

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD at 7pm ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Attendance:** Dr Bacon in the Chair, Mr Edwards, Mrs Gardiner, Mr Harris, Mr Hill, Ms Johnson, Mr Jordan, Mr Read, Mrs Wickens, Cllr John Toye, Ms S. Vergette (clerk) and nine members of the public.

Dr Bacon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence:** Mr Filgate, Cllr Grove-Jones (District Councillor), Cllr Millership (District Councillor), Cllr Price (County Councillor).

**2. Declarations of Interest.** Mr Jordan declared that his wife is a tenant for the land at the stables, Wood Street.

**3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.**

Mr Harris stated that the missing word was 'aegis'. Mr Read asked if the minutes go back to being produced in a short form would the clerk keep the recordings for future reference. Mr Edwards proposed the minutes should be accepted; this was seconded by Ms Johnson with all in agreement.

**4. Public Participation**

4.1 Public. A member of the public asked if permission was needed from members of the public to keep recordings. Mr Edwards replied that if everyone was aware the meeting was being recorded there should be no problem. Cllr Toye stated that the public need to be informed that the meeting is being recorded. It was agreed that the agenda will state that the meeting is being recorded.

4.2 District Council Report. Cllr Toye reported that there had been issues with the bin collections, Serco had lost a lorry and they had to bring in agency drivers to cover holidays. There is a new housing strategy for north Norfolk, the newsletter is on NNDC website. It shows how new homes are being provided. People who need temporary accommodation had been housed out of the county but 14 houses have recently been purchased with another being converted, £106 monies are being used for this.

Cllr Toye said that a footpath through another property was mentioned at the Lea Road meeting, the Planning Officer had not seen anything about this. Dr Bacon stated that he had mentioned this, the landowner might be willing to discuss a pedestrian access which could provide a path from the proposed development to the corner of The Street. Dr Bacon thought it for the applicant to look into this possibility.

Cllr Toye said there had been a noise issue with the Tradebase site relating to working hours. The Parish Council had no knowledge of this.

With regard to the Sands Engineering site there had been some work going on but that was pre-approved work. There are still large areas they can't work on because they are waiting for the Environment Agency testing on the land. There is still surface water and drainage strategy that is being prepared for submission.

Mr Harris said that with regard to Lea Road, Mr Harris spoke to Mark Ashwell relating to the timing of when the application goes to committee. Mr Ashwell was indefinite about it as they need to go through all the papers. Mr Harris asked Cllr Toye if he had an update and what warning the residents of Lea Road would get. Cllr Toye replied that the Lea Road application is still waiting for the Landscape and ecology reports to come in, until those are received they cannot decide and it would be Mr Rowson who decides the schedule for the process.

Mr Harris stated that he believed a full habitats assessment would be needed, the Lea Road residents and the Parish Council would like to know the timing for this. Cllr Toye said he would keep the Parish Council updated. **Action Point Cllr Toye to keep the Parish Council updated on Lea Road.**

Mr Harris stated that with regard to the Sands site the Parish Council wrote to NNDC saying there were issues on the pollution aspect for groundwater and surface water and asked if the Parish Council could have sight of the restrictions before they are approved because they would like to take professional advice about the adequacy of them.

Mr Edwards asked with regard to Cllr Grove -Jones being absent is this because she does not feel comfortable being at the meeting because of the Lea Road business or are there other reasons. Cllr Toye replied that all the reasons given are true, Cllr Grove-Jones is in a vulnerable group, she has concerns with regard to Lea Road and her position as Chair of the Development Committee and more recently there are some family issues in terms of bereavement. Mr Harris stated that Cllr Grove-Jones should come to the Parish Council meetings but not chair the Planning Committee because she is the representative and for the last six months there has been no representation. There is concern from the residents of Lea Road that she is firmly committed on one side of the argument. Cllr Toye replied that she is not allowed to be. **Action point Cllr Toye to discuss this with Cllr Grove-Jones but it is for her to decide.**

4.3 Cllr Price sent a report.

1. *Covid update. As of last night there have been 4,543 cases so far in North Norfolk. This is an increase of 96 cases in the last week and an increase of 635 since your last meeting. The infection rate is now 173 per 100,000 people against 115 last week and 214 at your last meeting. Therefore, continued care is needed for and by all.*
  2. *The County Cabinet papers for the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September are now viewable on the County website, where details of how to view on YouTube can also be found. I particularly draw your attention to item 10. On the Agenda which is the £1m Road Safety Community Fund. Sadly although £1m, at first look appears to be a huge amount, when broken down to the District level you will see that £350,000 will be shared between North Norfolk, Broadland and Great Yarmouth. Therefore, breaking this down further, with a proposed maximum spend of £10K per project this equates to 35 projects and then down to just one per County Division, which in mine is 13 Parishes. I am campaigning that as a very rural Division, I need greater funds but hope that even at that level several smaller projects can make a significant difference. I am also campaigning to make changing/extending speed limits an easier and cheaper process and that all ideas from our communities will be given serious consideration.*
  3. *If any matters arise tonight that I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me.*
5. **Matters Arising:** The Parish Council held the 360 meeting, Sheila Watts chaired this meeting and sent a report which had been circulated, Mrs Watts would also be willing to return in six months' time if a second meeting is needed. Mr Edwards thought this was a sound suggestion. Ms Johnson stated that this was a positive meeting, Dr Bacon agreed. Mr Harris stated that the need for this meeting had arisen from a letter from a parishioner who had raise several issues. Some of the issues had been covered, these were noted. One thing that had not been covered was with regard to the magazine problems, but they are independent. Another issue not covered was the outskirts of the village on the Sutton Road which is depressing and unlovely. Mr Harris stated that little has been done to address that issue. Dr Bacon replied that several years ago there had been meetings with the manager of Trend, Steve Blatch and Rob Youngs from NNDC. The meetings ground to a halt when the manager left. There was an

attempt at the time with the District Council and businesses involved to try and tidy the site up. This is something which should be looked at in the future.

6. **Correspondence:** An email had been received regarding the possibility of having a Petanque pitch in the village. Mr Edwards thought it would be a lovely thing to have, it was also discussed at the last meeting that there is nothing for young people to do, sport is wonderful way to keep minds and bodies active. This should however be self-funding. There was discussion regarding this matter, various sites were also discussed. It was agreed that the resident should put something in the magazine to see if there is any interest, if there is sufficient support the Parish Council is receptive to the suggestion. Cllr Toye stated that there may be external finance funding available. **Action Point Clerk to contact the resident.**

A member of the public suggested that it might be better to spend money on new play equipment for the youngsters rather on a petanque pitch for older people. Dr Bacon replied that the Parish Council had not decided to spend any money yet, money could be spent on play equipment.

7. **To consider a new website.** Two quotations had been circulated. Mr Edwards had looked at the links which had been sent from Norfolk ALC and thought they would suit the Parish Council, they looked easy to maintain and had the relevant sections, these sites were also mobile friendly. There is the ability to personalise the site. The cost is £35 because the Parish Council has a subscription with Norfolk ALC. The Clerk commented that using Norfolk ALC would ensure that everything is compliant and training would be given.

There was discussion regarding the current parish website as the Parish Council currently funds it. It was suggested that information from the old site could be incorporated in the new Parish Council website. Dr Bacon stated that once the new website was sorted out there could be a discussion regarding the old site, this is a separate issue. Mr Harris stated that there needs to be a clear line of responsibility, it was agreed that Mr Edwards, Mr Jordan and the clerk would take this matter forward. Mr Edwards stated that he would be happy to do any updates. **Action Point Mr Edwards, Mr Jordan and the Clerk to set up the new website**

8. **To consider policies.** Two policies had been circulated.  
8.1 Data Protection. Ms Johnson found simpler version of a policy online which had been circulated. It is necessary to establish who is the Data Controller and who is the Data Protection Officer. The Parish Council is the Data Controller and clerk agreed to be the Data Protection Officer. It was agreed that the clerk would make minor amendments to this policy to reflect the date of adoption and next review. **Action Point Clerk.**

There was also discussion regarding the minutes and how they should be archived. The clerk stated that everything is backed up to the cloud but she suggested that the paper minutes could be sent to the Norfolk Records Office for protection. This was agreed.

8.2 Training and development policy. Mr Harris stated that this is a pro forma model policy for councils with lots of staff, not a part-time person. The clerk's contract of employment should be looked at before this is considered to make sure the policy is relevant. There is also the issue of how salary is reviewed. The clerk stated that the contract is out of date and needs looking at. The training of councillors needs also to be covered; new councillors should have training paid for. The role of the clerk as chief executive of the council had not been recognised before. This policy will be looked at again. **Action Point, to review the clerk's terms in the future.**

Mr Harris thought that training on planning would be a good idea as this would make the Council more efficient, Cllr Toye will look into training from NNDC.

