

## Stody with Hunworth Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6.45pm

PRESENT: Charlotte Crawley (Chair) (CC). Nick Lloyd (Vice Chair) (NL). Jerry Philippi (JP). Beverley Tiller (BT) and Karl Carter (KC) (from agenda item 2), Kerry Harris - Clerk. (KH).  
Cllr Andrew Brown NNDC (AB) (from 7.15pm)  
21 Members of the Public

22/52. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence - CC welcomed all despite the weather. Apologies were accepted by all from Adel MacNicol, Alan Suffling. Apologies were also received from NCC Cllr Dalby

22/53 To Co-opt a new Parish Councillor and to sign the Declaration of Office There was 1 candidate. Karl Carter introduced himself to the meeting and was unanimously voted onto the Parish Council. KC signed the Declaration of Office and joined the Councillors

22/54. Declarations of interest and dispensations to speak – AM, as a Director of the Stody Estate, had declared her interest in advance in agenda item 7.1 (22/61). NL declared an interest in agenda item 8 (22/59) as he is married to the Stody Church Warden and on the Stody PCC. The PC unanimously approved a dispensation for them to speak on the respective agenda items, but not to vote.

22/55. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> October and the Notes from the Mast Site Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November - The Minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> October were Agreed by all to be a true record of the meeting on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by JP and were signed by CC.  
The Notes from the 15<sup>th</sup> November were accepted as a True Record of the Proceedings and were signed by CC.

22/56. Matters Arising (for information only), not included on the agenda – There were none.

22/57. Open Forum for public participation:

(i) Questions and comments from residents and members of the public

There were none

(ii) To receive report from Andrew Brown, North Norfolk District Council.

Cllr Brown was not submitting a report to this meeting as he had recently submitted a report to the deferred meeting held in October

(iii) To receive report from Michael Dalby, Norfolk County Council

Cllr Dalby had sent a report to the meeting: NCC Consultation on Tax and spending proposals - Consultation open until 16<sup>th</sup> December; proposed total increase of 2.99% including 1% for Adult Social Care and views requested on rises of 4.1% and 10.1%; savings proposals – Reducing opening hours of Norfolk Records Office to 22.5 hours per week, reducing weed spraying activities on the Highway to one a year (from 2), reducing summer opening hours at recycling centres and closing all recycling centres on a Wednesday.

22/58. To receive an update on Planning Matters

(i) To Approve any action on the new Glaven Valley Conservation Area Review Consultation CC informed the meeting that she had attended the Consultation evening but there had only been 13 in attendance, 4 of them part of the presentation team, probably due to short notice and lack of information. She said that this was the complementary consultation for areas outside of the villages within the Glaven Valley area and

affects more farmers and landowners. Stody Estate Director Charlie MacNicol (CM) stated that it affects any properties outside the village boundaries, so residents should check it out. Concern was expressed that a second consultation had not been arranged and may not take place. The Clerk suggested that any interested party should contact NNDC Cllr Brown.

(ii) PF/22/2315 - Rose Cottage, Brinton Road, Stody - Single storey rear extension to the dwelling  
The PC have supported this application, which has now been Approved.

22/59. To consider an application from Stody St. Mary's PCC for a grant of £250 towards maintenance of Stody churchyard in 2023 – NL informed the meeting that the Churchyard was used by residents and visitors as a tranquil place for relaxation and picnics. A grant towards maintenance of the Churchyard of £250 (total cost for 2022 = £500) was being requested. CC suggested that as most PC money was spent in Hunworth, this should be recommended. This was approved unanimously on a Proposal by BT and seconded by JP. The Clerk will send a Grant Form for completion.

#### 22/60. Finance and Governance matters

(i) To approve the financial statement and budget update and to approve the following payments:

The Clerk had balanced expenditure and payments and the current balance on the account was £5,727.41. There were no questions on the Cashbook.

The following payments were awaiting Approval:

C. Harris – Clerk's Salary (October – December and 4 hour's overtime) – £533.70

HMRC – Tax on Clerk's Salary - £133.40

C. Harris – Expenses - £40.95

A. Suffling – Petrol for Mower - £47.54

C. Crawley – Photocopying - £8.30

These were agreed by all on a Proposal by NL and Seconded by KC

(ii) To note the Local Government Pay Award – The Clerk informed the PC that the Local Government Pay Award had been finalised and most salary scale points had been increased by £1 per hour. Her pay had therefore increased to £13.70 per hour, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

NNDC Cllr Brown arrived

(iii) To receive an update on the PC Banking situation. The Clerk informed the PC that after a second call to TSB on 21<sup>st</sup> November, it transpired that TSB had confirmed the new signatories on the account and paid compensation of £75 into the account in July – however, they hadn't changed the statement address nor written to confirm the changes. The Clerk now has online access, so progress has been made.

22/61 Update on a proposal to install a smart meter & mobile phone mast on Stody Estate land, near Hunworth Common, and to approve any action. CC said that, in response to the pressure from the Parish Council and residents not to site the mast on Hunworth Common, Stody Estate had come up with a new site which was shown to residents at the site visit on 15<sup>th</sup> November. A Memorandum from Land Agent, Jonathan Rush, who is advising the PC was circulated in hard copy, and is on the PC website.

