

Minutes of the online meeting of Costessey Town Council on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs D Burrill (Chair), J Amis (Vice Chair), I Alam (arrived late), M Bedford, G Blundell, F Carter, G Dole, T East, J Flowerdew, L Glover, S Hannant, G Jones, S Jones, J Knights, T Laidlaw, S Long, C Mahn, J Newby, P O'Connor; H Elias (Town Clerk), N Bailey (Deputy Clerk).
Four members of the public

TO ELECT A COUNCIL CHAIRMAN & RECEIVE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

271/20: Cllr J Amis opened the meeting and two nominations were received for the election of the Chairman, Cllrs Dan Burrill and Gary Blundell.

A recorded vote was requested and noted as follows:

Cllr G Blundell: (5) Cllrs G Blundell, F Carter, J Knights, S Long, C Mahn

Cllr D Burrill: (12) Cllrs J Amis, M Bedford, D Burrill, G Dole, T East, L Glover, S Hannant, G Jones, S Jones, T Laidlaw, J Newby, P O'Connor

Abstention: (1) Cllr J Flowerdew

RESOLVED that Cllr D Burrill be the new Costessey Town Council Chairman

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

272/20: No apologies had been received

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

273/20: Cllr M Bedford declared an "other" interest in Item 12 Marriott's Way

274/20: Cllr T Laidlaw declared an "other" interest in Planning

275/20: Cllr D Burrill declared an "other" interest in Planning as he is a substitute member on South Norfolk's DMC

276/20: Cllr L Glover declared an "other" interest in Planning item 2020/1629 & 2020/1630, Church Farm Barn as she is a Church Warden and that she would not vote

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FULL CTC MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

277/20: AMENDMENTS: Pg 2915: **Present:** Remove Cllr D Burrill from list of those present as he was unwell and did not attend.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes with the above amendment. **ACTION:** Town Clerk

TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

278/20: There were no committee minutes as all the committee meetings had taken place after the Bundle had been sent out.

TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON MATTERS IN THE MINUTES NOT LISTED BELOW (NO resolutions)

279/20: Min: 246/20: Norwich Western Link: response had been submitted. To be copied in to all Councillors. **ACTION:** Town Clerk

280/20: Min: PE249/20: Rainbow Bench: The Office is checking with SNC that new design is acceptable to them and meets safety standards.

281/20: Cllr I Alam arrived at 7.20pm

282/20: RESOLVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR 15 MINUTES' PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Items raised: Governance Review for Costessey – process, procedures and consultations. Offer to volunteer as a Councillor. MUGA for children at Queen's Hills. **The meeting was reconvened**

TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS, AND RECEIVE INFORMATION ON APPEALS & OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

283/20: a) Planning applications for consideration:

i) 2020/1297: AMENDMENT - Mr N. Farkasch - 8 Highlow Road, NR5 0HP - Alterations to include increase in eaves height to roof – **Comment:** This is a chalet bungalow and would bring the roof height up to that of the neighbouring property - **APPROVE**

ii) 2020/1578: Mr D Smith - Land Off Mill Croft Close - Erection of 5no. new dwellings (Resubmission of 2020/1054) – **Comment:** It was noted that this had been refused at South Norfolk's DMC. Not much had changed in the new application, but an additional reason for refusal had been given weight by the DMC and there was an additional letter of objection. **RECOMMEND REFUSAL** on the following grounds: Millcroft Close would also be the access for any future development of the Roundwell Works as any access would have to be via Millcroft Close, because the lane to the A1074 Dereham Road would emerge too close to the junction with Longwater Lane. As such this application would compromise future development on this site of 24 units as per the GNDP "blueprint" for planning over the next 25 years;

The lack of amenity to the new houses adjacent to the Roundwell industrial works was noted, as there was inadequate screening; **Access:** Millcroft Close is too narrow for refuse vehicles at present as there is only room for two cars to pass; Loss of on-street parking in Millcroft would cause problems with even existing levels of vehicles – more than 20 extra vehicle movements per day turning out of Millcroft Close into Dereham Road would be hazardous, especially as there had been a fatal accident in the area. **Design & Layout:** The proposed development is cramped with too many houses, parking spaces appear too narrow for modern vehicles; houses are small and not in keeping with the other dwellings in Millcroft Close; The layout is poor, parking is poor, passing is poor, road layout is poor; **Wildlife:** given the large amount of wildlife seen - in particular protected species such as bats, newts etc an EIA should be required. **Tree Report:** Cllrs believed that at 6.4.2 there was a typo and that piling rigs etc should NOT be used on the site. DCllr D Burrill offered to call it in to SNC DMC if the Officers were minded to approve the application.

iii) 2020/1629 & 2020/1630: Mr & Mrs Trivedi - Church of St Edmund, The Street - Erection of 1.8m high timber fencing (**Retrospective**): Full & Listed Building Consent – **Comment:** It was noted that all Permitted Development Rights (PDR) on the Church Farm Barn site had been removed by the first application permission, so all changes would require planning permission. It appeared the fence had been placed on Church land and the Diocese had requested the applicant apply for a faculty or remove the fence. The question of ownership of various parts of land were a civil matter. The fence did not follow the line of the boundary and Council understood it was not acceptable to English Heritage / the Conservation Officer. **RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

iv) 2020/1707: Mr & Dr C & J Speakman & Evans - Land South of The Croft - One and half storey detached dwelling with integral garage, utilising vehicular access. Construct new vehicular access to serve existing dwelling – **Comment:** Concerns were expressed that The Croft is a very narrow, single track road without a footway and that the new site is very close to a severe bend. Therefore on safety grounds the drives of both the existing property and the new site should have very wide splays to allow maximum visibility – **APPROVE** providing suitably wide splays are conditioned

