

Minutes of the parish council meeting of Kirby Cane & Ellingham Parish Council on Monday, 18th September 2023 at 7.00pm in Kirby Cane Memorial Hall

Present:

Richard Canham, James Lally, Julie Pickering, Michael Skipper, Iain Wright, district councillor Chris Brown, the clerk to the council, Jane Love, and eight members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from John Cook, Lesley Lodge, Kerry Mallard, Andrew Raymant, county councillor Barry Stone & district councillor Brendon Bernard

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

Michael Skipper and James Lally were trustees of Kirby Cane Memorial Hall; Richard Canham was a trustee of the Ellingham United Charities; and Iain Wright was a trustee of the Kirby Cane Charity.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2023:

The minutes of the meeting on 17th July were agreed to be correct and were signed by the chairman

4. To report matters arising from those minutes (no decisions can be taken on any of these items):

Some issues arising from the last meeting would be addressed later in the meeting. Cllr Wright reported that the SAM2 device had been returned by Geldeston Parish Council, and it was now on School Road. There would be more data available at the next meeting.

The clerk had contacted South Norfolk Council about the empty properties in the village, but had not heard anything back - councillors reported that a skip had appeared at the Nursey Close bungalow, although not much activity had been witnessed.

Connections with Tidings magazine - the clerk reported that this was in hand.

5. Opportunity for public participation:

Firstly, the councillors heard from Mr Nichols, owner of the field on the corner of Church Road, Kirby Cane and the A143. He and his wife had spent a considerable amount of time, money and effort on turning their site into a dedicated safe space to exercise dogs. Although the site was not 100% completed, Mr Nichols offered residents the opportunity to come and test the service for the month of October, free of charge, and if possible provide feedback on their experience. Mr Nicholls also expressed his incredulity that the 50-mile-an-hour speed limit starts too far east, and should have been extended to cover the Church Road/Yarmouth Road junction with the A143.

Secondly, residents raised their grave concerns about waste water treatment at the eastern end of Mill Road and detailed their very unpleasant experiences of sewage levels rising up through the drains in their gardens on what they describe as becoming an all-too-frequent basis, most recently following heavy rains earlier in September. Although Anglian Water had sent contractors to clear up the resulting mess, sewage was still sitting in gardens for up to three days before it was dealt with. Residents were frustrated that this issue is ongoing, and that Anglian Water has not been able to resolve it, although

getting Radio Norfolk involved may have had some effect. Residents suggested that the possible reasons for this issue were varied, possibly linked to outdated machinery at the pumping station in Mill Lane, or inadequate/failing pipework carrying foul water through the system. Those affected warned that this issue was only likely to get worse as time went on, exacerbated by possible future development in the village, and urged fellow residents to be very careful about what they flushed down their toilets and otherwise disposed of down the drains to try to ensure that blockages did not develop in the system. Although water and drainage is not a parish council responsibility, the chairman and clerk undertook to contact Anglian Water to raise and to try to achieve a resolution.

District Cllr Chris Brown also reported to the meeting that the sale of South Norfolk House in Long Stratton had been delayed but was now back on track and a sale was expected soon. The council was facing a lot of challenges, one being temporary accommodation, and was therefore purchasing properties for this purpose. Nutrient neutrality was also an issue elsewhere in the area, affecting planning applications. There were also two by-elections coming up in the next week, and the issues faced by Geldeston Parish Council had been resolved.

6. To discuss planning matters:

a) Proposal: Re-ordering the ground, first and second floors, including the pitched rear lobby roof, estate WC and SVP to the garden room and all associated works at Kirby Cane Hall

This application concerned amended plans only for an application that the council had already considered.

b) Proposal: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (QA and QB) Location: Agricultural Building At Waveney Wildfowl Park, Yarmouth Road, deadline: 27 October 2023

This was separate from the existing application for the Swan Meadow fishing/holiday development, and was a “class Q” planning process, which was classed as permitted development and the councillors asked the clerk to find out more information about this application. There was also concern about how the building on the site, which was only fairly recently enclosed to make it into a shed, could be classed as an “agricultural building” that could be converted into a dwellinghouse.