CC suggested the following order to proceedings:

Charlie MacNicol (CM) Director of the Stody Estate to give a resume of the site

NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown (AB) to speak

Open to Public Forum

CM – any mast will have an impact but Clarke Telecom is looking for a site with the minimum amount of impact but close enough to the village for the greatest benefit. The Estate site was next to an existing track,

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had screening from existing woodland, was below the top of the hill, in a clearing and close to power – and was close enough to the village. It was however closer to the Old Rectory/Blickling House and would require the removal of some trees, unlike the Common site for the 7m x 7m base structure. There was an urgent need for a mast because BT had already started removing landline access from the area.

AB – Currently there was no formal Planning Application. In a Conservation Area, no site was likely to be 100% suitable, so residents would need to look at mitigation to reduce the impact of the mast, ie landscaping.

AB said that the Sites had various levels of protection but that the Planning Authority had limited power due to the importance the Govt attached to the programme to extend & improve mobile coverage.

AB also stated that as a member of the Planning Committee he had to remain open-minded at this stage.

The resident whose property lay closest to both proposed sites then gave a statement:

The new site has the same constraints as the Common site and will have a negative impact on his Grade 2 listed property and garden; he has contacted NNDC and believes they would be minded to serve a Tree Preservation Order if there was a full Planning Application. The new site puts his garden inside the radiation exclusion zone if the mast were to be upgraded to 5G.

He informed the PC that there is a restrictive covenant on the proposed new site:

“That no act deed matter or thing should at any time be done suffered or permitted in or upon the property or any part thereof which might become a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to the incumbent or his successors or which might tend to depreciate or lessen the value of the adjoining and neighbouring property belonging to the incumbent”

And he believes this would prevent the Stody Estate allowing the mast to be constructed in this area.

He has informed Clarke Telecom

He informed the PC that the worry since finding out the location of this new site had made him and his wife ill.

AB – the Restrictive Covenant is a legal point and not a planning point and would be between the landowner and the covenant holder. It would be up to Clarke Telecom whether to proceed and this wouldn't delay the Planning process.

CC asked residents present whether they wanted a mast and the majority did. A concern was that if Clarke Telecom were informed that the PC also rejected this mast site that they might walk away – it was possible that another company could decide to investigate a location for a mast but AB was aware of areas where they had objected to the sites suggested and had received no further interest from operators.

A representative of the Hunworth Bell said that the business was at risk if the mobile and broadband signal did not improve.

The view of the public was that Clarke Telecom should send a representative to the meeting. AB informed them that they would not do this.

NL reminded the meeting that now that the proposed site was not on PC land, there was no longer any need for Clarke Telecom to inform them of progress until the formal Planning Application had been submitted.

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KC and residents identified a site of Common land owned by the PC, further up the hill towards Holt, which they felt would be a suitable mast site. They want this site to be put forward to Clarke Telecom.

CC reminded the meeting that the PC were required to take a vote to let Clarke Telecom know whether they would support the new site – and they had to put the best interests of the majority of the residents first. NL noted that although the majority of the residents in the room appeared to be against both sites, everybody in Stody wanted a mast and this was the dilemma for the PC because they covered both villages.

A resident said that the younger generation in the villages needed the phone and mobile signal for work as well as social activities. There was concern that refusing both sites could lead to no mast being built.

### **Proposal**

**In principle does Stody with Hunworth Parish Council support the new proposed site on Stody Estate woodland near the top of Hunworth Hill for a Telecoms Mast, subject to a formal Planning Application?**

Proposed NL, Seconded JP – 4 votes in favour, 1 against

The Proposal is carried.

The other piece of Common land in the guardianship of the PC will also be mentioned to Brown and Co and to Clarke Telecom.

### 22/62. Finance and Governance matters (continued)

(iv) To Approve the Budget and Precept for 2023-24 – Cllrs discussed the Budget Report produced by the Clerk and agreed to follow her recommendation of an increase in the Precept for the 2023-24 Financial Year of £100 to £4,850, which amounted to an Increase to Band D of £1.58 per year. This was Approved unanimously on a Proposal by JP and Seconded by KC.

(v) To Approve the Internal Auditor for the 2022-23 Financial Year – Di Dann was Approved as Internal Auditor on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by NL.

(vi) To Approve any costs for the Hire of Hunworth & Stody Village Hall for PC Meetings – The PC have not been asked to pay rental in the past, but due to the significant increase in heating costs, the VH Committee are now asking if the PC would pay rental when heating was required – the new charge is £9.50 per hour. The PC agreed unanimously to pay Hire charges when heating was required by the Hall but requested whether there was a reduced rate for local use. The Chair will report back.

22/63. To Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with NNDC regarding the Tree Planting on Hunworth Common – CC read out the MOU between NNDC and the PC for the planting and maintenance of trees planted on Hunworth Common. This was Approved unanimously on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by NL.

CC thanked the Working Party who had planted c. 300 trees on the main Common. The usual working party was made up of 4 volunteers, who she thanked for their excellent work.

It was agreed to add Action to the other part of the Common to the agenda for 2023

### 22/64. To note any Correspondence

- (i) Police Safer Neighbourhood Action Plan Meeting
- (ii) NALC Election Posters

22/65 Highways MattersHighways matters were deferred to the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to inform Highways about deep potholes on the Crossroads on Hunworth Green and the Edgefield Road. CC said that Highways will replace the footbridge by the Beck Farm ford in 2023.

22/66. To set dates of the next two Parish Council meetings in March and May 2023 –

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, - 7.30pm

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May – 7pm: Annual Parish Meeting, followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting

22/67. Any other business for information only –

AB informed the meeting that with effect from the May 2023 Elections, Electors voting in person must take photo ID with them to the Polling Station.

22/68. To close the meeting – the meeting closed at 9.12pm

Signed

Date