

ASLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES – 12th November 2021

Venue: St Michael's Church, Aslacton

Commencement: 7.30

Clerk: Jill Webb, Plantation House, Plantation Road

01379 677282 : aslacton.pc@outlook.com

Present:	Geoff Gamble (Chairman); Charlotte Bennett; Cheryl Shulver (Vice-Chairman); Janine Jarrett; Louise Thurgar and District Councillor Stephen Ridley
Apologies for Absence	Keith Broomhall
Welcome :	The Chairman welcomed the new Member, Janine Jarrett
Minutes:	The Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved
Matters Arising from the Minutes : Western Farm	The Chairman gave an update on the Planning Application for residential accommodation on site for the employees. This had been refused as it would contravene current legislation regarding rural areas but, as yet, enforcement action had not been taken. A complaint had been received that the number of lorries kept on the site was exceeding those for which planning permission had been granted; this was being investigated by the Chairman. The Company had been asked to look at the light coming from the office windows to see if it was possible to reduce light pollution after dark. The Company were happy to comply with the exception of the door. The Chairman stated that the council should support the business at Western Farm as a major local employer and try to help them to find suitable accommodation ,not on the site, to attract new employees.
Oakfield House :	The Chairman confirmed that the sale had now been completed
Coronation Hall :	The Chairman received the Minutes of all the Committee Meetings but asked whether any Member would be willing to be appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Committee.
Planning Applications Nos. 2021/2160 & 2161 Bridge Farm Low Common Road Conversion of redundant building to residential dwelling with extension	Members had been circulated with the Proposal prior to the Meeting and could find no reason to object to the Proposal; it was therefore recommended for Approval. There was the possibility that this would be examined for flood risk and there might need to be a bat survey.
Glasdon 190/1025 Dog Waste Only bins/Litter bins 100 litre round Heritage Ryde Black	A Member had explored the new lower cost of providing Retriever 60 and Fido 25 litre brackets together with green C/W Plastic Liner and Post Mounted; Price £95.39; Delivery 5.95; VAT 20.27(recoverable) = £121.61 or 2 bins which would amount to £243.22. SNDC would empty these weekly and provide replacement liners at a cost of £74.40 for each bin. Litter bins would be emptied weekly free of charge as this was a statutory duty. The cost if each bin was £178 inclusive of VAT and delivery. All sites

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	<p>had been approved by SNDC and Peter Jarrett had offered to install them. It was agreed that this would be further discussed when the Precept was set at the next Meeting on 7th January 2022</p>
<p>Parish Council Facebook page</p>	<p>The Clerk said that the Parish Council Website was specifically reserved for Parish Council business and it would be a duplication if this was to be repeated on Facebook The new newspaper issued in Great Moulton was then discussed and Janine Jarrett and Louise Thurgar volunteered to develop one for Aslacton.</p>
<p>Proposal by Consultants to sell South Norfolk House and Thorpe Lodge and move to premises on Broadland Business Park</p>	<p>This was discussed at length as Members felt that it would reduce both accountability and democracy as it would involve a lengthy journey by bus or car if it proved necessary to make a visit. Many residents wishing to speak to a member of staff or present documents required when claiming benefits would be at a great disadvantage if the local office was closed. It was suggested by the District Councillor, Stephen Ridley, that they could travel by bus using the Park & Ride at the Airport but Charlotte Bennett said that this had been closed as it was now used as a Covid vaccination centre. Councillor Ridley was asked for the view of South Norfolk District Council and said that a Meeting to discuss this would be held the following week but he was against the idea as he felt that the Council Offices should be easily accessible to all residents, he also expressed the opinion that all staff should now return to the office and not be working from home as he felt it was acceptable only as an emergency measure.</p>
<p>Future housing developments in the Parish</p>	<p>The site under discussion was at the corner of Church Road and Muir Lane. The suggestion which had been made at the previous Meeting by the Clerk acting as a resident was that the Council should be asked to prioritise two and three bedroom houses to ensure that the demographic was rebalanced in favour of bringing young people into the village to ensure the future of the school and to provide a workforce for the agricultural industry; building in the parish since the early 70's had mainly consisted of four bedroom houses. A member of the parishioner objected to this and said that it was pensioners' bungalows that were needed; he went on to say that the current owners of the four bedroom houses would die and then be available to which the Clerk replied that that would not help the first time buyers and as it would still be empty four bedroom properties that were available. She went on to say that downsizing would defeat the object of providing homes for first time buyers as the people doing this would then buy the smaller homes that were required for the new generation. Another attendee asked who had proposed the site in Church Road and the Chairman explained that the Parish Council had a duty to notify the District Council of land that they wished to be considered under the Local Development Plan. Members were then asked why the Parish Council had not identified land at the lower end of the Parish and the Chairman explained that it had been decided at two public consultations and agreed by the District Council that the village should develop around the Church and the School to ensure that it had a defined centre.</p> <p>Mr Ridley then explained the purpose of Village Clusters commenting that Aslacton was clustered with Great Moulton (Tibenham is also included). He outlined the thinking behind the plan which was in line with Regulations stating that no parish should lose its identity due to over development and to this end the developments were limited to 12 to 25 properties per parish and this should be spread evenly over a cluster parishes which would then remain similar to each other. He then went on to make a plea to Members and attendees to support the new Committee at the Coronation Hall saying that they were making great strides in updating the programmes to attract more visitors and that they were working extremely hard to increase footfall from both parishes. He noted that Aslacton no longer supported things like the fete and the fayres and the Clerk said that St Michael's had been excluded from</p>

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	taking part when they had collected a substantial sum for repairing a crack in the tower as they were not deemed to need a share of the profit. Mr Ridley gave an assurance that such a thing would no longer happen.
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