

to any further work taking place. A member of the public has written to the Council, to enquire about purchasing a memorial bench in memory of her father. It was agreed to gratefully accept the offer, to situate the bench in the extension to the Millennium Garden. Recreation Ground: All ok. The bench will be repainted when the weather improves. Northside: Nothing to report.

Allotments: All good. There is a continuing problem of chickens getting out from their run, onto neighbouring plots. The Clerk has approached this informally, but the situation has not improved so a letter will be sent to the tenant in question. Avian Flu restrictions have now eased. A plot has become available, so Cllr Unsworth will offer it to the next person on the waiting list. Concern was raised that there is a rat problem on a few plots, and that allotment holders may be using poison. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact a pest exterminator to come and have a look. Notices will be put up to ask tenants not to put down poison themselves.

3390 To update on the renovation of the land adjacent to the Millennium Gardens

Covered in play area report.

3391 To agree dates and formats for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

Due to Covid regulations, no face-to-face meeting can happen until 17th May, and even then, no members of the public will be allowed to attend until 21st June. Virtual Meetings will not be allowed after 6th May. Therefore, following discussion, it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th April, at 7pm via Zoom, and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th May, at 6:30pm via Zoom.

3392 Planning

None.

3393 Finances

(i) Financial Statement - On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Meacock, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, the monthly statement and budget update were approved

(ii) Payments - On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Carter, it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

E.on	Electricity direct debit	£30.90
K Cotgrove	April salary & expenses	£289.80
HMRC	Clerk's April tax	£28.20
Westcotec	Monthly lighting maintenance	£13.25
North Parish Training & Support	Annual renewal	£145.10
Paul Collins	March grass cutting	£220.00
Paul Minns	March grass cutting	£430.00
Matthews Gardening Service	Clearance work	£1050.00
Play Inspection Company	Annual playground safety check	£83.40
Paul Minns	Bus shelter repainting	£247.49
	TOTAL	£2538.14

3394 Correspondence.

(i) North Norfolk District Council Environment Forum Invitation - noted.

(ii) Payphone consultation – following discussion, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, it was agreed that the Parish Council will ask for the box to be retained and kept operational. Should this not be possible, it will be revisited.

(iii) Request for a street party in June. A Parishioner has emailed the Parish Council to ask if it would be ok to arrange a street party in June. The Clerk has replied to ask what she would need from the Parish Council, but has received no response. It was noted that,

13th April 2021

as there is little time for planning for a June party, the Clerk will suggest the Parishioner attends the virtual Annual Parish Meeting to discuss the matter further.

3395 Items for May agenda

Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Approval of Annual Accounts.

3396 Date and time of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 28th April 2021, via Zoom

Annual Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4th May 2021, via Zoom

Meeting Closed 8:47pm.

Clerk Chair Dated

APPENDIX A – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR BROWN'S REPORT

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Pleased to inform you that I will be a County Council candidate for the Liberal Democrats in the Wells Division following the retirement of Cllr Marie Strong after serving 12 years over 3 successive terms. I will be continuing on the District Council whatever the outcome on 6 May. County Cllr Steffan Aquarone will be defending in the Melton Constable Division. In view of COVID regulations if you prefer to apply for a postal vote instead of attending the polling station you can apply by emailing postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk or ringing 01263 516046. It's advisable to do this as soon as possible due to the increase in demand for postal votes. You do not need your polling card to vote in person but it helps staff at the polling station if you do take your polling card with you. If you decide not to use your postal vote then you can still vote in person on 6 May instead but of course you cannot do both.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT

I am pleased to confirm that as expected Cambridgeshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service have closed the investigation into the procurement process in 2019 for the review by external consultants of senior management at the Council. No criminality has been discovered following a detailed investigation as indeed was the conclusion of the Council's own cross-party internal investigation in early 2020.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN) SEMINAR

I attended a zoom meeting of the RSN on 29 March with delegates from all areas of the country dealing with problems of rural transport, economies and affordable housing in rural areas and national strategy for levelling up rural areas such as ours. Since 2009 there has been a 45% drop in funding for rural transport and 500% more is spent on transport in urban areas although people travel twice the distance to access key services in rural as compared to urban areas. The Government White Paper on buses as good as recognises the failings of previous public transport policies and with £3 billion being injected now we will wait to see if the much needed reforms do materialise.

SHERINGHAM LEISURE CENTRE

The new Sheringham Leisure Centre will be called "The Reef" and will have a 6-lane, 25m main pool, a 13m x 8m learner pool with moveable floor, a splash pad with water play features and two community rooms for flexible use. There will be a café area on the ground floor with spectator viewing into the pool. Upstairs there will be a fifty station health & fitness suite, a dance/ activities studio covering 200sqm, a spinning studio 96sqm all of which will enable twice as many people to participate in sport and exercise than can currently at the Splash. The Centre is due to open on time and on budget in August.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES RE-OPENING AFTER COVID

The Council recognises that many businesses will be busy making arrangements and adjustments to their businesses ahead of projected re-opening dates; many businesses may be feeling uneasy or unsure how to safely re-open their doors and welcome customers back in to the premises.

To alleviate some of the stress of working out how to re-open safely, the Council's Public Protection team have put together some checklists and information on best practice for making sure your work place is as safe and COVID-19 compliant as possible. This includes guidance on completing a COVID-19 Risk Assessment, a Foods Standard Agency re-opening checklist and a list of COVID-19 priority actions for shops and retail businesses.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Government announced that they would not extend the emergency legislation on virtual meetings beyond 7 May despite announcing that indoor gatherings by business, charities and public bodies cannot take place until 17 May. We on the Council urge the Government to reverse their position and not to force face-to-face meetings until all restrictions are lifted. An application to the courts has been made to obtain a legally binding declaration that Councils already have the required powers to continue holding online meetings. So more to follow as soon as possible hopefully.

ABANDONED CARS ON LAND OFF GORDON ROAD

I have reported that this remains a problem and have not had a response from the Enforcement Team. I will continue to follow up and report back as soon as I have any progress to report.

12 ASTLEY TERRACE PLANNING APPLICATION - PF 20 2606

The Conservation Team seem to have no objection provided the design is modified to make the proposed dwellings more harmonious with the existing terrace housing. However the Enviro Protection team oppose the proposal due to unacceptable levels of noise, odour and vibration from the nearby industrial units. There are also unanswered questions about potential land contamination and the planning officer will be consulting the Scientific Team for a consultation response. I will continue to press the planning officer for a decision on whether the application will be refused or not given the level of concern locally.