Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council

Draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held remotely via Zoom because of the coronavirus pandemic at 6.30pm on Monday 9 March 2021

**Present**: Cllrs P Rodger (Chair), P Cooper, W Sargent, N Cullum

**In attendance:** G Roderick-Jones (Clerk), County Cllr A Thomas

1 **Apologies** for absence: Cllr C Mcdonnell, District Cllr M Edney

2 **Declarations** of interest: Cllr Rodger (item 8a); Cllr Cooper (item 8b); Cllr Sargent (items 8c-d)

3 **Public discussion:** none

4 **Report from County & District Councillors:**

Cllr Thomas pointed out the public consultation currently under way regarding changes to the plans for the Long Stratton by-pass affecting public rights of way. There are also drainage surveys taking place around the new road – these are not directly related to the flash flooding experienced in December. Any flooding issues which have not already been reported should be reported as soon as possible.

A proposal to reduce working hours for recycling centres has been withdrawn in light of strong public objections. Morningthorpe Recycling Centre is currently in the spotlight. Because of Covid restrictions, vehicles have to queue outside the centre on a narrow stretch of busy road. This is clearly unacceptable and potentially dangerous. However, the site seems unsuitable for expansion, and staff of the centre are not licensed to control traffic on the public road. Solutions are being sought: Cllr Thomas will follow this up further.

Elections in early May will result in councils going into purdah in the near future.

Members' highways budgets have been increased.

5 **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 12 January 2020 were approved and will be signed asap

6 **Matters arising** from the minutes: Pond on Fritton Common: Cllrs Rodger and Sargent are investigating; the issue is less with the pond than with the ditch. Once the ditch is dug out they will be better able to determine if new piping is required. Cllrs Rodger and Sargent will discuss the drainage with the nearest properties to establish responsibility for the drainage and to plan next moves.

7 **Finances:**

a Bank balances @ 3 March 2021 NOTED:

Community Account £307.23 Savings 1 £1016.84

Savings 2 £2033.52

TOTAL £3357.59

b Authorisation of payments proposed by Cllr Rodger, seconded by Cllr Sargent and agreed by all:

G Roderick-Jones expenses Mar 20 - Feb 21 £125.55

c NOTED: internal transfer of £1400 from Savings to Current accounts (due to recent payment for community defibrillator)

**8 Planning issues:**

a 2021/0337 land north of Beech Farm: rainwater tank and harvesting

(no objections – proposed by Cllr Cullum and seconded by Cllr Cooper)

b 2021/0249 Old Rectory, The Street, Fritton: tree work

(no objections – proposed by Cllr Cullum and seconded by Cllr Sargent)

c 2021/0236 Friars Farm, Morningthorpe: replace 2 bldgs with single agricultural store (no objections – proposed by Cllr Cullum and seconded by Cllr Cooper)

d late application: 2021/0408 Friars Farm: outdoor swimming pool

(no objections – proposed by Cllr Cullum and seconded by Cllr Rodger)

**9 Community Defibrillator**

Cllr Cooper will ask a local painter if he would like to take on the repainting of the outside of the old telephone kiosk and obtain a quote. The cost of standard Post Office Red gloss (which is needed as this is a listed building and colour variations are not permitted) is around £40 + VAT for 2.5 litres.

Signs to replace the “Telephone” top window signs are available at £70 for a set of four.

A training course has not yet been organised. Training has to be hands on, so this will need to be done after Covid restrictions have been lifted – to be added to the next agenda.

**10 Fibre Broadband**

Fibre has been installed and the system rolled out. Residents are advised to contact BT to ar range for connection.

**11 Vehicles outside Recycling Centre:**

(see County Councillor's report above)

**12 Contact Details on website:**

We have been advised that too much information on a public website could invite identity fraud and therefore can lead to poor Experian credit ratings. The clerk will ensure that one piece of contact information only is given for each councillor so that they can be contacted by residents.

**13 Correspondence:** as already circulated to councillors.

**14 Any Other Business/Items for Next Agenda** as noted above

**15 Next meeting:** Tuesday 11 May – this should be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. However, arrangements will depend on restrictions in force at the time. Beech Farm Barn could be an option; a decision will be made on or about 1 May before the agendas are published.