(Cllr Lally gave his apologies and left the meeting)

7. To discuss correspondence :

Standing water near school had been reported following the recent heavy rain. Cllr Skipper had other photographs that could be used if necessary – there had been several other incidents of flooding due to the heavy rainfall in a very short period;

D-day 80th commemoration in June 2024 – this mainly concerned beacons, which the parish does not have;

NCC had confirmed the linking part of the path from Ellingham West to A143 near Crossways would be cut, but the clerk was unsure if this had yet been done. Cllr Wright asked about the chevrons on the road at this point, and the clerk felt that the chevrons were actually missing, and had reported this to NCC;

Verge in Mill Road – the clerk was still waiting to hear result of the officer referring the issue to the maintenance team for review, Cllr Skipper reported that the verge was “greening up” a bit, but this was with weeds rather than grass, so the clerk would contact NCC again about this;

The council had received a response from the local police officer to the report of children playing football in one of the quiet side streets – the only advice they could offer was that if this continued, and approaches to the parents did not bear fruit, a complaint of anti-social behaviour could be raised with the police;

Bus route – the council had been informed of changes to bus route 581 attempt to help those going to work and coming back from Bungay High School;

There would be a temporary road closure, at the junction of Loddon Road, KC, and Honeypot Lane on 29th September for one day.

8. To receive a financial report from the Clerk (including a half-year budget summary) and to approve invoices for payment:

The annual return 2022/23 has been passed and the necessary invoice etc issued. Unfortunately the clerk was still having problems reconciling the current accounts, and the chairman signed the financial statement with this understanding – the bank statement was marked showing a £35 discrepancy. Cllr Pickering undertook to look over the accounts to try to find out where the error had occurred. The clerk was also unable to provide the half-year budget statement as she had spent so long on trying to balance the accounts, so this was deferred to the next meeting.

9. To complete the process for setting up a savings account with Unity Trust and look at other savings account options currently available:

Councillors agreed that an application should be submitted to set up a savings account with the existing lender, Unity Trust bank, but did not feel that there were enough councillors present to make a decision about setting up a new savings account, so this was deferred to the next meeting.

10. To consider a quote for internal audit services for 2023/24:

Councillors agreed to appoint Mrs Tina Newby, the clerk for the neighbouring parishes of Geldeston and Gillingham, as internal auditor for 2023/24, at a cost of £100.

11. To receive a report on the playing field:

Cllr Pickering reported that vandalism to the toilet that had been placed on the playing field during the summer had been reported and the culprits found very quickly. Parents had dealt with the issue quickly and reasonably, and had paid for the cleaning/replacement charge that had been required to reinstate the toilet in time for the music event. The seat on the zip wire had been broken, and was being mended by Carl at IMON, who has been very good and responsive to maintenance issues. There was an issue with rabbit holes, and although the pest control contractor had been attending regularly the rabbits kept on coming in off the fields. Cllr Pickering was thanked for her report.

12. To receive a report on the school/playground car park project:

Unfortunately the clerk had little to report, as the process now required Charity Commission approval. The clerk had spoken to the Ellingham United Charities to try to fast-track the issue. Cllr Skipper raised the issue of funding via the Public Works Loans Board, and the clerk would look into this ready for the day when the lease was finally concluded.

13. To consider specific local issues:

i) highways issues – Cllr Wright raised a query about a pothole outside 34 Yarmouth Road which had had a white line around it for some time, and the clerk would look into this; he also raised the potholes near to the telephone exchange on the A143, which the clerk would report once again;

Cllr Pickering mentioned the poor visibility at the junction of Church Road and the A143 near to Crossways, but the generally poor visibility around junctions at that time of year;

ii) bins at Ellingham sluice – Cllr Skipper had noticed some squirrel damage to the bin and the fact that squirrels had shredded the bin bag, and suggested a repair to the bin.

14. To receive a report on the music event on 12th August 2023:

The meeting heard from Cllr Pickering about the success of the Music in the Park event on Saturday, 12th August, when over £400 was raised towards the car park project. The parish council sent its very grateful thanks to all those who made the event possible, and a special “thank you” was sent to Nick Hindle for the lighting, loan of the tractor, generator etc, and for his help on the day, as well as to the Church family for the use of the field next to the playing field for use as a car park. Cllr Pickering commented that in future there could be greater control on expenses to ensure that more money was raised.

15. To consider Kirby Cane and Ellingham “keen to be green” :

This was deferred to the next meeting.

16. To receive items for information:

There were none.

17. To receive items for the next agenda: SAM2 report, “keen to be green”, mid-year budget report, savings accounts set-up

18. Date of next meeting: Monday, 20th November 2023, 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.30pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....