284/20: b) Information & Planning decisions received from South Norfolk & Norfolk County Councils: (*Information only. (No decisions needed) See separate sheet – Noted

TO CONSIDER FINANCE MATTERS

285/20: As the monthly accounts were now seen by the Finance, Budgets & Staffing Committee monthly in advance of a streamlined version being sent to full Council, the accounts would be put to the next meeting. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

TO DISCUSS WHETHER TO INVESTIGATE THE MERITS OF A FURTHER COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR COSTESSEY (CM & JF)

286/20: The previous Community Governance Reviews (CGR) were explained – one instigated in 2015 by a petition of residents after which Queen’s Hills was designated a ward of Costessey TC, and the second in 2017 when the Boundary Commission required South Norfolk to undertake a review as part of its normal 10-15 year cycle of District Council wards – in this case Queen’s Hills remained part of Old Costessey Ward which gained an extra District Councillor. Both sets of changes came into effect in the elections in 2019. There is currently a Governance Review under way for County Council divisions as Costessey is particularly large and the County Cllr has about 45% more electors than other County Councillors. The proposal currently under consideration is to extend Queen’s Hills Ward to the A47 and put it in the new Yare Valley division with other smaller parishes. The next expected review would be in 2027. A lengthy discussion ensued as to whether much had changed since the two previous Governance Reviews. Residents could set up another petition, or CTC could ask for another CGR. If instigated the process could take years. However, as the wider Government agenda was moving towards discussion of unitary authorities and the removal of some tiers of local government, it was suggested it might be better to see what other changes were made first. Queries were raised as to whether a pandemic was the best time to be instigating another CGR as other considerations might take precedence. Finances, viability, future governance of Queen’s Hills and residents’ identity were discussed. It was suggested that, as a CGR would happen at some stage, the word “immediately” should be inserted into the proposal.

PROPOSAL: that CTC agrees that South Norfolk Council should immediately carry out a Community Governance Review for Queen’s Hills to determine its future.

A recorded vote was requested.

For: (6) Cllrs I Alam, F Carter, J Flowerdew, J Knights, S Long, C Mahn

Against: (11) Cllrs M Bedford, G Blundell, D Burrill, G Dole, T East, L Glover, S Hannant, G Jones, S Jones, J Newby, P O’Connor

Abstentions: (2) Cllrs J Amis, T Laidlaw

RESOLVED that SNC should NOT immediately undertake a Community Governance Review for Queen’s Hills to determine its future

TO CONSIDER HIGHWAYS MATTERS

287/20: a) Parish Partnerships suggestions: A list had been sent around; two main suggestions were that the speed humps in Grove Avenue were not sufficient and that following several accidents with traffic turning right into Gurney Road from Dereham Road perhaps a yellow box junction might be a solution. Clerk to ask Highways Engineer about suitability. A crossing between the two paths to the country park had been suggested; CTC had previously been advised that crossings were generally too expensive to qualify for the Parish Partnerships scheme and a previous Highways Engineer had suggested that a “Beware of the deer” sign was not appropriate for a 30mph road, but the current Engineer had been approached. It was noted that regardless of whether the 50 / 50 Partnership Scheme was used or NCC funded highways improvements, the money was still funded by the Council tax payer. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

288/20: Cllr Flowerdew left the meeting at 8.48pm, and Cllr F Carter at 8.50pm

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE (Verbal and written)

289/20: a) Marriott’s Way: (MB) A Cllr had been approached after an accident on Marriott’s Way when an elderly lady had been injured. She was keen that NCC published widely who had right of way – pedestrians or cyclists - and that plenty of signage was put up to explain this to users. The requirement for a cycle bell was questioned. Cllrs found the relevant information on Pg 17 of a leaflet which stated pedestrians had right of way. Clerk to contract Highways requesting that the information be more visible and easier to find. With regard to cyclists more signage was needed at Olive Road. **ACTION: Town Clerk**

290/20: b) St Edmund’s Church Newsletter: Noted

TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

291/20: DCllr S Blundell had been in discussion re memorial benches at QH Community Park, two Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) issues and help with residents’ personal situations.

TO CONSIDER THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON COVID 19

292/20: The Prime Minister had scheduled a briefing broadcast for 8.30pm that evening and written guidance was likely to be available on the [.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website in the following days

TO RAISE MATTERS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE (for discussion only - No resolutions)

293/20: Covid 19: A confirmed case had been reported at Ormiston Victory Academy

294/20: CPRE petition: The organisation was preparing a case and collecting signatures for a petition against the Government's new planning paper proposals, which would "emasculate" the Planning process and leave very little room for members of the public to comment on applications. SNC was debating its response. Cllrs were urged to make their views known. **ACTION: Town Cllrs**

295/20: Easton PC Chairman: had contacted the Clerk with regard to the pedestrian and cycle bridge over the A47 and shared surfaces. He was intending to send her further information, but it had not yet arrived.

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT ON-LINE MEETING as Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 7pm

296/20: There would also be an **on-line Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday 24 September at 10.30am** to approve the minutes of the various working groups and committees. Cllr D Burrill gave his apologies as the new Chairman, because he would be at work.

297/20: **RESOLVED TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960** on the grounds that it was not in the public interest to disclose discussion on the items below due to the discussions relating to legal issues

Members of the public left the meeting

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED IN CONFIDENCE

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTION

298/20: The information was received and discussed. No resolutions were made.

299/20: Thanks were expressed to Cllr D Burrill for his chairmanship of the meeting.

300/20: The meeting closed at 9.38pm

Chair:

Date: