………………… Colin RuddChairman to Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council |

 Appendix A

**Bracon Ash Parish Council – 26 February 2024**

**District Councillor Report**

**Grants**

 Members ward grants close on 1st March. Your District Councillors have allocated their contributions for this period. The 24/25 period will commence from April 24.

**Hethersett Academy /Inspiration Trust**

Cllr. Webber introduced a motion asking for support from South Norfolk Council to lobby for fairer school admission policies at Hethersett Academy and nationally. While it appears that most local Year 7 children applying for Hethersett Academy will be successful this year, recent changes to admissions policies are likely to lead to increasing pressures on admissions for local children in future years. The motion was defeated by Conservative and Labour councillors.

**Council Tax and Budget 24/25**
South Norfolk voted to increase Council Tax by £5 for a Band D property (3%) at SNC Council on Wednesday 21st Feb. Budgets for 24/25 were signed off on the same day. Higher interest rates and VAT changes have created a surplus for 23/24. All political parties agreed late amendments to allocate the surplus to service improvements including £350,000 to the Household Support, strengthening planning enforcement and additional resources to work with landowners on flood prevention.

**Flooding on B1113**

District Councillors are still active in attempting to resolve this. The area was visited again over the weekend of 17th/18th Feb when conditions throughout the entire area were particularly bad. As this appears to be primarily the responsibility of Highways, your County Councillor, Daniel Elmer and County Councillor Graham Plant, the cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, have been contacted. There has been no substantive response. While Highways appear to concentrate on “mopping up” issues, we are concerned that there is no long-term solution in sight and meanwhile the existing infrastructure is at risk.

**Greater Norwich Local Plan**

The Inspector’s Report on the Plan (excluding the village clusters) is now available and is expected to be approved by an extraordinary meeting of South Norfolk Council on 25th March.

**PSPO (Vehicle Related Anti-Social Behaviour)**

The PSPO on vehicle related anti-social behaviour was finally approved by Council at its 21 February meeting. The PSPO will come into force on 4th April.

**World Cafes**

The South Norfolk & Broadland Health and Wellbeing Partnership brings together a wide range of bodies with an interest in health and wellbeing. Two world café events are planned for March in Diss and Reepham. These events will provide residents an opportunity to meet in an informal setting to discuss key health topics with a particular focus on prevention and health inequalities. Parish Councils are encouraged to promote and attend these events. Further information can be provided.

**‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update**

The formal consultation for this project is planned to start soon. For further information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk>

**Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber**

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|  | **Councillor Contact Details** |  |
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