



palgravepc@gmail.com

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre

Present: Cllrs Bremner, Collins, Cooper, Dingle, Fausset, Forster, Pudney, Prendergast, Shirley-Smith, Sneddon and Weston.

Also in attendance: The Clerk, District Cllr Burn for some of the meeting, and 3 members of the public. No remote attendance.

02.17.01 Chair's Welcome - The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02.17.02 Apologies – No apologies as all present. County Cllr Fleming had tendered her apologies.

02.17.03 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - There was one declaration of non-pecuniary interest declared in regard to agenda item 02.17.12c. Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct and the Nolan principles.

02.17.04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - The minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair after an initialled clarification under minute item 01.13.05

02.17.05 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda – There were no outstanding matters not covered on the agenda.

02.17.06 Reports for Information - to receive reports for information only:

- County Cllr Fleming's report, previously circulated, is available on our website under Minutes.
- District Councillor Burn's report, previously circulated, is available on our website under Minutes.
- There was no monthly report from the PDCC.

02.17.07 Public Forum -

- Members of the public present: Two members of the public were in attendance for agenda item 02.17.12C and will be invited to speak at that time
- Members of the public not present: There were no matters raised not listed on the agenda.

02.17.08 Statutory Business and General Governance - The following policies were reviewed: Complaints policy and Financial Awards Policy. Clarifications / amendments were suggested for both policies.

Action: Clerk to amend and revisit at the next meeting

02.17.09 Planning Matters relating to Planning -

- a) There were no planning applications to discuss.
- b) To note any planning determinations received from the local planning authority:
DC/21/06495: Erection of summer house (retention of) @ Orme House, The Green – planning permission granted.
DC/22/00197: Fell 1 x Birch tree in rear garden due to excessive shading @ 2 Church Farm Close. Submitted with a 'No Comment' under delegated powers. Since approved by BMSDC with No Objection.
- c) There were no other planning matters for information only.

02.17.10 Finance -

- a) The following payments were approved for paying online by bank transfer:

£ 692.85	Caroline Emeny	Clerks remuneration / holiday pay
£ 10.50	Caroline Emeny	Clerks expenses
£ 31.68	Caroline Emeny	Polite Notice dog signs

The monthly schedule of payments was signed by Cllrs Cooper and Pudney.

- b) The clerks wages were approved as listed above and paid last week due to this delayed meeting.
- c) There were no receipts to note.
- d) The Financial report / bank reconciliation for the period ending 31 January 2022 was presented for approval and signed by Cllr Sneddon. An up to date accounts spreadsheet was previously circulated.
- e) Thanks have been received from all recipients of our annual charitable donations.
Note the clerk advised that our usual auditor is not able to review our accounts this year. She is making other enquiries and will advise next month.

02.17.11 PACE Solar Farm –

The Clerk confirmed the last correspondence received 18 January stated they had put the planning application on pause in order to obtain some further pre-application advice from officers.

Action: *The Chair asked Dist. Cllr Burn if he can ascertain as to what that advice might be*

02.17.12 To consider matters and any actions required for those relating to the Community of Palgrave -

a) Highways, speeding and road related issues – The 40mph repeater signs are complete but the 40mph sign on the right-hand side as you exit the village on Upper Rose Lane is lying against the brick village gateway. The Clerk has already taken photo and reported to Highways.

Highways advised that the weight restrictions on Priory and Crossing Roads will be complete by end May, a delay of 3 months. The Clerk is following this up with Highways.

Various other signage knocked down has been reported to Highways and the Clerk is pressing for action. The knocked over bollard has been repaired on The Green.

b) Speeding, Speed Indicator Devices and request for a 20mph speed limit: The 4th SID post site has been approved by Highways and we await installation. More volunteers needed once this is in situ with a more complicated rota to arrange between all volunteers. Meeting suggested once we have an installation date.

Request received to consider applying for a more universal 20mph speed limit to cover The Green from the junction with Lion Road through to Lows Lane. Explanation given for this request included increased traffic, more accidents, persistent speeding and village support for it. It was noted that there is existing 20mph advisory limit at the school but this has very obscure signage, is not enforceable by law and is widely ignored. What people are after is the full enforceable 20mph limit, ie, with round red-bordered signs. Councillors were in favour of more traffic calming measures.

Action: *Clerk to investigate the criteria, process and report back*

c) DDNP – to discuss and make a decision regarding the request to remove 2 pieces of land from the Local Green Spaces within the DDNP. The Chair gave a brief overview then invited the member(s) of the public present to put their case forward. A detailed discussion ensued. A motion was put forward that the meadows on the south side of Lows Lane and The Lows, owned by Dr S. Drake, should be excluded from consideration as designated Local Green Space in any further development of the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan (in which they are presently identified by the reference number 31). The motion was carried with one abstention and one against.

Action: *Clerk to inform the DDNP accordingly asap*

d) (i) Palgrave Village green purchase update

The Clerk confirmed email received late today from our solicitors with response from seller's agents with various documents including proposed contract after months of chasing. Awaiting further information from Birketts once they have reviewed the attached document. Note it is nearly a year since we started the process of buying The Green.

