

Present: Cllrs R. Drinkel, I. Jones, J. West, P. Hibberd and R. Beech.
Apologies: Cllrs G. Lovatt and M Bark (due to being unable to access Zoom App.)
Also Present: Cllrs D. McNally (LCC & ELDC) and P. Rickett (ELDC) and
Mr Roger Burton
Clerk: Mrs P Plumridge.

Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and wished them a Happy New Year, Mr Roger Burton was also welcomed to the meeting in his capacity as a prospective Councillor.

All Councillors confirmed they were alone.

44.20 – Apologies

As above.

45/20 – Members of Public

The meeting has been advertised and the meeting id and password put on the Agenda on the web site and no members of the public expressed an interest in joining in.

46/20 – Clerk to receive declarations of pecuniary interest on any Agenda item in accordance with Localism Act and the Council's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

None

47.20 – Report from County and District Councillors

Cllr McNally reported on the situation regarding the street lights in Fen Lane, where there is currently four off. If a single light is out current policy is to leave it until April for repair, if more than one is out and they are in a dangerous spot, then they will be repaired but this could take up to three weeks.

Clerk and Cllr West confirmed that our street lights have been reported again this week and we have received notification they will be done.

Cllr Hibberd questioned Cllr McNally about Quickline and why the service was not active. Cllr McNally said it would be active as soon as possible and Quickline will get in touch with residents when it is.

Attention had been drawn to damage to the verges outside the shop and the Chair reported that he was very much aware of this and that this had been sorted this afternoon. The verges are now level and the shop keeper will do his best to keep them that way.

A new business grant will be available from tomorrow for businesses that have suffered over 30% loss, despite being open during the last lockdown. This will be done on a first come, first served basis.

Cllr Rickett reported on the Covid-19 situation – our numbers are falling again and the reason we remained in Tier 3 before Christmas was the high occupancy rate in the hospitals. However, the new variant has now been identified in 30% of cases in the south of the county so we must continue to be very vigilant

48/20 – Police Report

Following last months meeting Councillors had been brought up to date by email from Clerk reporting conversation with PC Mekkaoui.

49/20 – Previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and would be signed at a later date.

50/20 – Matters Arising

Bench - The Village Hall Committee have no objection to the bench being moved, Cllr Hibberd suggested that maybe, to ease mowing, it should be placed on paving slabs, which Cllr Drinkel thought was a good idea.

Anglian Water – Ian Reynolds, the Maintenance Manager has spoken to Clerk and confirmed by email, that there will be ongoing maintenance on the two Anglian Water compounds in the village. The fence will be done, but this could take a bit longer due to funding needing to be allocated.

Tree Topping in Churchyard – permission was not given for this by ELDC.

51/20 – Councillor Vacancy

The vacancy has been on the web site and the village notice board since before Christmas and one application has been received. Mr Roger Burton sent an application to the Clerk which has been circulated to the Councillors and he was present to answer any questions.

Cllr Jones proposed that Mr Burton be co-opted to Grainthorpe Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Hibberd.

Clerk asked Mr Burton if he still wished to be co-opted and Mr Burton accepted. Clerk will forward necessary paperwork to Mr Burton

52/20 – Financial

A financial statement has been forwarded to all Councillors, there were no questions and it was approved. Proposed by Cllr Beech, seconded Cllr Jones.

Cllr Drinkel confirmed our auditor would like a donation of £25 to go to NSPCC. proposed by Cllr West, seconded Cllr Jones.

Two cheques were signed between meetings.

621 – P. Plumridge – Wages

622 – AG Smith & Co Ltd – PAYE & admin fee

Ratified, proposed Cllr Drinkel, seconded Cllr Beech.

Precept – Clerk had prepared and circulated to all Councillors information regarding the precept with figures for this year and last year and a forward budget projection for next year.

This was discussed by Councillors and it was proposed by Cllr Jones that we precept for £4400, this was seconded by Cllr West. This equates to a 3.5% rise, approximately 67p extra per year for a Band D property.

53/20 – Parish Matters

Village signs - Clerk has forwarded some information about village signs to Cllr West, they are quite expensive. Will look further and forward information to all Councillors.

Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine – This has previously been circulated, Clerk asked to reinstate this.

Speed sign – The Clerks from Alvingham and Covenham have contacted Clerk stating that the rota for one month at a time is not very practical and could we look at changing it, they offered a couple of alternative suggestions and it has been agreed, with Councillors approval, to move the speed sign every two months from now on. Councillors approved of this. The speed sign is next due in Grainthorpe, from Covenham for May and June and will be passed to Marshchapel for July and August.

Tree Trimming at Churchyard – As previously reported trees were not permitted to be trimmed in Churchyard, however, Cllr Drinkel reported that in his capacity as Church Warden he had a tree surgeon to look at the trees who reported that they could be unsafe. Further investigation from the Tree Officer at ELDC resulted in him being told that they are not dangerous, but not that healthy either but would be alright for the next 10 years or so. As they are in the old part of the churchyard, it is the part that the PC are responsible for and could, at some point in the future, incur considerable expenditure for the PC. The trees are ash trees and are suffering from ash die back, so have a limited life and could need work done on them.

Sponsored walk – Mr Mark Freemantle is doing a 1000 mile sponsored walk round the village in aid of Alzheimer's disease and Cllr Beech has asked if we could promote it. Mr Freemantle has a 'Just Giving' page and the PC will put it on the web site under Parish Information.

54/20 – Planning

None

55/20 – AOB

None

56.20 – Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th March, 2021 at 7.30

57.20 - No further business meeting closed at 8.44pm

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