

LINGWOOD & BURLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Lingwood Village Hall Meeting Room, Station Road, Lingwood on Tuesday 5th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Vice Chair Brenda Jones, Mike Ingram, Richard Morton, Marina Tubby, Ian White and Sonya Dickinson – Clerk. .

19/125. Welcome & apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Chairman Cathy Pye, Ian Chapman, Roz Simpson and District Councillor Clare Ryman-Tubb.

19/126. Declarations of interest: S. Dickinson – Clerk, Finance – a) iii) + iv).

19/127. Public Forum, reports from District and County Councillors and a Report from a champion for 'Plastic Free Lingwood': (10 minutes allocated for Public participation). We were joined by 10 members of the Public along with County Councillor Brian Iles.

Brian – County is running as a Cabinet System now. Projects - The Acle Straight design stage has started for improvements to the roundabouts at each end and the Halvergate junction, to lessen traffic jams. The Burlingham Bypass is going through the next stage. They won't budge on the over/underpass at the moment. There was a big meeting about the disabled as the law about the grants has changed with many losing money. Cabinet are sticking to the Government Policy which means 'means testing'. Roads – Complaints under the new system, Highways Road Engineers have been taken over by Norse. Reporting now has to go through a different process. There is a Communication Problem which means it is taking a long time to get answers for people who are contacting Brian when they are getting frustrated with not finding out enough from the Norfolk County Website.

Public – Willow tree at the entrance to 3 of the allotments is overgrown and shadowing the allotments and blocking the path. It was cut back @ 10 years ago by one of the allotment holders' son, it is now huge again could it be cut down? The whole corner could be cleared and pushed back. Vice Chair Brenda Jones – Costing for cutting down the tree will be looked at and put onto the next agenda.

Public – Just moved into the Village, can I have some names of Councillors? I have looked online but want to put faces to names. Councillors and the Clerk introduced themselves. Chair of Lingwood Village Hall, Ben Bethell – I have written some words ref the proposed closing of the Homelea to Memorial Way footpath/'cut through'; Thanks to Cathy and Sonya for their time over the last couple of weeks, I appreciate that this subject doesn't have an easy resolution. This footpath is a safe passageway for people to access the Village hall and School. Homelea Court residents were consulted at the time the Memorial Way path was planned and were keen to see the route maintained. There were also discussions at the time to provide a footbridge over the railway to join the North and South of the Village. The plans for the Old Orchard Site School also included a footpath request to Homelea. All of the safer routes to the School and Hall are threatened by the proposed closure of the path and the Village Hall would object strongly to the closure. The closure is to protect vulnerable residents from antisocial behaviour in Homelea. Highways have adopted to the gap what have they said about the closure of their side? Without their agreement to close their side, access to affected properties remains. Why has Homelea not taken steps to prevent access to parts of the estate which are owned and controlled by them? How many reports have been made and what is the frequency of them? Has the Safer Neighbourhood team been involved and has the area been requested as a priority area? What would the Council do if a similar circumstance were encountered at the Green, would parts of the Green be subject to closure? What should the hall do about the Youth Shelter? Elderly folk have been verbally abused by youngsters in the shelter and have had issues with antisocial behaviour. Does the Parish Council plan to close or move it? Many residents suffer problems with youngsters on bikes and/or with antisocial behaviour. Should they approach the Parish Council and request that access to their properties is restricted? We should involve the Police where necessary and take steps to reduce the problem. I do not believe that we should close public thoroughfares in an attempt to solve the problems. The Parish Council is favouring a few vulnerable residents against the remainder of the village without taking steps to find middle ground. Other vulnerable residents would suffer because of the closure. The Parish Council is potentially setting a dangerous precedent.

Public – Have the School been informed? A. It is nothing to do with the School but they have informed parents of the problems.

Public – Antisocial behaviour such as being sworn at should be reported to the Police.

Vice Chair Brenda Jones – The Council can't make any decisions until after the February consultation results are in. So the meeting isn't prolonged, the Clerk will answer the questions directly via e-mail. Ben – I would like answers now please. Clerk – Highways have been contacted as they have the Homelea Court side on their map as a Highway not a footpath. The Police haven't been informed about many of the issues as it was not thought each incident large enough to bother them. Ben – Any antisocial behaviour should be reported. Clerk – This path is different as it was installed by agreement by the Village Hall, the builders and Parish Council other paths were not. The problems incurred by the increase of users were not envisaged. There is a notice advertised on the notice boards, website and in the Parish News of the intention to close the path and for residents to contact the Council with ideas and views, it is not ideal if people are stirred up to bombard the Clerk with phone calls, in writing is the best way forward for views to be heard. There will naturally be more against the closure as it is only affecting a few residents but really badly.

Public – It's ironic the Council are requesting a footpath across the A47 but wanting to close a footpath in Lingwood. A. This is a different situation entirely.

Tina signed up as Community Officer for Plastic Free Lingwood in September. There are several objectives. Local Governance; we would like a motion passed at the meeting that the Parish Council support the initiative. The Village hall is already a Community Ally. A. The Parish Council only rent a room at the Hall and have no items of plastic use.

