**Minutes of a Meeting of Paston Parish Council**

held on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7.00 pm St Margaret`s Church, Paston.

**Present**: Nick Bardswell (Chairman), Boo Tumber (Vice-Chairman) Pip Clabon, Jessel Manricks, Denise McKeough, Dee Holroyd (Clerk),

Barrie Cresswell (MOD Police), Cllr Ed Maxfield (NCC)

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**1** **Apologies for Absence**: Maggie Brett, Pauline Porter (NNDC)

**2** **Declarations of Interest**: NB ref churchyard grant

**3** **Ed Maxfield (NCC)**: had sent his report which had been circulated. He understood the constant road closures caused by road work were frustrating, largely caused by lack of co-ordination which he hoped would improve under the newly appointed Highways leader. NCC budget would bring cuts, mainly to adult social care and childcare, as this was where the greatest spending was.

**4**. **PC Barrie Cresswell (MOD police)** reported that transfer from MOD police to civil nuclear police was going smoothly with recruiting in place for Bacton and three other sites. He agreed this might deplete police numbers elsewhere. The terrorist risk for this area remained low. A small nuclear reactor (SNR) might be installed, but only to power the gas site.

**5** **Minutes** of the Parish and Village Meetings held on 5th September were agree and signed by the Chairman. Proposed DM seconded BT.

**6** **Matters Arising**

It was decided not to paint anti climbing paint on the **gazebo**, but to put up a `no climbing` sign instead.

**Benjamin Court** had closed, which had been somewhere to take people discharged from hospital still needing care who would otherwise remain in hospital. After the meeting DH offered to circulate a draft letter, requesting it be re-opened, as Trimingham parish council had done.

Clearing of **permissive path** sections 2 and 3. This is currently passable. There is probably no obligation on landowners to keep a permissive path clear. A Land Registry search has shown that the adjoining fields were owned by Emma and Bryan Pearce on one side and Chris Payne on the other. It was not clear to whom the hedge belonged but likely to be the Pearces. The Parish Council, failing all else, could get it cut but a quote for £600 f had been verbally received which was thought too much. Hopefully a lower quote could be obtained.

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**7**. **Planning**: Agent preparing a retrospective planning application for the Holiday Village land.

. **Parish Councillors’ Reports**

**BT** had circulated the figures from the **speed camera** showing:

Total Vehicles 31,273…Average Daily Vehicles 1377 68% up on

the March to July period Church End

Average Speed: 27MPH Pond End 32MPH Church End

Average Speed of “Speeders” (over 35mph): 38 MPH the same

as Church end

Max Speed 55 MPH on 05/07/2024 17:50:00

**DM** reported the very poor condition of the access road to the houses opposite the playground in **Bears Road**. This was believed to be either a Flagship or house owners’ responsibility, but DH had reported to Highways.

It had been hoped that housing could be built on the field at the end of the close but Highways had vetoed on ground that it would result in an undesirable increase in traffic on Bears Road. EM said it might be worth trying again as Highways attitude had relaxed over recent years

**JM** reported that a number of branches were falling into **Bears Road** from the trees opposite the playground, some of which were dead. These were owned by NNDC. DH to report.

**NB** reported that there had been a thorough survey done on the **Alms Houses**, and a number of issues came to light. Dealing with the damp would be expensive. Robert Digby (Trustee) was knowledgeable on this subject. There were two ways of dealing with the damp either by stripping back and replacing the plaster with lime mortar or effectively boxing it in with impermeable outer and inner layers.

The trustees were putting in place various outstanding requirements for residential landlords. They were to write to their predecessors concerning missing documentation relating to roof repairs carried out four years ago.

NB was writing up accounts from the cashbook on an ongoing basis and the trustees will be able to present accounts when reporting to the Annual Meeting next May.

**11**.  **Financial report**: Bank reconciliation had been circulated showing a current credit balance of £12,828, better than predicted. The budget had been circulated showing an excess of income over expenditure of £298 and was approved. All agreed that the precept should remain unchanged at £7,264.

Expenditure since the last meeting had been:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 03/10/2010 | D C Holroyd | 278.70 |  |  | 228.50 | 50.00 |  |  |  |
|  | npower | 47.27 | 2.25 |  |  |  |  |  | 45.02 |
| 29/10/2024 | G Brett | 346.87 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 346.87 |
| 31/10/2024 | D C Holroyd | 278.70 |  |  | 228.50 | 50.00 |  |  |  |
| 31/10/2024 | Unity | 5.40 |  |  |  | 5.40 |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4,989.31** | 9.25 |  | 1,413.59 | 443.40 | 106.90 | 400.60 | 2,615.17 |

**12. Next meeting**: Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7pm in St Margaret`s church..

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm