

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of Kirby Cane & Ellingham Parish  
Council on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7pm via Zoom**

**Present:**

John Cook                      James Lally                      Lesley Lodge  
Julie Pickering                Michael Skipper                Iain Wright

Also the clerk to the council, Jane Love, and three members of the public.

**1. To receive apologies for absence:**

There were none.

**2. To receive declarations of interest from members on items on the agenda, and any requests for a dispensation on those interests:**

John Cook and Michael Skipper were trustees of the Kirby Cane Memorial Hall, Iain Wright was a trustee of Kirby Cane Charity and John Cook also had a non-pecuniary interest in Ellingham United Charities.

**3. To consider planning matters:**

The meeting considered South Norfolk Council's planning application 2020/2026, concerning the redevelopment of a garage at a property on Yarmouth Road with the intention of providing accommodation for a relative. The applicant and a resident were invited to address the meeting briefly to state their respective cases. The members of the planning committee had visited the site and made their own comments about the application. The planning committee asked the clerk to respond to SNC that they supported the application but would like to see the structure moved further north to avoid the possibility of overshadowing and overlooking.

Three members of the public left the meeting

**4. To consider applications for Parish Council funding for 2021/22:**

a) Applications were received from both Kirby Cane PCC and Ellingham PCC. In addition to assistance with maintaining the churchyard, each had asked for additional help, Kirby Cane with mending the organ, and Ellingham with repairs to the boundary wall. The clerk explained that due to the regulations, the parish council could help fund the repair to the boundary wall, as this related to the exterior and the churchyard, so was accessible to everyone, but could not help with repair to the organ at Kirby Cane, as this was solely used for religious services and not for other purposes. Councillors resolved to give each church £750 for maintenance of the churchyards;

b) Due to the uncertainty of the current Covid situation, the Memorial Hall Committee had decided not to make a specific application for 2021/22, but the clerk stressed that she proposed to continue the council's provision of £1000 as a "contingency reserve", to which all village organisations could apply in cases of need during the year. Councillors agreed the parish council would fund the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall noticeboard on the front of the hall, which it was estimated would cost about £100, which would be done in association with the renovation of the PC noticeboard;

c) Newgate Allotment Society had requested support to buy a new lawnmower for maintaining the grass paths at the allotments, in the sum of £307.5 (ex VAT, which the PC could reclaim). Councillors resolved to grant £200 towards this cost;

d) Ellingham Football Club – the team is not currently operational, but may restart in the future, so the PC grant that had been placed in reserve in 2019/20 would continue to be reserved for the club;

e) Tidings magazine – the village receives 430 copies of the magazine for each one of the 10 issues produced each year, so a grant of £200 would contribute 4.6p per copy towards production of the magazine. Councillors resolved to grant £200 for the 2021/22 financial year.

**5. To discuss in detail the Parish Council's budget for 2021/22:**

The councillors and clerk went through the draft budget line by line. Councillors asked for more information about how they could claim for "members' expenses" in relation to stationery etc. Also they thanked the two contractors who had quoted for the urban grasscutting in the village but decided that for 2021/22 they would not take on the contract, but would monitor the Norfolk County Council grasscutting contract to see how often the grass was actually cut and possibly take on the contract in the next financial year.

On the basis of the income and expenditure in the draft budget, no increase in the precept was anticipated, which would remain at £20,500, but the final decision would be made at the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**6. To consider the provision of a new dog waste bin:**

Councillors had already agreed on expenditure of £200 for a new dog bin, and resolved that it should be located part way along the footpath Ellingham BR5/Broome BR15, near to the pullover on the south side near to the turning for Ellingham West.

**7. To consider local issues – speed on A143:**

Councillors asked the clerk to send the letter detailing the parish case for a reduction in speed limit to the MP, Richard Bacon.

**8. To receive items for information:**

The clerk had received information about an impending 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the village, and councillors asked the clerk to send a card on their behalf to the resident.

The remedial work had been done to the top of the steps near to the railway bridge. There had been a lot of issues with mud on roads due to sugarbeat lifting, including a formal complaint from one resident, and these had been dealt with by direct approaches to the farmers concerned.

Also, a resident had asked that the SAM2 should return to Yarmouth Road, and Cllr Wright explained that this would be returning soon, as it had just returned to the village from Geldeston. It was currently on Lockhart Road, and would go to Yarmouth Road in the New Year, when there may be more traffic after the festive break.

**9. To receive items for the next agenda:**

Budget and precept confirmation, appointment of internal auditor.

**10. Date of next meeting – Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7.pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.14pm

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated.....