

Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 10 August 2020 at 7pm via ZOOM

Present: Cllr K Wendt (Chair), Cllrs S Bigg, M Cheetham, G Freeman, J Gingell, J Green, R Hill, B Jones (part), C Lee, J Shrimplin, B Shulver, (part).

In attendance: R Hanton, (County Councillor) S Scott Greenard (Borough Councillor), Mrs J Seggie (co-option candidate for Scratby Ward); members of the public

1. To welcome councillors and members of the Public

Cllr K Wendt welcomed all to her first meeting as chair following her election on 14 July.

Whilst it was not originally planned to hold a meeting in August, this meeting had been convened in order to deal with certain time-sensitive matters.

It was noted that Mrs S Hunt had left her position as interim clerk at short notice on 15 July and that S Scott Greenard had resigned as a parish councillor on the same date.

It was noted that in the temporary absence of a clerk the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of minute taking and transparency.

2 To receive and consider apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence had been received.

Mrs Julia Seggie joined the meeting.

3. To receive declarations of interest on matters on the agenda.

Cllr G Freeman notified the meeting of his position on the development control committee of Gt Yarmouth Borough Council.

Cllr K Wendt notified the meeting that Mrs J Seggie was her near neighbour, and Cllr G Freeman confirmed that Mrs Seggie was known to him via her allotment.

Cllr J Gingell notified his interest in finance as he had prepared the accounts in the absence of a clerk.

4. Public Participation

The meeting was adjourned for the public participation session.

4.1 In response to a query by Mrs Heather Peck, Cllr Freeman detailed the extensive work which was already underway to open All Saints Parish Hall Scratby (ASPH) in a controlled and limited way for certain groups from early September. The trustees had been working closely with GYBC environmental health and had undertaken a full risk assessment. Hand sanitisers and social distancing were in place, with a process for complying with the government's test and trace system.

4.2 Cllr Lee confirmed that for the time being the Village Centre at Ormesby remained closed: Additional challenges were presented by the age of the building and the recent resignation of one of the council's trustee representatives. However she was in the process of speaking to all groups using the hall. Contact had been received from Norfolk County Council childrens' services who were keen to establish a directory of local playgroups following the closure of childrens' centres. This social need was recognised and priority would be given to serving the greatest need first where safe, appropriate and within government regulations. The Village Centre was not yet as far advanced in its preparations as ASPH but the council as trustee was mindful above all of the need to open in accordance with all appropriate regulations.

4.3 In response to a query by Mr Justin Rundle, Cllr Lee commented on press coverage relating to the grievance report and two recent councillor resignations. The confidential report had been leaked to the press, an extremely serious matter if found to be by a serving councillor which in addition to being a potential code of conduct issue, severely compromised employee confidentiality.

Cllr Lee clarified that it was indeed true that a sum close to £5,000 had been spent on legal fees in relation to this matter, but that a sum representing approximately only one fifth of this matter related to the grievance: the remainder dealt with the employment law consequences of the former chair's involvement in the management of an employee for over a year, which was fully acknowledged at a review meeting of the councillors on 30 June 2020.

Cllr Lee clarified the voting process for the Chair and Vice chair which had been undertaken at the last meeting, an open vote with two interim clerks in attendance which resulted in a compelling majority for both positions.

Cllr Lee clarified the selection process for co-opted councillors to fill vacancies, which was an open process open to all parishioners, with interviews undertaken by the personnel committee.

Cllr B Shulver joined the meeting

Cllr B Jones joined the meeting.

- 4.5 The council discussed the extremely grave nature of the leak of confidential information and the train of events the preceding the grievance. Cllr Lee observed that it would be prudent to carry out a full review of all identified issues during the year. Cllr Gingell observed that the matter was extremely serious particularly as the document was only given to those in positions of trust, and his view the matter should be referred to the monitoring officer.

There were no formal reports on this occasion from the Borough or County Councillors.

