

Great Dunham Parish Council

Minutes of a Full Council meeting of Great Dunham Parish Council on 1 February 2022 at 6.30 pm .

Present: Cllr B Upton, Cllr R Warnes, Cllr Stemmer-Baldwin, Cllr G Lawes, Cllr G Phillips, Cllr A Wakeling, Cllr C Rhodes, District and County Cllr M Kiddle-Morris, Mrs H White (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the 7th December 2021

Clerk had not brought them to the meeting so these will be signed at the next meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Report from the County Councillor

At this time of year, it is all about budget setting. Norfolk County Council is to increase the tax by 3.99%. A large portion (approx. 40%) goes on adult social care, and this still leaves it seriously underfunded. NCC are requesting more money from central government to help ease this strain.

6. Report from the District Councillor

Breckland District Council is increasing its tax by £4.95 per band "D" property.

Breckland are also looking at re-doing the Local Plan in order to meet some new legislation rules.

7. Public Participation

A question was raised about the number of HGV's that are coming through the village. They are driving on the verge, destroying it and leaving mud all over the road. Cllr Warnes said that the number of vehicles coming to his hub should now be less as Dec & Jan are the busiest.

A query was made about having "sleeping policemen" installed or no HGV routes but it is doubtful Highways would support either of these.

8. Highways

The clerk and several councillors had met with Highways on Friday 28th Jan. A great many ditches need to be cleared out in order to mitigate the flooding that occurs. The clerk is contacting landowners.

The recent flooding outside Robinswood was caused by vehicles encroaching on the verge and blocking the drain.

The recent work on the “grips” was poor and has resulted in mud etc being pushed back into the drains thus potentially create a worse block age! Highways have been informed.

Castle Acre Road is one of the biggest areas of concern. NCC Highways were unsure what belongs to them and what belongs to the landowner. The clerk is working with both Highways and the landowner to come to an agreement. The landowner has also been in touch with the River’s Trust and Water Drainage Board to source potential solutions.

The potholes down Castle Acre Road and Beeston Road have been reported.

9. Pond on North Street

The pond has been cleared out now and, in the spring, wildflower seed will be planted around it. Thanks to all who helped.

10.Planning:

Update on previous applications

Breckland have granted another 1-year temporary use to the canine swimming pool, Briar House Beeston Road PE32 2LX.

11.Solar Farm

Proposed solar photovoltaic farm, with battery storage and associated infrastructure off Palgrave Road.

The company proposing the development gave a presentation after the meeting. They are only at a pre-application stage, so some details have not been fully worked out and further studies and appraisals will be carried out.

A great many questions were asked and discussed. The main worries of the parishioners are:

- Noise – each inverter is approx. 70dBa at 1m. (to put this in context, normal conversation measures at 55dBa, a ringing alarm clock at 80 and an HGV at 90dBa all at 1m). There will be approx. 20 on site but the noise level is not linearly combined. It was also pointed out that it is in valley so what effect will that have?
- Access for the construction traffic
- how it will be screened – particularly problematic given its location on a slope
- the effect on the local wildlife

- the safety of the battery storage
- why that particular site was picked, it is reasonably good agricultural land
- how it will connect to the grid
- what happens at the end of the 40 year lease or the company ceases to trade
- light pollution and glare off the panels
- damaging effects to the River Nar
- how much maintenance is needed for the panels and how this is planned

A copy of the presentation will be available on our website.

12.Vattenfall Substation in Necton

A community meeting had been held. This was about the possible grants available from their community grants fund.

13.Finance update

Cheques had been written for the play equipment £2950.80, The conservation volunteers for work on the pond £360, Dunham Diggers also work on the pond £300, the ICO for GDPR registration £40 and the amenities' committee for hall hire £42.

Mrs White's Salary £148.80

14.Correspondence

Complaints have been received about the overgrown hedge blocking some of the path between Litcham Road and South Street. Clerk to contact landowner.

15.Date and times of next meeting

5th April at 8pm.

Parish Council meeting closed at 740pm, Low Carbon presentation and discussion commenced at 815pm and closed at 945pm. 55 people in attendance.

Signed...B UptonDate...10 May 2022.....