

## HIGH KELLING PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

**Attending:** Cllr David Carter (Chairman), Cllr Gordon Lane (Vice-Chair), Cllr Duncan Henderson, Cllr Jan Kemp, Cllr Patrick Kelly, Cllr John Mangan, Cllr Susan Rutherford and Parish Clerk Jane Wisson.

Member of Parliament: Duncan Baker

0 members of the public were present.

#### 1. Administrative

- a) Cllr Perry Warnes and Cllr Butikofer gave their apologies.
- b) No declarations of interest received.

**2. To receive an update for the MP Duncan Baker on the current situation of the Offshore Wind turbine.** A lot of work has been undertaken with a group of parliamentarians to ensure that the issue of Wind Turbines is brought to the forefront of the government agenda. Updates will be provided as we move forward into Phase 2.

**3. A148 presentation:** A presentation had been provided on the current and ongoing activity for the A148 – slides attached

#### End of Annual Parish Meeting

### ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**1. To elect a Chairman 2021-2022 – Nomination: David Carter** - this was proposed by Cllr. J. Mangan seconded by Cllr. J. Kemp – **all AGREED.**

**To elect a Vice-Chairman 2021-2022 – Nomination: Gordon Lane** – this was proposed by Cllr. D Carter seconded by Cllr. P. Kelly – **all AGREED**

#### 2. Administrative:

- a. **To receive and approve the minutes from the 16th March meeting:** some spelling and formatting issues address and amended on agreed copy – **All AGREED**

n.b. further resignation received and this will be noted on this set of minutes – Cllr. R Prescott was thanked for his hard work.

**3. To adjourn meeting for public participation and to receive external reports:**

- a. Clerk reported that the Police had been contacted and were unable to attend this time but the Clerk will re-issue the invitation for the next Parish Council Meeting.
- b. No reports from District or County Councilor's
- c. No members of the public attended the meeting.

**4. To receive reports and announcement from the Parish Council Chairman**

A written report from the Chairman is attached to these minutes. The Chairman has raised the issue around the Village Sign and the cost associated with it since its removal. There is an additional cost of £100 – this was proposed by Cllr. P Kelly and seconded by Cllr. J Mangan all **AGREED**.

**5. Items for decision/discussion by the Parish Council**

- a. **Purchase of Phone Box** -The phone box near the village store is available for purchase for £1 - it was proposed by Cllr. G Lane seconded by Cllr. S Rutherford – All **AGREED**
- b. **Purchase of Equipment for litter picking** – Due to Covid restrictions NNDC is unable to currently loan out equipment for litter picking – it is also restrictive as to when and how many times we can undertake litter picking activities – the Clerk had obtained a quote of £260 for litter picking equipment. It had been discussed that we would need to purchase 12 litter pickers and 7 hoops. The litter picking equipment can be stored at the Village Hall. Proposed by Cllr. G Lane and seconded by Cllr. S. Rutherford – all **AGREED**.
- c. **Purchase of a computer for the Clerk** – It has been agreed that the Clerk will arrange for the laptop to be investigated in regards to the speed and durability of use – if it cannot be fixed – three quotes will be needed for the Parish Council to make an informed decision.
- d. **Engagement and Communications Group** -action plan has been developed from the Consultation undertaken in the village – after a recent meeting an action plan has been pulled together and the group. Some key activities currently identified:
  - i. **Welcome pack for new residents**
  - ii. **Raise creative ideas incorporate broader community**

iii. **Cllr's. identified to pursue objectives and report activities at next council meeting**

iv. **Update action plan with progress on objectives.**

This was proposed Cllr. S Rutherford and seconded by Cllr. S Rutherford.

## 6. Planning

- a. PF/21/0911 – No objections
- b. PF/21/0370 – Hillside – significant objections to the size and proportions and an objection will be sent to the Clerk for submission – Proposed by Cllr. P Kelly and seconded Cllr. J Kemp – all **AGREED**
- c. No late applications received
- d. Clerk to chase up any outcome of the appeal for the rifle range.

## 7. Transport and Representatives on Outside Bodies.

- a. Cllr. J Mangan reported that the village Hall will be reopening on the 17<sup>th</sup> May under Covid secure rules.
- b. Cllr. J Mangan had nothing further to add from the update at the start from Duncan Baker MP.
- c. Community Speedwatch – have recorded 300 cars over this reporting period
- d. SNAP – not further update
- e. Holt Patients Participations group – hasn't regroup and are not expecting any activity till after the 17<sup>th</sup> May when further restrictions are lifted.

