



# Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council

## Meeting of Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Two members of Claxton Parish Council: Cllrs David Hamblin and Jos Harwood attended the meeting by invitation to discuss issues in common which were traffic speed and public footpath cutting maintenance on farmland. As most Claxton residents live in properties along a specific length of the road between stretches of a 60mph limit, like Rockland St Mary, Claxton residents experience a high percentage of drivers who ignore the 30mph section. The road is used by walkers, dog walkers, horse riders, and cyclists (as it is a Route 1 Cycleway). Rockland Parish Councillors shared the history of their work done in the past 6 years to reduce traffic speed. Cllr Hayward will send Claxton PC our SAM2 data and vice versa so that we all have data evidence of the issue. Cllr Bevington will ask our traffic enforcement officer to contact Claxton PC when she next sees him at work. It was also agreed that Cllr Bevington draft a letter to Langley School on behalf of Claxton, Bramerton and Rockland St Mary requesting that the school advises parents and mini-bus drivers to observe speed limits when driving their children to and from the school. Cllr Thomson reported that the 30mph limit will be extended in part of Surlingham.

The issue regarding footpaths was the length of time it takes before they are cut – usually following an email reminder. Our expectation is that they are cut 3 times per year and that footpaths across ploughed fields are quickly re-instated. Cllr Hamblin suggested that any issues regarding footpaths in the Claxton parish could be referred to him. Cllr Harwood provided information about the Slow Ways project on pedestrian routes from Loddon to Yarmouth. Cllr Bevington thanked the Claxton councillors for their attendance and input, and it was agreed to repeat the invitation in the future with a focus on just one issue.

**Public Participation Session:-** No parishioners were present.

### **County Councillor's Report:-**

County Councillor Kay Mason Billig did not attend and had not sent a report. Councillors expressed disappointment that we have still not met our new County Councillor and wondered if Loddon Parish Council might change their meeting days to enable Cllr Mason Billig to attend.

### **District Councillor's Report**

District Councillor Thomson had sent a report which is on the parish council website. He alerted those present to the big rise in Covid cases in South Norfolk 412 per 100,000 (well above the national average). Cllr Thomson has a list of all grants available which he will send to the Acting Clerk. He asked Councillors to check the addresses he has sent through to ensure that none has been omitted. If households wish to have fibre broadband, they will need to sign up to a specially created website available by the end of December. Fibre cabling will be installed on existing telegraph poles. Broadband providers will then install at their own cost, the fibre cabling from the poles to those properties who have purchased fibre broadband. Parishioners should note that we will need at least 50% of households to sign up to having fibre broadband for this government subsidised scheme to go ahead.

## MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Kate Bevington (Chair), Mike Hayward, Ernie Green, Paul Francis, Nikki Stone Jo Norris and Catherine McCormick.

The village caretaker S. Gildersleeve also attended the meeting.

**18.155 Apologies for absence:** None received.

The Chair informed the meeting as we still have no clerk that minutes would be taken by the Chair in the interim. As Acting Clerk Cllr Green receives emails sent to the Parish Council Clerk and forwards where necessary to the Chair for action.

**AGREED AND NOTED**

**18.156 Declarations of interest:-** There were no declarations of interest

**NOTED**

**18.157 Minutes: -**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed, and signed as a correct record by the Chair with one correction that 60 trees had been 'applied for' rather than 'ordered'

**APPROVED AND NOTED.**

**18.158 Matters arising: -**

**18.158.1 Village Gateways:** One new gateway has now been installed at Rookery Hill. The second gateway was considered too tall for the Lower Road entrance to the village and would have caused problems of visibility to traffic from cars exiting the property next to the sign. A refund to the parish council of half the total cost has been issued.

**NOTED**

**18.158.2 Installation of bus shelter and 20mph signs:** The bus shelter work has now been completed. The 20mph flashing school signs have been installed and are effectively slowing car speeds close to the primary school.

**NOTED**

**18.158.3 Staithe car park security options and maintenance:** It was agreed to put the idea of installing camera security 'on ice' as the problems which had prompted the idea are no longer occurring. One of the barriers requires mending.

**Action:** *Cllr Hayward and S. Gildersleeve will investigate, and repair as needed.*

**18.158.4 Highways: Flood alleviation work at Low Common:** Cllr Green reported that he would contact Highways again as the person who had refused permission for the work to be done is not a Hellington parishioner or the owner of the land on which the ditches lie.

**NOTED**

**18.158.5 Clerk Vacancy:** The chair reported that no applications have been received. There was some discussion about the number of hours needed for the post. It was agreed that there could be some flexibility between 20 and 30 hours.

**Action:** *Cllr Bevington will contact NALC to amend the advertisement.*

**NOTED**

**18.158.6 The Orchids** Cllr McCormick reported that residents were pleased with the new arrangements for ground maintenance.

**18.158.7 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon:** Having read further information about the size required for a bonfire stack as a beacon, it was agreed that there was no land safe or suitable in the parishes for this purpose. It was agreed not to pursue this further.

