Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of Ellington Parish Council Parish Meeting
on Monday 6th July 2020
The meeting was held online via Zoom as per the "*Regulations*" (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020).

Present:

Councillors:	Cllrs Lumbers, McCutcheon, Porter and Walters
Clerk/Dist Cllr:	Darren Tysoe
County Cllr:	Cllr Ian Gardener

Public: 8

Open Forum

- A resident asked whether the bridge across the flyover was sufficient to cope with the weight of heavy goods vehicles. The Clerk confirmed that bridge was designed to take heavy traffic, but acknowledged that the road surface was in a poor state. County Cllr Gardener confirmed that he had made several requests for this to be repaired, and would chase again.
- A resident asked about the state of the roundabout leading off the flyover - County Cllr Gardener confirmed that he had made several requests for this to be repaired, and expected Highways England to repair this very soon as it was in a poor site – as is the slip road leading out to the A14 (eastbound).
- A resident asked about an update regarding the mobile vehicle activated signs. The Clerk confirmed that this was on the agenda.
- A resident asked about the noise coming from the Buffaload site (suggesting it sounded like refrigeration units). The Chairman stated that there was a dedicated item on the agenda for an update on Buffaload (1334a).
- A resident asked about the increased use of the Buffaload site. The Chairman stated that there was a dedicated item on the agenda for an update on Buffaload (1334a).

1328. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Chapmans, Elliott and Palmer.
1329. To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any Agenda item - none
1330. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4nd May 2020 were approved.
1331. Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th May 2020 (for info only). It was noted that county council had begun planning the footpath bridge repair, which would involve the construction of a new bridge.
1332. Update from District and County Councillors.
1333. Finances
    a) The Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation for 31 May 2020 was approved.
    b) The following payments made since the last meeting were noted: Chq 696: Function 28 website and email Inv 7503 £24.00, Chq 696 BEAM Grass cutting Inv 6 £235.00, Chq 698 Clerk salary Q1 (Apr, May, June) £546.75 net and stationery expenses of £7.80, £28.23 and £37.63 , Chq 699 PAYE Q1

£382.50; Chq 700 BEAM Inv 7 and 8 £470.00, Chq 701 Function 28 Inv 7661 £24, Chq 702 TMA Bark £2527.20

1334. Other Matters to consider/updates

a) Buffaload Logistics – planning and enforcement status and parking in the village. The Chairman began by providing a summary of the planning history of the Grove Lane site, from 2006 to the present day. This included details of the current planning permissions, and outstanding enforcement items. A copy of this summary is appended to the Minutes of the report, and will be downloadable from the website (and available on request in writing via the Clerk). Mr Ross Taylor, the CEO of Buffaload Logistics contributed to the item. In response to questions about noise and screening, Mr Taylor confirmed that he would find out what the cause of the noise was on-site, as he was not aware of late-note noise disturbances coming from the site. It was suggested that the noise resembled refrigeration generator units (as used in many of the Buffaload vehicles). Mr Taylor reported on his intention to create a nature reserve at the end of Grove Lane, which would include 14 acres of trees, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. Reference was made to the current parking area, on the site of the formed wooded area, which was felled without the benefit of a felling licence, and subject to a restocking notice (which had not been adhered to, and should be subject to further action to ensure compliance). Mr Taylor confirmed that he/his agent was in discussion with HDC to make a planning application to regularise the parking in this area. The Clerk confirmed that he had been in contact with the enforcement team at HDC who had stated that many of the original non-confirming items of the original planning permission had expired. The clerk explained that the site had the attention of the MD at HDC, who was aware of the sensitivity of the site due to its long planning and enforcement history. The new Enforcement Manager has stated that she would provide regular updates to the Parish Council. At the current time, due to an ongoing investigation, it was not possible to comment. It was agreed to provide a summary of the status of the Grove Lane site in a Parish Council Newsletter. It was suggested that a liaison group would be useful to help improve relations between Buffaload Logistics and the village. The Clerk agreed to work with volunteer residents who had signalled a willingness to form a liaison group.
b) Update on 2019 LHI Bid for digital speed signs. The Clerk confirmed that he had received correspondence from the County Council asking to confirm the type of model required. On 2nd June, they confirmed that they had all the information required. The invoice will be issued only once the works have been carried out, ie all equipment was in place. The Clerk confirmed that the PC was still willing to contribute £718 as per the feasibility study. **The Clerk was asked to chase progress. Action: Clerk.**
c) Update on A14 Legacy Fund (footpath across the Green). The Clerk read out correspondence from the A14 Legacy Fund, which again confirmed that the project will go ahead, and apologised for the delay.
d) Coronavirus Grant and supporting groups who lost fund-raising opportunities. The Clerk was asked to write to Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to ask whether the £1000 COVID grant could be used to assist the volunteer groups who had lost money due to either inability to fund-raise or loss of stock. **Action: Clerk.**
e) Neighbourhood Plan update. The Clerk updated the PC on the status of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was now nearing the survey stage. It was planned to launch the survey in September. There would also be a survey for businesses and younger residents.

f) Grant applications. The Clerk was asked to investigate grants for the village hall roof, village signs/gates, and commemorative bench. **Action: Clerk.**
g) Review of Tree Planting – the Clerk confirmed that he had written to the volunteer resident who had organised the tree planting. Feedback was very positive.
h) Christmas Tree on Village Green – it was agreed to order a Christmas Tree this year. The existing base and battery-operated lights were still usable. **Action: Clerk (with assistance from Cllrs Palmer and Lumbers to collect the tree).**
i) Improving PC communication – it was agreed to produce a quarterly newsletter with PC information and updates until the Ellington Express is re-launched. The first newsletter would be produced and distributed by the end of July. **Action: Clerk.**
j) Allotments – there was a discussion about whether or not there was any demand for allotments. Cllr Lumbers stated that an allotment plot is normally 10 poles – an ancient form of measurement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. 10 poles are 302.5 square yards. One pole is an area 5.5 yards' x 5.5 yards. This gives 160 poles to one acre, which is 16 plots of ten poles each to the acre. He did envisage that suitable land could be identified for the purpose of allotments, including water services. The Clerk was asked to place an article in the next edition of the Newsletter. **Action: Clerk.**
k) Village Hall Update – the Clerk was asked to take forward the project to repair the village hall roof. **Action: Clerk.**
l) Playing Field Committee Update – a member of the PF Committee confirmed that the play equipment would shortly be opening once signage had been erected in-line with HDC advice. Due to COVID-19, two fund-raising events had been cancelled, which meant that the committee accounts were very low. It was hoped to hold a Treasure Hunt in the autumn, subject to COVID-19 social-distancing restrictions. Two volunteers had offered to run the bar (if required) for the Treasure Hunt.
m) Neighbourhood Watch Update – no update.

1335. Correspondence – none not on the agenda.
1336. Items for discussion at next meeting – Buffaload update, grants, neighbourhood plan, LHI, A14 Legacy fund, Allotments
1337. The provisional date for the extraordinary meeting for the annual accounts was 27th July 2020.
1338. Date of next Meeting: 7th September 2020 via Zoom.