MINUTES OF SANTON DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2021**

Present: Mr Mick Mackender, Chairman Mrs Debbie Cock

Mr Andrew Butcher (Vice Chairman) Mr Paul Brown

Mrs Sylvia East, Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: Mr & Mrs Taylor and Mr Riding

**The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.**

Mrs Taylor handed around copies of the planned changes to their householders planning application and it was explained that this was the second proposal, the first having been rejected. The Chairman advised that once again the Parish Council had been left out of the loop by West Suffolk Council but it is hoped any error in the system has now been corrected.

## Apologies

No Apologies had been received.

## Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on any of the Agenda Items.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th December 2021**

No comments or amendments were put forward, these were signed by the Chairman as a true record of events.

**Householders Planning Application DC/21/2217/HH a) a single story front extension b)two storey side extension (following demolition of conservatory) and a new vehicular access**

Following some discussion the Chairman asked Mr & Mrs Taylor if they had spoken to all their immediate neighbours and they confirmed they had managed to speak to all but Mr & Mrs Collinson direct. However, contact had been made to explain the situation and it was believed the son was the person they had spoken to. He confirmed that Mr & Mrs Collinson had seen the notice and were aware. Mr & Mrs Taylor asked if any comments or objections had been raised and the Parish Clerk advised nothing had been received.

Mr Riding, the owner of the adjoining property attended the meeting and was asked for his opinion.

Mr Riding stated that his only concern was whether consideration had been given to access to the oil tank with regard to emergency services. Mr & Mrs Taylor stated that this had been taken into consideration.

Mr Brown (Cllr) quoted that the original plan had concerned him as it took up so much of the corner and was too high. However, having now viewed the second proposal he could see no issue. The Chairman remarked on the matter of the present building lines and clarified the importance of avoiding setting new precedents. The planning department would take such matters into consideration. Mr Butcher (Cllr) questioned the closeness of the intended parking area along the frontage of the house and Mr & Mrs Taylor advised there will be a path and a new fence with a drive in to take vehicles off the road. It was confirmed that the brickwork will match will be carefully matched on the extensions. It was generally felt that if the planners accepted the second proposal and if none of the neighbours had issues then the Parish Council were happy with the planning application. The outcome will of course rest entirely with West Suffolk Council.

**Precept**

Following discussion there was a majority vote to raise the Precept by 2%. The precept currently stands at £7,256.

**Parish Councillors Reports**

Paul Brown –raised the question of remuneration for our bottle bank and the Clerk stated that although she had followed this through in the past, she would do so again, but commented the level of glass collected has dropped considerably since the hall bar closed. Mr Brown stated that perhaps in this climate of recycling we might consider other recycling bins. This matter had been discussed on many an occasion over the years and it had always come down to practicalities. The hall and club are tenants and therefore the land available, preferably at the back of the building was not viable. Who would oversee the situation when the bins became overloaded and people simply dumped bags? There is also the security situation to be considered. It was generally not considered acceptable to have a row of recycling bins in front of the building.

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The Clerk will look further into the possibility that some remuneration may be forthcoming from the bottle bank but had been advised although Norfolk had a remuneration programme, West Suffolk did not. A suggestion was made that we might ask Cllr Lukanuik for his comments. Brandon is a town and not a small village and there would be no real comparison if indeed some remuneration was a possibility. It is worthwhile following any lead that may bring in extra funding.

Andrew Butcher – raised the possibility of a mobile mast again. The Parish Clerk stated that unless a service provider asked to put in a mast, there was little the Parish Council could do. However, it was agreed in the New Year perhaps a Village Questionnaire could be put together to gauge our residents feelings but

the Parish Clerk stated this was a matter the whole Council should become involved in. It must be made clear that even if 99% of village residents wanted a mast, this does not mean a provider could be found.

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman raised the issue of the Watercourse work carried out and advised that it was necessary for the ditch to be fenced off for safety purposes. It was agreed that this work be carried out as soon as possible. The Chairman would ask Mr Vincent to give us a quotation. The Chairman also raised the problem encountered recently by Breckland Club regarding blocked drains. Michael Finch and the Chairman had undertaken to unblock the drainage and, after several hard hours of work succeeded. There is concern that the drains might be damaged and it was agreed in the New Year we would call in Jetforce to put cameras down the drain to check out the situation. Since this is a serious issue that affects all parties involved, it would be necessary for the cost to be split three ways. Breckland Club would be advised of the prevailing situation.

The matter of the hedge line coming out from the top end of the Village Green going towards Thetford was raised as it had been in the past. The hedge does come out past the property boundary and is causing some issues to motorists. The Parish Clerk will follow this issue up.

Whilst on the subject of overhanging vegetation it was remarked that the Conifer tree near the Forestry ‘school building’ is in need of being cut back. The Parish Clerk advised this is not on Parish Council land and it was agreed that an email would be sent to the Forestry Commission regarding this matter. There is also the matter of the hedge that butts out too far along the bottom end of Marks Lane and a tree that needs some cutting back. It was agreed that both issues need to be attended to as they cause the larger vehicles to veer to the edges and this has created some large potholes. It was agreed a letter would be sent to the American tenants again regarding the cutting back of the hedge and the issue of the overhanging tree will be dealt with by volunteers.

There followed a general discussion about various small works needed to be undertaken in the village and it was agreed that in future it may be necessary to find a general handyman to undertake some of the jobs that had in the past been taken on by volunteers of the Council. This is a matter to be considered for the future.

**Next Meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting remain set for Monday, 7th February 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

SAND/PC/22/12/21(2)