

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council held on  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.20pm at Stiffkey Village Hall**

**Present:** Alexandra Hooper (Chairman)  
David Clifton  
Ian Curtis  
Philip Harrison  
Martin Williams  
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

**Also present:** 4 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Hannah Darby and David Smallridge. District Councillor Victoria Holliday and County Councillor Michael Dalby had also sent apologies.

**2. Public Forum**

a) Public

A member of the public reported that there was an increased amount of dog fouling on the path from Greenway to the marshes. This always appeared to be near the campsite, and there didn't seem to be any sanctions. The Chairman replied that the issue was an education issue relating to people who did not pick up after their dog. The Chairman sat on a forum with the District Council and would bring this up there, and report back at the next Council meeting after the next Forum meeting.

A member of the public spoke to the planning application later in the agenda, noting that an application had been put in to alter the driveway. It was noted that three properties shared a driveway onto Bridge Street, part of which was owned by Meadow Lea with a right of access for two properties which was defined in the deeds. The member of the public noted that the applicant had not discussed the changes with the neighbours. An objection had been lodged noting that the driveway could not be moved without agreement from the neighbours, which had been clarified through legal advice. The driveway would go through an orchard which had been there for decades, a previous application had been put in to remove some trees in the orchard. The route would make it impossible for anyone with a large car or trailer to access the other two properties, and would involve a 90 degree turn. There would be no space for pedestrians, and this was the only access to the main road. The potential for damage to mature trees was high. The plans in the application were not to scale and so did not represent the real world situation. The applicant has suggested a wildflower meadow would be created, however it was felt that this would not be an improvement on what was there before. The original application did not include the orchard. The speaker asked that the District Council attend the site before determining the application to see what the real situation was. It was confirmed that the orchard was owned by the owner of Meadow Lea.

b) County Councillor

Michael Dalby's report had been circulated.

c) District Councillor

Victoria Holliday's report had been circulated.

### 3. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda

Martin Williams declared an interest in item 8a – Local Lynx - as a contributor, and his wife was the editor.

### 4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

The minutes of the meeting were considered. It was noted that David Clifton had given apologies, and that David Smallridge had proposed the item at 9c, and that the bicycle in item 8e had been donated locally. With these amendments the minutes were **agreed**, proposed by Alexandra Hooper, seconded by Ian Curtis, all in favour, and were signed by the Chairman.

### 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

#### a) Village Hall Planning Application

Nothing to report.

#### b) Stoney Road Bridge

The National Trust had not given a recent update, it was **agreed** that the Clerk would write and ask for a monthly update. **ACTION: AH/Clerk**

It was noted that there was a significant increase in footfall across the SSSI to reach the next bridge.

#### c) Public Right of Way Application

The Clerk reported that the application had been submitted and the route of the footpath confirmed with Norfolk County Council.

#### d) Greenway

The Chairman noted that the potholes had been filled, and it was noted that the Greenway was on the list of Norfolk County Council publicly maintained byways. The potholes had been filled by Norfolk County Council following a report of potholes through the village. It was noted that the clarification on responsibility for maintenance should be pursued. A letter could go to the County Council asking them to accept responsibility, however it was felt that this was already well documented and available online. It was suggested that Ian Curtis could contact the Highways Engineer / Countryside Access Officer to discuss confirming the maintenance responsibility. **ACTION: IC**

### 6. Planning

#### a) New Applications

##### i. PF/22/1529 Meadow Lea Cottage, Church Street: Alterations to layout of access drive.

It was felt that the Landscape Officer should be asked to visit the site and give their perspective on what's been happening, and the practicality of the proposed layout. It was acknowledged that otters lived in the river and the implications of this needed to be considered. The application discussed two different surfaces, and clarification should be given on what's being requested. It was felt that no-one could take away long established access rights, which were lodged on the Land Registry and the deeds of the properties. Access would be blocked off, and it was unlikely that this could be changed legally. It was felt that this was too much urbanisation in a very rural village. The tree works application would have gone through the Conservation Officer with comments about the health of the trees. It was suggested that the previous tree work applications could be studied to see whether they were necessary.

*The Chairman opened the meeting for public comments.*

A member of the public noted that they were required to make a contribution towards costs for the upkeep of the driveway, and would now be liable for a surface that would require more maintenance. He noted that he had photographs of trees which had now been removed, and suggested that the system was being abused with the removal of the trees to pave the way for moving the driveway. The Chairman advised the member of the public to submit that evidence to the Planning Officer.

*The meeting was closed to public comments.*

It was **agreed** to request that the Landscape Officer looks at the history of the site and previous applications, and makes a site visit in relation to this application before making comment. A draft would be circulated by the Chairman noting the policies that were relevant. Proposed by Alexandra Hooper, seconded by Martin Williams, all in favour. **ACTION: AH/Clerk**

- ii. PF/22/1650 Church Cottage, Church Street: Detached double garage to front of dwelling.

It was noted that the Landscape Officer had not been included on the list of consultees, and this was in the conservation area. It was felt that a planning condition should be requested to limit the use to cars, so that it could not be converted to residential at a later date. It was **agreed** to submit these comments, draft to be circulated by the Chairman, proposed by Alexandra Hooper, seconded by Martin Williams, all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

- b) Applications considered between meetings  
None.

## 7. Finance

- a) Finances 2022/23 To Date

The finances to date were **noted**, reporting that there was £5,204.57 in the current account and £6,560.36 in the deposit account at 10.07.2022. Receipts since the last meeting were:

- £1,500 – Cottage access
- £5.66 – Interest
- £63.05 – Wayleave

- b) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following, proposed by David Clifton, seconded by Ian Curtis, all in favour:-

C Moore	Salary & Expenses June & July 22	£381.26
HMRC	PAYE Apr & May 22	£95.40
TT Jones	Street Light Maintenance	£33.55
Npower	Streetlight Electric April 2022 (final)	£22.14
SSE	Streetlight Electric May 2022	£49.62
SSE	Streetlight Electric June 2022	£50.62
North Norfolk DC	Dog Bins 2022/23	£230.88
Stiffkey Village Hall	Donation	£1,563.05

## 8. Correspondence

### a) Donation to Local Lynx

It was **agreed** to make a donation of £135.00, proposed by Alex Hooper, seconded by Ian Curtis, all in favour. It was noted that a budget line would be included next year for this.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### b) Norfolk County Council Consultation on new Recycling Centre in Sheringham

It was noted that the County Council was considering adding a facility to dispose of toilet cassettes at recycling centres, which would be welcomed. No comments on the consultation.

### c) Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24

Councillors were asked to consider any schemes and bring these to the next meeting.

**ACTION: ALL / Clerk**

### d) General Correspondence

None.

## 9. Other Matters

### a) Streetlighting Five Year Inspection

The Clerk noted that the five year inspection was some years overdue, the cost from TT Jones would be £148.50. It was **agreed** to go ahead with this, proposed by Alex Hooper, seconded by Martin Williams, all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### b) Ambulance Response Times / Community First Responders

The Chairman reported that there had been movements in trying to bring down response times, attendance at A&E was down considerably. Response times remained poor due to the hospital transfer time. Covid procedures and staff vacancy issues were contributing, as well as discharging of patients. These were not things that the Ambulance Trust could easily change. Two Community First Responders had been recruited for Stiffkey, and this recruitment drive would be ongoing. A team could be jointly put together with Wells. It was confirmed that there was a bicycle paramedic in Wells during the summer season, and there was a trial with a rapid response vehicle, however it covered a wider area. The Chairman would keep councillors updated.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm at Stiffkey Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.30pm. Items for the agenda:

- Greenway
- Ambulance Response Times
- Parish Partnership Scheme
- Dog fouling

**CHAIRMAN**