

Belstead Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Belstead

Present: Cllr Richard Clift (Chair), Cllr Christine Eade, Cllr Chris Markham and Cllr Ken Stowe

Attendance: Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk & RFO) and two Members of the Public

1. Election of Chair and Signing of the Declaration of the Chair's Acceptance

The meeting started at 8.05pm following the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Clift confirmed that he would stand for election as Chair. There were no other contenders declared by the Members present, or in advance by any not present. Members then voted in Cllr Clift's favour who was then appointed as Chair until the Annual General Meeting in May 2022. Cllr Clift signed the Declaration of the Chair's Acceptance.

2. Election of Vice-Chair and Signing of the Declaration of the Vice-Chair's Acceptance

Cllr Eade confirmed that she would stand for election as Vice-Chair. There were no other contenders declared by the Members present, or in advance by any not present. Members then voted in Cllr Eade's favour who was then appointed as Vice-Chair until the Annual General Meeting in May 2022. Cllr Eade signed the Declaration of the Vice-Chair's Acceptance.

3. Apologies and Approval of Absences

There were no apologies and absences for approval as all Members were present.

4. Declarations of Interests by Members & Requests for Dispensation

Members noted a non-pecuniary interest declared by Cllr Eade who agreed not to participate in the discussion and decision making of the item (Item 7a).

5. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 10 March 2021

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 10 March 2021 were received and approved as a true record.

6. Contributions by Members of the Public

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

7. Consideration of Planning Applications

(a) BDC DC/21/02111: Application Received (Comments Due 27 May 2021)
7 Grove Cottage, Grove Hill, Belstead, IP8 3LN

Members agreed that they supported this planning application.

8. Finance

- (a) Members noted the Barclays Bank account balances of £18,590.82 and £6,358.30 as at 29 April 2021.
- (b) Members noted the receipt of the BDC Precept (1/2) (£3,675.00) on 12 April 2021.
- (c) Members noted the receipt of the BDC Parish Grant (£72.00) on 19 April 2021.
- (d) The receipts and budget report and payments and budget report to 31 March 2021 were reviewed and noted by Members.
- (e) The bank reconciliation of activity to 31 March 2021 was reviewed and approved by Members.
- (f) Members approved the appointment of the Parish Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer for 2021/22.
- (g) Members considered Mr Cobbold's request for the funding of an updated version of the village's previous Millennium booklet for the benefit of existing and new residents. The Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that there was no provision in the budget. Following discussion, Cllr Stowe abstained and Members approved the request for 180 books, amounting to £855, which would be funded by the Council's reserves.
- (h) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages and office and personal expenses (£555.35), Suffolk Association of Local Councils for attendance at the Preparing for Audit Zoom webinar and annual membership (2021/22) (£156.12), Sharward Services Ltd for newsletters and postage (March 2021) (£30.22) and Babergh District Council for emptying dog and litter bins (2021/22) (£156.56). These payments were approved by Members.

9. Governance

- (a) Members were advised that there was no progress to report in connection with matters relating to the Mill Farm Place Open Space.
- (b) Members were advised that there was no progress to report in connection with matters relating to the Public Nature Reserve.
- (c) A list of members' responsibilities (2021/22) was prepared by the Parish Clerk. Following discussion, including an agreement for Cllr Markham to take on Trees, Footpaths and Dog Waste Bins, Members approved a final version for publication on the web site and noticeboard.
- (d) Members were advised that there had been no expressions of interest received to be co-opted as an additional Member of the Parish Council. Cllr Eade agreed to create a notice for the noticeboard. Members agreed to discuss this further at the Council's meeting in July 2021.
- (e) Members continued the discussion on the possibility of a district community heating scheme and concluded that the scheme would not be financially viable in Belstead.

10. Consultations

- (a) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the LGBC Suffolk Division Boundaries consultation by the due date of 21 June 2021.
- (b) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the Copdock & Washbrook Neighbourhood Plan consultation by the due date of 25 June 2021.
- (c) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the BDC Active Travel consultation by the due date of 11 July 2021.

11. Highways

- (a) Members were advised that discussions arising from a review by the Safety Camera Team confirmed that there were no plans for a revision of the speed limit on Grove Hill.
- (b) Members were advised that there was no progress to report in connection with the SCC Highways grit bin refilling exercise.
- (c) Following discussion, Members agreed to discuss further Highways England's A14 Belstead Road noise reduction issues at the Council's meeting in July 2021.
- (d) Following discussion and approval by Members, Cllr Markham agreed to approach SCC Highways to request the installation of lighting to the public footpath under A14.

12. Matters for Future Consideration

- (a) Consideration of Traffic Safety at the Junction of Grove Hill at Buck's Horns Lane

13. Date of the Next Meeting

- (a) 23 June 2021 (Agreement of Date & Agenda Items Received by 15 June 2021)
- (b) 14 July 2021
- (c) 8 September 2021
- (d) The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
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23 June 2021