**NOTED**

**18.159 To consider planning matters: -**

**18.159.1 New applications:** There were no new applications.

**18.160.1 Reports on decisions:** There were no reports on decisions.

**18.161 To consider finance matters**

**18.161.1 Orders for payment:** There were seven orders for payment:

Steve Gildersleeve August caretaking duties £202.50

Data Protection Agency: £40.00

PFK Littlejohn external audit: £240.00

Box Ltd for Council laptop and hard drive: £898.09

Ace Bus shelter: £ 3,972.00 (CIL acc)

J. Scott bus shelter works £950.00 (CIL acc)

On the proposal of Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Francis these payments were approved.

### **AGREED and NOTED**

#### **18.161.2 Current balance of accounts**

Cllr Green had sent all councillors detailed reports of all finances.

The current general account is £ 12,310.26 and this includes the second part of the Precept and VAT refund.

Hellington CIL balance is: £145.71 (including VAT refund)

Rockland St Mary CIL balance is: £13,470.67 (including VAT refund)

#### **18.162 To consider Correspondence**

##### **18.162.1 Feedback on previous correspondence**

There was no feedback from previous correspondence.

##### **18.162.2 Items sent electronically to Councillors**

-Request to councillors from Cll Mason Billig regarding the installation of an electric charging point at Blackhorse Dyke. Councillors agreed this would be important to our green agenda and thought there should be more than one. It was also suggested that they should be installed at the Staithe car park. Cllr Bevington will contact the Poor's Trust for their agreement in principle.

**Action:** *Cllr Bevington to reply to Cllr Mason Billig and contact the Poor's Trust.*

-Anglian Water and priority route closures: following a query from a parishioner about what constitutes a priority route Cllr Green has written to Anglian Water but not yet received a reply.

-Memorial Token plaque re Covid: the Parish Council will get presented with the plaque by the deputy Lord Commissioner in the future.

-Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill: Councillors agreed this was something that individual parishioners could take up with their local MP if they wished.

-Rangers' tasks: Cllr Green had asked for suggestions from councillors for suitable tasks for the Rangers to undertake. Councillors had suggested the following: The cutting back of overgrowth on footpath along and including the top of New Inn Hill. (The filling of potholes does not come under the Rangers' remit.)

**Action:** *Cllr Green will send the suggestion to the Highways department.*

-Request from Bramerton parish councillor Duncan Butler to consider a joint neighbourhood plan with them and Surlingham parish council. Councillors did not wish to undertake this.

**Action:** *Cllr Bevington will reply to Cllr Butler.*

-A parishioner had emailed regarding dog poo bags left on house verges and had suggested moving dog bin nearer to the track corner entrance. Councillors agreed that the current position of the dog bin was the best place as not all dog walkers use the field. Cllr Green has put a notice on the website about owner responsibility regarding dog fouling.

-Fibre broadband for Hellington: This would require being linked to the Thurton network exchange and so be part of a different scheme.

-Invoice from Birkett's: Cllr Green has queried this and is awaiting a reply.

-A parishioner had asked if a bus stop shelter could be installed at Surlingham Lane corner. Councillors agreed that this had been considered and rejected years ago as there was no space to erect one that did not encroach on pavement.

### **NOTED**

**18.163 Review of Policies** Cllr Green had sent councillors copies of the Code of Conduct, Standing orders and its Addendum for review. No changes were necessary though Cllr Green will add a stipulation about the use of email addresses to the Code of Conduct. The next policies for review are Health and Safety, the Emergency Plan plus Defibrillators.

**Action:** *Cllr Green will send these to councillors for their attention before the next meeting.*

#### **18.164 Reports from councillors**

**18.164.1 Blackhorse Dyke and Staithe car parks:** As requested by a parishioner, the hedges at the entrance to the Staithe car park have been cut to aid visibility on exit. The broken barrier will be repaired.

**18.164.2 Footpath report:** - Wherryman's Way footpath from Lower Road to the Short Dyke has now been renovated by NCC and all the wheelchair passing places re-installed. It is disappointing to learn from the RWA and NCC that there were many instances of people disregarding the signs, climbing over fencing (including electric live wires!) and equipment in order to access the path. The footpath from the pedestrian bridge at the Staithe car park to the road has also been renovated and a hard standing area created for the boat waste bins.

**18.164.3 Rockland St Mary Primary School:** - Open days take place this term. Cllr McCormick expressed her congratulations to the Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS) on their excellent Scarecrow Trail initiative and agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that they would re-institute attending where possible the monthly Community Café for 'drop-in' contact with parishioners.

**18.164.4 Green Lane Playing Field:** - nothing to report

**18.154.5 Climate change action:** - Cllr McCormick said her on-line application for 60 trees had been received. She had received a reply saying the deadline had been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> October as there had been low take-up. Our County councillor Mason-Billig will be assessing applications and decide which merit being given trees. Successful applicants should be informed by 19<sup>th</sup> November. If we are unsuccessful Cllr McCormick suggested we consider trees from the Woodland Trust though this would involve a cost to the parish council.

**NOTED**

**Any other business** There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Date of next planned meeting – **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 7.30pm**

**Signed as a correct record of the meeting by the Chair:** .....

Date: .....

