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## Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre

**Present:** Cllrs Collins, Cooper, Dingle, Prendergast, Pudney, Sneddon and Weston.

**Also in attendance:** District Cllr Burn for some or most of the meeting, the clerk, representative from the PDCC, 1 member of the public, no persons of the public remotely, and 2 members of PACE.

**09.08.01 Chair's Welcome** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**09.08.02 Apologies** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Bremner, Fausset, Forster and Shirley-Smith and County Cllr Fleming.

**09.08.03 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** – There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest declared. Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct and the Nolan principles.

**09.08.04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2021 were amended under minute item 07.08.06 removing the statement “This is not the largest project PACE has undertaken”, before being unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

**09.08.05 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda** – There were no outstanding matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**09.08.06 Public Forum** - to receive reports for information

- County Councillor Fleming’s report was sent to all in advance of the meeting. The Clerk summarised the salient points for those present. See full report on our website.

- District Councillor David Burn updated everyone as follows:

Valley Ridge (formerly SnOasis) – BMSDC is calling on the Government to determine the fate of Valley Ridge, the proposed £500m tourist resort near Great Blakenham, by ruling on the future of a nearby landfill site, stating ‘the stakes are too high for a decision to be taken at a local level’. A planning application has been submitted to Suffolk County Council to extend the lifespan of the neighbouring Masons Landfill site by a further 15 years, far beyond its scheduled closure in 2022. Permission would effectively scupper plans for Valley Ridge and they have threatened to pull out if the landfill extension is granted.

BMSDC joins calls for devolution talks with Government who wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for local government in August welcoming early discussions with Ministers about possible devolution.

- Report from the PDCC – a report was received as included in full at the end of these minutes. The main points were read out by a Trustee.

- Members of the public present – there were no questions from the member of the public present.

- Members of the public not present – no questions had been received by the Clerk.

- Presentation and Q&A by Pathfinder Clean Energy (PACE)– 2 members of PACE gave a revised powerpoint presentation on the proposed Solar Farm off Lion Road, confirming they had taken into account many of the previous views expressed at the July meeting. Note this amended presentation is on our website under Solar Farm. The presentation displayed the original site plan against the amended site plan taking into account the mitigations that had been worked on in the intervening months with photos showing the current views and photomontages showing the expected views in 10-years time. It was stated that hedges grow at about 30cm per annum.

Q: Were any other landowners approached in the area?

A: Yes, but no other interest was shown by any of the persons contacted. We are limited by the grid network around the area and only landowners within the grid locations were contacted.

Q: How much does a farmer get paid for leasing their land? Is it about £1k per acre per annum?

A: We cannot disclose that information and will not be drawn into any speculation on that point. But it does give landowners a bit of security for the next 40 years.

Other points raised were: Millway Lane is still a concern as you have only set the panels back on a very small section of this road. What about improving / promoting healthy activities like cycle paths? The panels themselves will be 3mt high at their highest point, the deer fence will be 2mt high. PACE accept

this is a very large project, one of their largest, but strongly believe they have the capability of delivering it. Cllrs Dingle and Prendergast both agreed that they have not received any adverse comments from members of the public when actively engaging with them on the matter. PACE also want to bring some added benefit to the community which is a separate matter to be discussed. The Chair thanked PACE for their attendance and to the PDCC for facilitating the presentation with their audio visual equipment. It was noted who would attend the Public Engagement Meeting for the public on 24 September as follows: -  
3.30 pm – 4.30 pm – Cllr Weston  
4.30 pm – 5.30 pm – Cllr Dingle  
5.30 pm – 6.30 pm – Cllr Sneddon and Cllr Prendergast  
6.30 pm – 7.30 pm close – Cllr Prendergast  
The Clerk will be there for the entirety for continuity and will ensure we have a notebook for comments / feedback to be recorded. Any email comments etc are to be sent to the Clerk. Any Councillors not present tonight are asked to attend one of the above time slots if at all possible.

**Action:** Clerk to collate the information she has re Community Benefit and distribute to all for discussion

#### **09.08.07 Planning Matters relating to Planning -**

a) The following planning applications were discussed:

DC/21/04512: Erection of two storey side with 1 dormer and single storey rear extension @ 18 Rose Lane Close. The application was unanimously approved subject to a stipulation that adequate sound insulation is included for the proposed music room.

DC/21/04566: Erection of a rear garden room @ West Side, The Green.

DC/21/04114: Erection of a wooden carport on driveway @ Garden House, Millway Lane.

The above two applications were unanimously approved with no reservations.

DC/21/04736: Fell 1 x Eucalyptus tree @ The Old Guildhall, The Green.

DC/21/04737: Fell 3 x Conifer trees @ West Side, The Green.

DC/21/04735: Repollard 1x Lime. Fell 1x Cypress tree. Fell 1x Walnut tree. Fell 1x Holly tree @ 2 The Paddocks, The Green.

It was agreed that all three of the 'tree' applications above be rejected for lack of sufficient information meaning no plans or photos were included on any of the applications nor detail as to the specific variety of the trees concerned, to be able to make an informed decision. The trees are in a Conservation Area and whilst they might not be subject to TPO's, it was agreed that care needs to be taken about protecting the Conservation Area in general. It was also agreed to add the following question for BMSDC that in the absence of enough information, why were the applications validated in the first place? The above was agreed by a majority show of hands.

b) To note any planning determinations received from the local planning authority:

DC/21/03684: Reducing 1 x sycamore tree by half @ land outside Sunnyside Cottage, Lows Lane – BMSDC does not wish to object to this application.

DC/21/03655: Erection of rear garden room and alterations to existing garage @ 9 Clarke Close – planning permission granted.

DC/21/04348 to fell 1 walnut tree @ Corner Cottage, Lion Road - – BMSDC does not wish to object to this application.

DC/21/02931: Addition of a sunroom / orangery to plots 3 & 5 @ Land South of Kyloe, Priory Rd – planning permission granted.,

c) DC/20/05763: 4 Off grid holiday homes @ Ling Rd – attendance is required at the BMSDC planning committee meeting in Ipswich on 15/9. Cllrs Pudney and Sneddon agreed to attend on our behalf with Cllr Pudney speaking on our behalf. Cllr Fausset will prepare a script for the planning meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to notify BMSDC that we will attend and wish to speak and to liaise with the relevant Councillors re wording for the meeting

d) Any other planning matters for information only- the following was approved under delegated powers: DC/21/04270 to erect a single storey rear extension @ Star Cottage, Ling Road.

The Examination Hearings for the BMSDC Joint Local Plan are scheduled to re-commence at 09:30 on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 and will be held as Virtual sessions on MS Teams.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan has been submitted to examination to the Sec. of State on 30/7. This is relevant because the DDNP falls within this remit.

#### **09.08.08 Suffolk Highways (SH), Speeding and Road Related Issues -**

a) The clerk confirmed the following updates to the Highways projects:

The 'No entry' Access Road works is complete.

**Action:** Clerk to query if the gravelled area from the newly closed off section from the notice board to the Access Road has been completed as per the original design as it looks out of place

The 40mph buffer zones and the Priory and Crossing Road weight restrictions should both be completed by the end of November.

b) SIDs update – there are no updates to advise on. Cllr Fausset did do a data download but as the batteries are so often dead, the data is very irregular. His summarised report is as follows: -

(i)– some volunteers didn't know we need to know which way the SID pointed, but we have re-engaged with them to try and ensure they keep to the direction detailed on their rota.

(ii)- inevitable battery outages

(iii)-there as a very low vehicle count at Upper Rose Lane compare with Lion Rd and Denmark Hill at about 9 vehicles per hour peak. This data doesn't feel right.

**Action:** Clerk and Cllr Fausset to both record Upper Rose Lane vehicle movement over an hour's period to verify the data. **Action for all Councillors:** if you note that any of the SIDs are not working, please inform the clerk asap so she can deal with it

c) Any other Highways business- Highways have confirmed that the white lines near St Johns have been installed in accordance with the specification and that the enhanced signage should be sufficient to alert drivers to any danger. Cllr Pudney advised there are a lot of lorries currently driving through the village. It was thought this may be due to the various surrounding roadworks and therefore only a temporary problem. It was noted there are 2 small sections of road on Priory Road that appear to have been missed off the recent resurfacing work. One is near Jobs Lane, the other past Draycott Rise down to the just past the new development.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Highways to request this is remedied asap

#### 09.08.09 **Open Spaces / Village Green and the Environment**

a) Update on the potential sale of The Green – the clerk updated all with the most recent responses from both the agents and those of the Diocese who provided a lot of background information.

**Action:** Clerk to reply to agents stating the play area is to remain as part of our bid for The Green  
Parking on The Green was discussed which remains a problem.

**Action:** Clerk to discuss with Cllr Shirley-Smith to ask if he can deal with the parking issues

b) Village sign – the clerk updated everyone as follows; She met with Jerry Rolfe (JR) last week. They made a short video and this has been sent with the application form to the BBC's Repair Shop. JR would like to carry out some minor temporary repairs which was agreed. They must be in keeping with the original design. JR also confirmed both families have given their approval for any works to be carried out should the BBC take up the project. Failing any TV interest, JR has ideas on how the sign can be repaired for longevity.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm repairs approved with JR

c) Area around the Village Pond is in need of maintenance **Action:** Clerk to obtain estimate for the work

d) The following issues are still outstanding: (i) The trimming of the 2 lime trees off The Green, situated on the Highways verge outside of Sunnyside Cottage. (ii) The trimming of the bases around the trees near the notice board.

**Action:** Clerk to expedite SCC re (i) whose land they are on. Obtain quote for the base trimming on (ii)

The point on the path between Richmond House / Mill House and the junction of Lows Lane is being slowly eroded by vehicles. This is the verge opposite the duck pond and the fear is it will get to a point where the path is no longer accessible for pedestrians. It was suggested that perhaps a kerb to prevent further erosion might be the solution.

**Action:** Clerk to make enquiries as to the cost of a kerb with Suffolk Highways

09.08.10 **Ditches, grass, hedges and footpaths** – The Lows and Jobs Lane footpaths were cut in early July but were done to such a poor quality that we were inundated with complaints. The Clerk contacted the grass contractor directly who advised her to take the matter up with SCC if we were unhappy. She reported both footpaths to SCC via their reporting tool – reports 00329988 and 003229991 refer – but the answer from SCC was extremely vague and non-committal. **Action:** Clerk to take this up with County Cllr Fleming

The hedges down The Lows are now in need of a trim. This is usually done in autumn after the adjacent field has been harvested. **Action:** Clerk to see if any work can be done in the interim

We have been approached by the Green Access Officer for Suffolk within the PROW team, if we will assist them by installing new plaques onto roadside PROW fingerposts and existing footpath posts. Further information will follow as the scheme gets underway.

**Action:** Cllr Sneddon volunteered to undertake this on behalf of Palgrave. The Clerk will liaise with her as information comes through

Note the new combination code for the bollard lock at the approach to the Lows footpath is still o/s.

**Action:** Clerk to chase

The Lows bench area is very overgrown with nettles and is in urgent need of strimming back.

**Action:** Cllr Weston to undertake this asap

A footpath was suggested to enable pedestrians to safely walk down Denmark Hill to Diss.

**Action:** Clerk to take this further with Cllr Bremner who knows the landowner

Note 'Ted's Walk' circular footpath by joining FP11 and FP12 with a permissive path is still o/s.

- 09.08.11 Cemetery and Churchyard** – The trimming of the cherry tree in the far NE corner of the Churchyard is still o/s. The Cemetery Committee to arrange a meeting asap with various matters to discuss. Latest invoice for processing received from the cemetery volunteer re mower costs. The Churchyard wall from the school side is still not repaired due to recovering health.  
**Actions:** Clerk to liaise re possible dates for meeting and to expedite cherry tree trim and churchyard wall
- 09.08.12 Dog Bins** – The Clerk confirmed the 6 dog bin sites in the village, the last one being down the PDCC lane.
- 09.08.13 Festival of Suffolk 2022 / Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – for discussion and initial planning. There will be an extended bank holiday over the weekend Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June. There will be a Queen's Birthday Parade and Trooping of the Colour at Buckingham Palace on 2 June. It is hoped Platinum Jubilee Beacons will be lit all over the country that evening. Friday 3 June will see a Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral in London with further events to be announced. It is hoped villages across the country will host their own events over the long weekend including the Big Jubilee Lunch. The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk is co-ordinating events across Suffolk and is hosting 2 Zoom events for participants on 28 & 30 September. The PDCC in their report already mentioned the long weekend and are already making some plans. Cllr Cooper is to join them on this project. **Action:** Clerk to confirm our representative to the PDCC
- 09.08.14 P I I P updates** – The Clerk confirmed the Diss charity that makes bird boxes is open again. She has discussed our requirements after seeking expert advice from within the village. It was agreed we will purchase 2 closed small hole boxes to accommodate blue tits or similar, 2 open fronted boxes for robins or similar, 2 Owl Boxes (1 Tawny, 1 Barn) and 6 Bat boxes. They should be ready late autumn. The cost of these have already been approved.
- 09.08.15 D D N P update-** – Cllr Dingle reported there was a steady flow of residents at the event on 24 July. There were a lot of responses to the latest consultation which the team are working through. Once finalised, an examiner will be appointed and the plan submitted for approval.
- 09.08.16 General Governance-** the External Audit of the Accounts is complete and our accounts have been approved and accepted. The mandatory documents have been posted on the website and notice board. Any Policy reviews are carried forward to October due to the packed agenda.
- 09.08.17 Finance**
- a) The following payments were approved for paying online by bank transfer:
- |          |                  |                                      |
|----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| £ 536.40 | Caroline Emeny   | Clerks remuneration and holiday pay  |
| £ 30.99  | Caroline Emeny   | Clerks expenses                      |
| £ 544.80 | Excite Solutions | Invoice 1638 re June grass cutting   |
| £ 544.80 | Excite Solutions | Invoice 1639 re July grass cutting   |
| £ 240.00 | PKF Littlejohn   | Invoice SB20210907 re external audit |
- Cllrs Dingle and Cooper signed the Monthly Schedule of Payments re the above payments which included the August payments re the clerks wages and expenses for July paid by bacs.
- b) There were no receipts to note.
- c) The Financial report / bank reconciliation for the period ending 31 August 2021 was presented for approval & signed by Cllr Snedon.
- 09.08.18 Correspondence -**
- The clerk confirmed all relevant items of correspondence for noting only had been passed onto Councillors where appropriate including regular updates from SALC, CAS and any urgent COVID related reports. To note 2 upcoming virtual tours at Suffolk's award-winning Energy-from-Waste facility (EfW) as part of Heritage Open Days, on Friday 10/9 and Saturday 11/9. Residents can find out how Suffolk's waste is used to generate enough electricity to power 40,000 homes, and see what happens to non-recyclable waste after it is put in the bin. All the details and the links for residents to sign up can be found at: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/suffolk-energy-from-waste-facility-virtual-tour>
- 09.08.19 Palgrave Star** – Clerk to review the minutes and make suggestions as to the next content for The Star.

**09.08.20 Date of next meeting** – The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14 October 2021 in the lounge of the PDCC.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 August 2021**

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. .... Sort code .....Statement no. 015 dd 30/6/21

	Bank statement balance	£56,648.67
	No payments outstanding	
	<b>RECONCILES WITH ACCOUNTS BALANCE AS PER SPREADSHEET</b>	<b>£56,648.67</b>

Appendix: PDCC report to the Parish Council:

#### **For the Parish Council meeting, 8th September 2021:**

Centre activities have been resuming over the last 2 months and most will be running from this week. The Cinema reopens again on Saturday evening; carpet bowls and the Friendship Club start either this week or next; and Hall bookings for 'outside' events are starting to increase once more.

Last weekend there was a 'drop in' session for members to renew their membership, or for newcomers to the village to join the PDCC, and to enjoy a 'cuppa and a chat' at the Coffee Morning that ran concurrently. The weekend also featured a successful Exhibition of Photographs, the work of members of the Palgrave Photographic Club (which operates under the PDCC 'umbrella'), with about 80 images all taken by this small group throughout lockdown.

The 'Welcome to the Village' BBQ at the end of last month was well attended and very well received by some 80-plus newcomers to the village and a few 'established' villagers. This is probably now a regular annual event and great for engagement. The purpose is to introduce new & old residents to each other and inform what the village has to offer in the way of activities and events through its various organisations, but very unfortunately no Parish Councillor was apparently able or available to attend. This year it was quite a challenge to organise as there have been in excess of 60 new households added over the last two 'Covid' years, but subsequent thanks have shown it was well worthwhile. Football matches have started and all seems to be going well. A lot of time and effort has gone into ensuring the Football club and the Centre have a good understanding of each other. It is also hoped that the ALL STARS can resume on a fortnightly basis IF enough adult helpers can be found. The Field has been used more and more throughout the pandemic: it is such an asset and good to have it used.

Trustees are keen to improve facilities ... toilet renewal has stalled for the time being but the existing facility is being temporarily renovated.

Also on Trustees' agenda for the building are Bike racks and a shelter outside the Centre and more official rubbish bins. More tables and infrastructure for relaxation and to support outdoor events will be installed by next spring, and an Information Board will explain ownership and the general running of the site for the benefit of all. The enhancement of the southern boundary of the Field with a strip of wild flowers and grasses is now nearing fruition, thanks to a MSDC grant and a team of village volunteers.

Historically there was a Parish Councillor on the Trustee committee of the Centre and it would be helpful to have someone to liaise and work with us for the general benefit of the village. Ideas for the Platinum Jubilee next June are being explored so please think seriously about appointing a Councillor to talk to us about what you have in mind for it or what your plans are ... I notice it is an agenda item for this meeting.  
Thank you.