

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting at Playford Village Hall
at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2nd March 2022**

Present: Joan Metcalfe - Chairman
Steve Hicks - Vice-Chairman
Ted Herrington - Councillor
Martin Hill - Councillor
Ben Evans – Councillor
Elaine Bryce – County Councillor
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor

Also present:
Sarah Potter
Neil Tibble
Tracy & Simon Hanson
Tricia Laws
Tracy Herrington
Sally Herrington

In attendance:
Marian Hedgley - Clerk

Apologies for Absence:
Keith Carson - Councillor

- 1. Welcome and Introduction** - The chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm
- 2. Declarations of Members' Interests in any items on this Agenda.**
JM declared an interest as Treasurer of Playford Village Hall Committee and as a Trustee of Playford Village Hall. This information was duly recorded.
- 3. To approve minutes of previous meeting held 12th January 2022**
Proposed by TH and seconded by MH - the Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters arising – none

Action Point Review:

- ❖ **AP135 – Ongoing problems with FPs 1, 3 & 20.** The A4 size “No Cycling on Footpaths” signs will be placed at beginning of appropriate footpaths when the new QR map signs have been received as these can be fixed at the same time. A suggestion has been received that FP1 could be made 1m wider along the water meadow to accommodate rapid undergrowth and to enable walkers to avoid soggy areas of the path –this may not be agreed by landowners.

Signed

- ✧ **AP155 – C324 traffic priority problems:** Highways' Traffic Manager David Chenery's suggestions on priority signage for this road were discussed – see under Highways in para 8.
- ✧ **AP158 - Fallen willow trees across R Fynn at bridge on Butts Road.** Trees which fell last year have now been removed without aid from the Environment Agency but another has recently fallen on the other side of the bridge.
- ✧ **AP160 - Mud, debris etc on Church Lane washed down by heavy rainfall.** Clearance is still awaited by SC Highways.
- ✧ **AP167 – Disabled access to FP2/track to Tuddenham.** When the gate across the beginning of the track is locked, there is no access for a mobility scooter. A smaller side gate for this purpose, supplied by Highways is still awaited.
- ✧ **AP169 – FP16 has been closed recently as sheep are grazing fodder across the footpath.** Access is available at the side of the track on the other side of the fence but complaints have been received about this inconvenience. Landowners have been consulted.
- ✧ **AP-170 – FP8 (school path to Lt Bealings).** Fence in need of repair and is leaning inwards across the path. Landowner has been made aware and will fix this,

For more details see Action Log appended at end of the Minutes.

4. Planning Application: DC/22/0485/FUL

Extension and alterations to Valley House. Demolition of existing utility area and erection of two-storey extension to the south of the dwelling.

Applicant Neil Tibble was present and explained the details of the extension which will be built above the present utility room to create an extra room on the first floor. The ground floor area will not change but the size of the landing window will be increased.

Questions were asked regarding the relative size of the resultant building and whether this would result in being too large in proportion to the size of the plot, but as the house sits in ½ acre, this was considered to be reasonable. Also questions were raised about possible covenants regarding enlargement but there appear to be none. The building materials to be used on the extension will match those of the existing building.

JM proposed acceptance of the plans and this was unanimously agreed by councillors. The decision will be conveyed to East Suffolk Planning dept by the clerk.

Signed

5. County Councillor's report:

Cllr Elaine Bryce sent in her full report which is appended at the end of these minutes. Elaine ran through the basic points:

- The council will continue to focus on children's services, adult care and the environment
- There will be an increase in council tax for 2022-23
- £21m is to be allocated to Highways issues over the next four years
- Suffolk is one of 9 areas to be selected for a county deal – this means Suffolk will be invited to negotiate a county deal as part of the government's Levelling Up White Paper.
- Work is to start at Otley Bottom next month to repair the damaged bank on the B1079 and the road will be closed for 6 weeks whilst this is in progress.
- SCC has confirmed its plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land and assets by 2030

Questions:

TH queried why there would not be a site meeting to discuss the proposal for new signs on the C324 and was told that as Traffic Manager David Chenery already knows the area very well and is well-acquainted with the layout of the road, this was not considered necessary.

6. District Councillor's report

Cllr Colin Hedgley's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is appended at the end of these minutes.

Colin also added:

- £m's were being spent on business start-ups in the area to help after the pandemic.
- Parts for the new bridge at Lowestoft were being brought over from Belgium
- The second homes tax loophole was being closed at last.
- People are being fined for enforcement issues even though this is taking up to 10 years in some cases.
- Recycling is not going well in the Lowestoft area and needs to be corrected.

7. Finance:-

Reporting & authorisation of cheques/online payments:

Already paid:

Cheque no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount £
Online	M J Hedgley	Clerk's expenses/ ink cartridge/stationery	61.40
Online	M J Hedgley	January salary	agreed in budget
826	HMRC	Tax Q3	agreed in budget
Online	KT Herrington	Oak - replacement WW1 memorial tree	122.50
Online	SC Norse	Annual grass cutting/hedge trimming	1052.40
Online	P E Holmes	Domain name registration	35.99
Online	M J Hedgley	February salary	agreed in budget

All of above payments were proposed by JM and seconded by MH.

Signed

Bank Balances:

Current account £2276.12
Bus Prem a/c £6428.25

Bank reconciliation: SH confirmed the reconciliation from a copy of the Budget sheet with latest Bank statement.

Budget 2021-22 – It was unanimously agreed the current budget was on track. NALC has announced a government pay rise for clerks, agreed for the current financial year and this is to be paid as soon as details of pay scales are released.

8. Highways

- Traffic priority problems on C324 – Traffic Manager David Chenery’s suggestions for new signage were discussed by the council and Elaine will approach David with the various amendments to these suggestions. These include:

- STOP lines at each end
- Hatching along the sides of the road
- Single file signs at each end

The council will also need an idea of cost before making a decision as funding will need to be applied for.

- Footpath issues - these have been covered in para 3, Action Points review, AP-135, AP-169 and AP-170
- SIDs equipment is currently in Tuddenham and will go to Lt Bealings in April. Calibration issues have been fixed and Playford will next have the equipment in May.

9. Neighbourhood Plan – update

KC sent in his report as he was unable to attend the meeting. The Locality grant of £2817.00 has been agreed by Groundwork UK and funds should be credited to the PC’s bank account within 3-5 working days.

10. Rota for watering the WW1 memorial Oak tree on the playing field

The new oak tree is now planted on the playing field and will need regular watering – the clerk will draw up a rota of volunteers for this and circulate it to the council.

11. Treebilee oak

BE kindly collected the 2m tree from the Norse depot in Ufford and will look after it until the permanent site can be made ready for it.

12. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Playford Village Hall committee will meet to discuss their plans for this on Thursday 10th March and there are several options. JM will convey their decision to the parish council. The final arrangements will be advertised in the Fynn Lark New.

JM will report back to the PC after the Village Hall meeting has taken place.

Signed

13. Other Planning Issues

Archway Piggeries: The appeal against ESC planners' decision to refuse permission for application DC/21/2171/FUL has been dismissed. It has been reported that the owner is extensively levelling up the ground around the site of the old piggeries building prior to development – this appears to be shown in the original plans but was not made clear at the PC planning meeting when these plans were discussed. To contest this would be a civil matter.

14. WhatsApp group for the village

This has been suggested to enable Playford news to be circulated quickly, should it be required for any reason. An article would need to be placed in the local magazine to ask for residents' permission for their mobile numbers to be used before anything could be started up. Other ways might be to start a village Facebook page or to have a forum embedded in the village website – enquiries will be made regarding this.

15. PC Vacancy

Another advert could be placed in the Fynn Lark News as no-one has come forward as a possible candidate or this could be circulated via googlemail. It was decided that Phil Holmes should be asked if it was possible to change his googlemail circulation into one of multiple google groups one of which could be used by the clerk to circulate purely parish council related articles.

16. Correspondence – received up to 2nd March 2022

	Date	From	Subject	Ref
1	13.1.22	East Suffolk Council	Latest Monitoring report & key statistics, also new data on Open Data portal etc	ESC Planning Policy
2	13.1.22	AEPA re Sizewell C	Sizewell C/BEIS meeting & SZC& Nat Grid update	Victoria Hambley
3	14.1.22	Fresh Start/New Beginnings	Request for donation	Carrie Baker Community Fundraiser
4	21.2.22	East Suffolk Council – Principal Planner	Review of Local Validation List – Initial consultation	Katherine Scott
5	25.2.22	ESC Democratic Services	Review of Community Partnership Priorities	Matt Makin
6	28.2.22	Sizewell C Project Team	Project update	
7	28.2.22	Ipswich Borough Council	Publication of Inspectors' Report into Ipswich Local Plan Review 2018-2036	Russell Williams Chief Exec
8	1.3.22	Ipswich Borough Council	ERRATUM re above	Russell Williams Chief Exec

Signed

17. AOB

TH queried whether anything further could be done about flooding on the C324 – he has recently cleared the drains himself as they are not done regularly enough by Highways. It appears that Highways do not have the resources to do this more often.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th May 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting to commence at 6.30pm followed immediately by Annual Parish Council Meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Signed