- 4.6 By way of an update, Cllr Freeman noted that he had been in contact with the Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways department and the Strategic planning officer with a view to creating a unified speed management strategy which would encompass engagement with developers to secure funds for lower speed limits where possible.
- 4.7 A SAM 2 speed camera had been moved around the parish by former Cllr R Wendt and Cllr R Hill who had both done much work to get the system successfully working. New sites (West Road and Station Road, Ormesby) were both proposed but subject to NCC highways approval and safety sign off. Cllr Gingell had now taken over the data downloading from cameras and was keen to interrogate this to a highly informative standard.
- 4.8 Cllr Scott Greenard stated that in view of the technical meeting entry issues experienced at the start of the meeting in his view the meeting was invalidly held and that no decisions could therefore be taken. Cllr Wendt responded that the meeting had been convened through proper notice and in held in accordance with the council's virtual meeting policy, however, notwithstanding this point the issue would be clarified with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils.

The meeting was reconvened.

5. Minutes:

- 5.1 The minutes of the Full Council meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 14 July 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record and would be signed by the Chair in due course. Proposed: C Lee, Seconded G Freeman, APPROVED, unanimous.
- 5.2 The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 27 July 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record and would be signed by the Chair in due course. Proposed: M Cheetham, Seconded J Green, 11 for, none against, Cllr B Jones abstained.
- 5.3 The amended minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2020 were noted.

6 To Receive updates on Matters Arising. No decisions are to be taken under this item.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

7 Financial Matters.

- 7.1 It was confirmed that the bank statements had been checked and confirmed against payments and receipts records. The meeting received the Bank Reconciliation at 31 July 2020 showing an in-hand balance of £115,698.68.
- 7.2 Receipts of £1,995.73 were noted.
- 7.3 Payments totalling £1,274.60 were approved.
- 7.4 No bank transfers were required this month.

8 Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby Recreation Ground & Playgrounds (registered charity)

It was noted that the Council was the sole corporate trustee of the above charity. It was agreed that a meeting of all parish councillors in their capacity as trustees be held by Zoom on 17 August 2020, and that the current management committee of the charity be invited.

9 To note planning applications as follows (in the council's role as consultee):

- 9.1 Renewal of planning permission 06/16/0128/F – conversion of house to dwelling house: construction of 3 new dwellings and garaging, former First and Last Public House, Yarmouth Road Ormesby – no objection
- 9.2 Land to the rear of 27 Station Road Ormesby 06/20/029/F- proposed detached bungalow and garage – Objection – highways had allowed the application on the grounds that the access road was being widened, which was now not the case. The council had serious concerns as to access.
- 9.3 104 Spruce Avenue Ormesby 06/20/0286/F Proposed single storey front extension – no objection
- 9.4 20 Pippin Close Ormesby 06/20/0295/F Proposed front porch extension and extension to the rear of the property – no objection

The following planning permissions granted by GYBC were noted:

- 9.5 06/20/0222/F – 14a Beach Road Scratby – removal of fire hydrant
06/20/0223/F – 14a Beach Road Scratby – revised plan design as access road altered
- 9.6 In relation to the proposed Poppyfields development at Scratby Cllr John Gingell noted his concern as to the continued loss of A1 agricultural land, and suggested alternative creative uses of part of the land (community farming etc) in any discussions with developers. It was agreed that the council should engage with developers whenever possible for the community's benefit. It was noted that the council was in a very early stage of drawing up its parish plan, which would be discussed at the September council meeting. There were also wider issues as to current central government proposed changes to the planning landscape which would also affect the council's future ability to influence decisions, and the council agreed that it should keep fully informed of outcomes.

10 Personnel Committee

- 10.1 Cllr Freeman reported that 5 shortlisted candidates had been selected for interview for the post of Parish Clerk. The committee would report back further once these interviews had taken place.
- 10.2 Cllr Freeman also reported that the Committee had met on 28 July 2020 following the interview of Mrs Julia Seggie for the co-opted vacancy for a parish councillor for the Scratby ward which had become open in 2019. Mrs Seggie gave a brief presentation to the council, detailing her extensive management experience.

Mrs Seggie left the meeting.

The committee unanimously recommended Mrs Seggie to the council for co-option.

It was resolved that Mrs Julia Seggie be co-opted as a parish councillor for the Scratby Ward (unanimous).

11 New containers at the Recreation Ground

It was agreed appropriate to refer this item for consideration at the forthcoming Recreation Ground trustees meeting on 17 August 2020.

12 The next meeting:

The next meeting would take place on Monday 14 September 2020 and was likely to be a Zoom meeting. If parishioners wish to participate in meetings they are asked to see the zoom link or telephone number on the agenda, on the PC website.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

Chair