## 8. Finance

- a. **To receive and consider the Accounts to be paid to date since the last meeting – All AGREED.** Clerk asked for confirmation that to ensure that the invoices for Chevertons are paid in a timely manner that these are agreed in some cases retrospectively at the next available meeting.
- b. **To receive and consider any further late invoices –** Cheques were agreed and Zurich Invoice for insurance was **AGREED**
- c. **To receive year end bank reconciliation:** proposed Cllr. S Rutherford seconded Cllr. D Carter – all **AGREED**
- d. **To approve section 1 The Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 –** proposed Cllr. P Kelly seconded by Cllr. S Rutherford – all **AGREED**

- e. **To approve the Accounting Statement 2020/2021** - proposed Cllr. P Kelly seconded by Cllr. S Rutherford – all **AGREED**
- f. **To approve exemption certificate for 2020/2021 accounts** - proposed Cllr. P Kelly seconded by Cllr. S Rutherford – all **AGREED**
- g. **To approve the notice of Public Rights** - proposed Cllr. P Kelly seconded by Cllr. S Rutherford – all **AGREED**

**The meeting closed at 21.05**

**The next meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 @ 7pm – this will be held in the village hall.**

## **Chair's report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting- 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Despite and indeed because of Covid19 lockdowns, your Parish Council was busier than ever during 2020-21. I'd like to take this opportunity to report back on our activities.

As Chair of the Parish Council, I would like to thank outgoing Parish Councillors Bob Prescott and Robin Johnson for all they have contributed during the last year. And at the same time welcoming Cllrs Susan Rutherford and Duncan Henderson to the fold. We have two vacancies which we are currently looking to fill.

Everyone of your Councillors have contributed so much to the role and have individually taken the lead for key areas of the Parish Council's work. Whilst our planned meetings are every two months, we have frequently met during the intervening months by way of our Communication and Engagement Working Group. We are prioritising improving two-way communication between villagers and the Parish Council, for example the recent Village Survey. If we had been able to have the Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 this would have been a key theme.

For the main part of the year, we have been seeking to support the village through the pandemic. We introduced the Corona Chronicle to fill in between the monthly High Kelling News helping to ensure we could get out information in a timely manner. Our new and improved website, [www.highkellingpc.info](http://www.highkellingpc.info), carried the most up to date information, arrangements were put in place to help the most vulnerable, and of course we supplied, free of charge, over 130 face coverings, raising donations of £180 which went to Kelling Hospital. In addition we donated £500 to help the Treehouse Café Community Fridge to supply food for children during school breaks and a further £150 from Parish funds again to Kelling Hospital. As a token of thanks, we arranged with the Village Hall for the flying of the 'Thankyou NHS/Key Workers' flag.

We support future off-shore wind farms but are strongly in favour of the proposal for development of an off-shore ring main. This being a real alternative to providers running their own separate pipelines across the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one of which would come close to

the Bodham end of our village. Cllr John Mangan very ably led on this for the Parish Council, as readers of the High Kelling Parish Chronicle will be well aware.

Planning and development matters were as important as ever. Cllr Patrick Kelly has helped develop a much more professional response to consultations. We opposed in detail the NNDC plan to designate our village as the site for 17 more properties, regrettably without success. We continue to scrutinise all planning applications, opposing what we regard as unsuitable development. Our efforts to better engage with villagers bore fruit with villagers joining our Zoom meetings to comment on proposals.

Your Parish Council was proud to support VE/VJ Day celebrations which regrettably fell foul of Covid. Happily, our financial support enabled the production of a very successful booklet of villagers' memories of the time.

As always, the A148 was a key concern. After ongoing approaches, the County Council Highways department up-graded the footpath between Avenue and Vale Rds, improving safety whilst moving from the east to west parts of the village. More Community Speed Watch volunteers were recruited, with sessions organised by Robin Johnson, when Covid restrictions permitted. The Parish Council is moving from a rather piecemeal approach to looking at A148 issues as a whole and identifying a range of options to be explored, as evidenced by it being the main theme at this year's Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors have taken a 'hands on' approach as necessary, clearing fallen branches, debris and vegetation approaching onto footpaths. Cllr Gordon Lane taking it a step further by cleaning speed signs! We have been working with the Highways department to improve the situation. The Village sign is being renovated and should shortly be back, better than ever.

One of our key achievements must be the launch in January this year of the High Kelling Parish Chronicle which has gone from strength to strength. Following the demise of the High Kelling News, the Chronicle is delivered monthly free of charge to every property in the village. The extra space available to your Parish Council enabled us to include a village survey, which will inform our future priorities. Also, the gathering of villagers' permission to be included in the forthcoming High Kelling Directory. The gathering of email addresses will also enable prompt circulation of events affecting the village, something which with the best

will in the world cannot always be achieved in printed form. Cllr Susan Rutherford and Susan Ruru have worked hard to get this going, Cllr Duncan Henderson with proof-reading and distribution. Very many thanks as well to the deliverers, without whom the Chronicle wouldn't get to everyone. So thanks to, Giselle, Beryl, the two Lyns, Ray, John, Debbie, Susan, Ann, David and Pam.

In conclusion I'd like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their fulsome support during the year which I am confident will allow your Parish Council to go from strength to strength.

**David Carter, Chair, High Kelling Parish Council**

**May 2021**

## **A148 – Key Points**

- **A148 is main east-west road in North Norfolk - busy all year especially between Spring and Autumn**
- **High Kelling can look like countryside to motorists: there are no street lamps, the road is narrow and lined by trees with few visible houses**
- **Norfolk County Council highways policy is the free flow of traffic on the A148:**
  - **traffic lights, zebra crossings or other restrictions not authorised by Highways between Kings Lynn and Cromer**
- **Lack of a footpath behind the main road, linking one end of the village with the other, difficult for pedestrians along the A148.**
- **Bypass**
  - **proposal first raised in 1990s, fell below priority level for detailed investigation and discontinued.**
  - **last reviewed in 2014 with Holt Heath Farm Development, but rejected.**

### **What Has the Parish Council Done - 1**

- **After fatal accident in 2016, bus stop opposite the Post Office removed. Bus stop and shelter relocated to Old Cromer Road opposite Holt Railway Station.**
- **White ranch style plastic ‘gates’ installed to highlight entry into built-up area and start of the 30mph speed limit zone**
- **Regular contact with the Highways authorities to get pot holes filled, drains cleared, new section of drains installed near the Pineheath Road junction, pavement between Vale Road and The Avenue widened (Oct 20).**
- **Shared SAM2 speed camera (with other villages). The SAM2 system:**
  - **Measures actual vehicle speed to encourage speed reduction.**
  - **Records traffic volumes and speed to identify times of excessive speeding**
- **Installed a 10mph sign in Avenue Road, on the Village Hall frontage, to encourage motorists to keep to the speed limit on this narrow and busy private road.**
- **Installed a No Through Road sign on Heathfield Road/Close**
- **Highways Officer visit Oct 20 - review state of pavement and vegetation along A148, in particular between Vale Road and Avenue Road.**

### **What Has the Parish Council Done - 2**

- **Speedwatch Community Speedwatch Group goes out regularly (except when prevented by Covid restrictions):**
  - **Hi-viz jackets and warning signs are a requirement of the Scheme.**
  - **Speedwatch team do a fantastic job in reducing speed through the village when they are in place, their primary role.**

- Data produced provides good info on traffic volumes when they are operating, but any data on vehicle speeds is not useful as vehicles tend to slow down!
- **Involving our MP Duncan Baker.**
  - MP support really can make a difference.
  - Must be realistic – he gets many requests from his constituents, can only "champion" a limited number within Government/other agencies.
  - Our case must be DIFFERENT/SPECIAL and well evidenced, so that he will take it on with gusto!

#### **Future Issues that might Impact A148**

- New planning applications for property infill (also addition of Annexes) on roads which have poor access onto the A148, eg Vale Road, Avenue Road.
- Future planning applications which could create a case for road improvements:
  - The old Pineheath Care home:
    - A148 access/visibility and possible need for widening or cutting back entrance.
    - Right next to east and westbound Bus Stops
    - Improving the sight line along whole width of site, to improve safety.
  - The old nursery:
    - Entrance will be on Selbrigg Road so little impact on A148.
    - Might require cutting back the hedges on the main road to improve sight lines

#### **What the Parish Council Intends to Do - Way Ahead**

- Safety along the A148 remains a very high priority for the Parish Council. We will continue to take action wherever possible.
- The Parish Council focus on the A148:
  - Engage the NCC, NNDC, Highways to pursue road repairs and regular clearing of paths and overhanging vegetation.
  - Gather evidence from Speedwatch activity and the SAM2 system to engage Police and Highways to pursue speed reduction measures .
  - Request Highways for an automated traffic metre to measure the traffic.
  - Discuss the matter at all future Parish Council Meetings
  - Continue to consult with residents and consider any thoughts or ideas and provide regular updates to villagers.
- Planned activity:
  - Plant up the areas in front of the village 'gates' at both ends of the village to reinforce the visibility of the village - help required
  - (High Kelling Society) Volunteers continue to maintain area around village sign.

- **Clean the village gates and road signs through village, to increase their impact**
- **Proposal to purchase our own SAM2 system, for use on High Kelling stretch of A148.**
- **Find long term solution to keep leaves clear from pavement in front of Voewood. In the meantime volunteers will periodically clear leaves from the cycle and pedestrian paths.**

#### **Parish Council Priorities for A148**

##### **A148 priorities:**

- 1. Gather evidence from Speedwatch activity and the SAM2 system.**
- 2. Engage the Highways Department/NNDC to pursue the regular clearing of paths and overhanging vegetation**
- 3. Keep village signs clean and clear of vegetation**
- 4. Evaluate purchase of dedicated SAM2 system**
- 5. Continue to consult with residents and consider any thoughts or ideas.**
- 6. Engage with other A148 Parish Councils to consider a joint action plan**
- 7. Seek MP support where important**