Anna – Acle P.C. – Acle Parish Council are a bit further along. The scheme is to be implemented at a local level, it started in Newquay and over 500 communities are committing to reduce single use plastic items, Councillors at Acle were keen to obtain the status. Steps are to get the support of the local Council. Set up a steering group or sub-committee. Speak to independent local businesses and get a pledge to make 3 changes, a report is done and the company gets a certificate. Work with the Schools, the local supermarket, i.e. an unwrapping event was done at the Acle Co-op which received good feedback. People do want to do something but are not really sure what. A Litter picking event; Tina has already organised and carried out a litter pick in Lingwood at the end of October. Vice-Chair Brenda Jones; The Parish Council are keen to support the initiative. Cllr Richard Morton will speak to the businesses. Cllr Mike Ingram volunteered to help Tina. Q. Could there be a quarterly slot on the Agenda? A. Yes.

19/128. Minutes of the Meeting 1st October 2019: Were signed as a true record.

19/129. Matters arising from 1st October 2019: None.

19/130. Correspondence: a) Request from an Allotment holder for a Willow tree to be cut down.

This was also brought up in Public Forum. **Decision:** Clerk to obtain a quote for the work for the next meeting.

19/131. Plastic Free Lingwood: After the presentation Councillors resolved to support the Plastic Free Lingwood initiative. Councillor Mike Ingram volunteered to help Tina.

19/132. Action Log:

Dog Bin on Post Office Road at the bottom end of Church Road footpath still needs moving back to its original position. Clerk contacted Broadland and they pointed out via Google Earth that it is in the same position as it was.

Station Road Post box has been installed.

Highways were asked if Blofield Road could be widened, they said definitely not.

19/133. Millennium Green - park renovation/rejuvenation: To consider quotes and site of bow top fence: The Clerk went through the quotes and e-mailed Councillors a breakdown to make it easier to decide. Councillors would like to know the guarantee details before a decision is made. **Decision:** Clerk to find out relevant guarantees of the surfacing.

19/134. Highways A47, HE and NCC East Broadland Green Infrastructure Project Plan refusal to provide an overpass/underpass, Walk/Cycle/Horse route: Chair Cathy Pye wrote a letter to send to HE, forwarded to Councillors for approval, all approved for her to send. At the Cluster Meeting, they said the discretionary fund criteria were not met but it is for cycle routes and pathways. The reason for the letter is that the new plans come out in 2 years and have been informed we can apply again but the fund finishes before then. Will there be more funds if there is a change of Government? It is difficult to say. All the original Highways England people have gone so there is no one that knows the strong feelings of the Parish regarding our requests. There is a footway at the Blofield end so why can't the Lingwood junction have one? The works are supposed to start in 2022 but there will be meetings before then. We have done the work and will have to take it to them again.

19/135. Parish Notice Board refurbishment: : Suggested new site for pond notice board and refurbishment and re-location of Millennium Green notice board along with placing open notice boards. **Decision:** It would be hard to relocate the pond notice board anywhere as we own no other land. There are open notice boards in North Burlingham, South Burlingham and the centre section of the Millennium Green one. It was asked if a notice board could be put at the Village Hall. The Village Hall agreed that if notices were brought to the Hall they would put them up in their notice board.

19/136. Village Hall/Youth Shelter and New Bin: To consider quotes for a lidded bin. The request was for a lidded bin as the one currently by the youth shelter is small with no lid and the wind blows the rubbish out of the bin. The bin is emptied by Hall volunteers, as and when people have enough room in their home bin. The youth shelter is being well used so there is more rubbish but the bin doesn't want to be so large that it makes it difficult for volunteers to empty and dispose of the rubbish. V. Hall Chair, Ben will find out what size bin is needed.

19/137. Highways; to include Homelea to Memorial way, un-adopted Footpath/'cut through'. Due to the complaint from Homelea Court residents last month, regarding increased traffic and problems on the Homelea Court footpath by people accessing the Memorial Way footpath, it was decided last meeting to try and close the path where they join. Notices have been put up to ask Parishioners for their opinion and ideas with a response by February. **Decision:** The decision cannot be made until after the February deadline so will be deferred until the March Meeting.

Pot Hole – A very large pot hole is to be reported on Green Lane near the South Walsham Road Junction.

19/138. Meeting Dates 2020: Were approved.

19/139. Finance: a) Requests for payment: i) BDC MUGA rates £110 (Chq No. 2244).
ii) Norfolk County Council Burlingham Green Rent £25 + Allotment Rent £130 (Chq No. 2245).
iii) S. Dickinson Signs for Allotments £4.38 (Chq No. 2246).
iv) Data Protection registration fees Reimburse S. Dickinson £35 (Chq No. 2246).
b) Retrospective payments: i) K. Monsey Cemetery Grass Sept £165. (Chq No. 247).
c) Cemetery Fees. **Decision:** It was resolved to put the fees up by £2
d) Royal British Legion Wreath Donation. **Decision:** It was resolved to donate £55 this year. (Chq No. 2247).

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40-
Next meeting of the Parish Council is on 3rd December 2019,
At Lingwood Village Hall.*