(ii) Protection of The Green

The Clerk has been in constant liaison with BMSDC in regard to the continual erosion of The Green. The repeated reply is that we should wait until we own it when it will be easier to make decisions about its upkeep. It's becoming a major problem with many of the verges severely damaged. The small green triangle near Lows Lane, although not officially part of The Green, is particularly bad especially with the No Through Road sign knocked over. Small stakes have been placed around it, but stronger stakes need to be in place to offer real protection. The school bus company, Simons, is reversing down it instead of reversing on Millway Lane as they used to. The Clerk is making enquiries as to wooden bollards ahead of the Green purchase. The current ones measure 6" diameter x 21" from the ground base.

Action: *Councillors to source more heavy-duty stakes. Clerk to contact school bus company*

e) Other Open Spaces including footpaths, ditches, grass cutting and hedges – Lows Lane footpath cut back on the left-hand side and all pleased with the result. Note the right-hand side has snowdrops and daffodils growing so will be tackled in the Spring.

Complaint received about wooden planks on the ground as you enter Priory Wood from The Gassocks. Whilst not ideal, these were placed to alleviate the mud in this area which is particularly bad. Perhaps a more suitable alternative can be agreed at the next meeting?

Cllr Shirley-Smith confirmed the area around the old stand pipe on The Green near Lows Lane will be left wild until its first cut in July.

The Clerk confirmed confirmation had been received from SCC in regard to us taking over The Lows Footpath (FP8) cuts. The process entails them sending us a purchase order which we then invoice and receive payment against.

The Manorial waste opposite the Church, which is Highways land, is being churned up by vehicles driving across it instead of keeping to the established road. Residents should be aware that this is not acceptable and their details will be reported to Highways if this continues.

Action: Clerk to report to Highways

Cllr Sneddon has received the QR code plaques to put on the identified fingerposts on the various footpaths.

f) Cemetery and Churchyard – The Chair updated everyone on the outcome of the earlier meeting. See the published draft minutes for the full details.

g) Queens Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Cooper circulated copies of the draft plan and provided an update. More volunteers were still required to make it a success. The Chair urged everyone present to volunteer. Details will be published nearer the time for the general public. The Chair commended the team for the program to date. The PDCC will be the hub for the Sunday picnic in case of bad weather. Funding may be available from both our County Councillor and District Councillor's Locality budgets and other funding opportunities have been passed on by the Clerk to the team.

h) The Spring Litter pick is Sunday 20 March, 10 – 12 noon. Clerk to book PDCC for refreshments for the volunteers when finished their allotted areas. It was agreed the PC will fund the cost of refreshments etc.

i) More dog litter sign have been purchased. Chair will put in situ where appropriate. Additional 25 litre Red dog poo bin ordered; approximately 2-month lead time, delivery to the Chair at a cost of £156.74 incl delivery & vat. Note a simple bag dispenser was purchased by a parishioner and installed near the cemetery bin and is proving very successful. The bags are being taken and used, approx. 50 last month. It was proposed that the PC fund the cost of replacement bags which was unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to order supply of replenishment bags for the dispenser

j) Palgrave Village Sign: The Clerk has emailed the production team at The Repair Shop enquiring if we might be included in the next series so we can determine what remedial action is required and get suitable quotes if we do not make 'the cut'. Note community projects are encouraged on their website.

k) M.A.D. Make a Difference in Palgrave: Suggestion from a parishioner to try and encourage more parishioners to volunteer for small tasks that previously would have been carried out by District or County Council staff. Tasks would be broken down into do-able chunks and areas where appropriate. Examples are an audit of all the street furniture in Palgrave; condition of hedges and hedgerows; footpaths; annual spring 'clean' of the cemetery etc. **Action:** Clerk to include more information in the Star

02.17.13 Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) update –

a) The bird boxes and bat boxes are all in situ. One owl box should be installed imminently. The other is quite large and needs mechanical assistance to lift into situ. A front loader / telly handler is required. Cllr Bremner to ask local farmer if he can assist in this regard.

b) The 2 Stand Pipes - 3 volunteers have come forward. The pumps were all black and white, the clerk has a photo showing the detail. Essex & Suffolk Water confirmed that it was not feasible to re-connect them. All their internal workings would have to be removed and updated with modern equipment. Additionally, stagnant water could remain in the pipes if not used regularly. Therefore the work the volunteers will carry out will be purely cosmetic. There will be a small cost for paint and brushes but this will be minimal.

Action: Clerk to contact the volunteers and ask them to proceed

Other identified outstanding projects were raised by the Clerk as follows:

c) Tourist Information Board on the Manorial Waste. Clerk will start progressing this idea with JMcC.

d) Additional lighting down the lows footpath as raised last month – Tesco have put in some very effective motion sensitive lighting on their side of the river that could be of interest.

Action: Cllr Cooper to make further enquiries as she has contacts at Tesco

e) Bench down Jobs Lane footpath at the point where the path makes a 90 degree turn towards the A143.

Action: Clerk to enquire with JMcC as to who owns the land so we can progress this suggestion

02.17.14 Correspondence - The clerk confirmed that all relevant correspondence has been previously circulated for information and that no resultant actions were pending.

02.17.15 Palgrave Star - Clerk to pull together and confer with the Chair as to the next content.

Date of next meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 10 March 2022 in the lounge of the PDCC.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 January 2022

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. Sort codeStatement no. 023 dd 31/1/22

	Bank statement balance	£60,368.77
	RECONCILES WITH ACCOUNTS BALANCE AS PER SPREADSHEET	£60,368.77