Mr Read thought that training would help councillors understand the legalities and how to make decisions. Mr Read stated that the Council had not agreed on a Code of Conduct, he was not impressed with the NALC version. It was agreed that this could be done with as a private meeting as had been done for the other policies.

**9. To consider planning matters**

9.1 Planning application PF/21/1958 18 Elderbush Lane for a conservatory extension to the rear of the dwelling. No objections.

9.2 Chapel House. This application had been approved with the restriction that detached outbuilding in the garden should only be used for the purpose incidental to and in connection with the use of the premises as a dwelling house.

9.3 Planning application PF/21/1516 Land at Wood Street. Dr Bacon explained that the Parish Council had written wanting consideration to be given to the nature of the livery use and the number of horses there, those kind of factors before the Parish Council would give an opinion on the muck heap cover. The officer concerned has now written back having looked into the previous planning applications on the site and conditions and has asked for a definitive answer whether the Parish Council supports or opposes the covering of the muck heap, to give the council's opinion on the actual cover of the muck. Dr Bacon went on as far as the other conditions are concerned the email states that there had been three applications 2004, 2005, 2010 and it looks as if the original 2004 one was for ten horses, the 2010 application increased that number to twenty-four and with no specifying as to what exactly what type of livery should be on the site but they did comment about the purposes it could be used for, it should not be used in connection with any other trade, business or as a riding school. Presumably this means when people book an appointment they drive to Wood Street, have hour's riding lesson and drive away again.

Mr Edwards stated that he was quite adamant last meeting that the council ought to listen to the parishioners with regard to information what was allowed to do. Mr Edwards thought this had been discharged the obligation, we have the reply from NNDC and now he thought it needs to be viewed on the basis of how it stands and that is a cover of a muck heap and for that reason Mr Edwards personally would say the council has to say it goes ahead, but having said that once again there should be a proviso to say it is what it says on the application, a place to store the muck and cover it. As the plans stand Mr Edwards could not see a problem, we must stop trying to be fortune tellers, if he then chooses to try and bend the rules then also there is an obligation as councillors to get it stopped but for the actual application of putting a roof over it he thought he would say let the man go ahead.

Mr Harris saw that Dr Jennifer Harris was at the meeting and the Council should listen to what she has to say. Dr Bacon replied that the council would listen to Dr Harris in a moment. Mr Harris went on to say that Dr Harris has some interesting things to say because she has been through the planning application which he had as well and there are certain issues that raises. He thought Dr Harris is better placed to raise those issues than he is but there are some quite telling issues that she should be given the opportunity to say.

Mr Read added that apparently Oldfield Livery are advertising teaching days, is that not against the rules and regulations of livery whether it is full livery or DIY livery, if there are teaching days doesn't that come under the realms of a riding school to teach people, because

you go to a riding school to be taught how to use a horse, kick it or it kicks you or whatever it does. Mr Read went on to say that doesn't come under the realms of livery.

Dr Bacon replied if it is teaching lessons for people who paid to have their horse there, he thought that would be included as part of the livery, if it advertising for outside people to have lessons he thought that was breaching that particular rule. Mr Read replied that the piece of paper he had got there are dates given for when this is, perhaps Mr Jordan could explain if it is just for people who own the horses or whether it for outsiders. Mr Jordan stated that he was not meant to comment because he had declared an interest. Dr Bacon stated that Mr Jordan had declared an interest and does not have to comment.

Mrs Read (a parishioner) stated that she had kept horses in livery for years DIY livery and she had always seen and always known it, going back years you keep your horse there and nothing apart from grazing, stable, hay and straw is supplied. Dr Bacon replied that there is planning permission to have a menage there, Mrs Read agreed there could be a menage but can't charge people to use it. Dr Bacon agreed but people who keep their horses at the livery use the menage. Mrs Read asked how come there are lorries coming from places go down there and they are livery down there, why do they need to transport their horse down there to go to one of these days.

Dr Bacon stated that he assumed when he saw horse boxes being driven backwards and forwards that it is people who have got a horse livery there are taking them off to a show jumping event. Mrs Read asked why when she went for a walk down there the other week there was how many cars and horse boxes. Mr Read stated that the last car had two wheels out on the side of the road because the yard was full. It says on the planning twelve parking places, he did not count them but there were some horse boxes up at the top end, there were all the cars and the last one its wheels were on the road it couldn't get off the road, there were that many cars there when he walked down there. Mr Read stated that his concern is that this issue had been raised and it has caused more questions than answers what has come out of this just for the sake of asking for the number of horses. If they are doing training if it is for the people who are there with their horses that is fine, if it is somebody who is there and they show them how to ride it, saddle it or do whatever they have to do but if there are outsiders coming in that is against what the planning was set out to be. Dr Bacon agreed it is not to be used as a riding school.

Dr Jennifer Harris stated that she lives in Wood Street Farm, where all the applications are made from instead of being the livery so the applications are still coming from her residential address. On top of that she is disappointed finding out that an application went in in 2010 to extend the services there was no mention at all to people in the local area who could be affected. Dr Harris thought that even though it was done under agricultural planning given the small number of houses down there, the narrowness of the road. On top of that it is very clear in the approval that it should not be used for any other services other than for a livery, stable, and it says the reason for this is because of the worries of the increased traffic and that is the point, it has gone from 10 horses to 24. There is therefore quite an increase in traffic. Dr Harris had been on the website and Facebook page and it is very clear on there they offer service, tuition and riding is available. Also on there are pictures of a gymkhana that was held on 25<sup>th</sup> July this is not just a livery stable, these are events, there is a barbecue there, entertainment, people sitting on bales and photos at that site and it is all very well to approve a roof for a manure block but the truth is this place is not sticking to the rules so traffic down Plumsgate Road is dangerous, it is a single track road, this was identified in 2010 as the reason it should just be a livery stables and no other services. Yet, there are events being held there, show jumping, they have jumps and things, barbecues, this is not just a livery stables.

Dr Bacon replied that on the point of the barbecue the only barbecue he had seen there was one a couple of weeks ago which was for the people who have their horses there. Dr Harris replied that it was an event, on the Facebook page, it was an event and it is advertised as an event, it sounds like is advertising tuition. Dr Bacon thought that if there are twenty people who have their horses there if they decide to get together and have a barbecue on site it's not much different from having a barbecue in your garden as a one-off event but that is all he knows.

Dr Harris replied that it was on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Harris stated that Dr Harris tipped him off about the site and he said there are things on it which make it quite clear that there is tuition going on, it has teaching days at Oldfield Livery, Catfield, it's got Portia Howard jumping clinic, jumps £10 per hour, Oldfield Livery as NKJ Equestrian. That is not livery, it is equestrian. The ever popular Jess Clarke is back giving lessons at Oldfield Livery, Mr Harris stated that if you look at it when this was forwarded and he had been all through all of it because Dr Harris had told him this, if you look at the application it said that there would be no extra traffic, it says in the chain from 2004 until 2010 which is the key date. The information said "currently the owners visit once or twice every other day there are rarely more than four cars in the car park, two horse owners live within walking. If the same pattern as this were to occur in the future, I do not see a substantial increase in road traffic". Mr Harris stated that the council had heard last time that there are concerns about the increase in road traffic and the council turned down the caravan site further down the road which was closer to the main road, with less traffic being created than what has come here so he suggested that there is a wide difference what was put by Dr Harris and other residents up there, there is more than one, there is concern that this is not sticking to the rules and ask what the rules are. They discovered that this was all done without any reference to them, there has been a major development up there and no one actually consulted with the locals, it says in the planning "have you talked to the locals, no". The Parish Council didn't even put any consultation, no one referred to the consultation so the residents were not consulted either by the applicant or by ourselves. The number one issue Mr Harris would say is the council must, when there are major developments of this type, there is a duty of care to the locals to let them know it is going on so they have an opportunity to actually have a voice in that. This was missed in 2010 and it should not have been and in future we should never again allow this sort of thing to happen under the agricultural scheme without telling the people about it. Mr Harris stated that it is his understanding that is current policy because this came up later but he would like it to be reiterated because he thought it was awful that this happened in 2010 and Dr Harris has had to find out now.

Dr Bacon stated that there was a site notice on the site, Mr Harris thought that was not correct. Mr Harris stated that there was an application for 100,000 cubic metres of reservoir directly opposite him no one told him about other than two days before it, Natural England rang him up and told him someone had applied, there were no notices nor did there have to be a notice. It came to this committee and Mr Harris was in the audience rather than on the panel. It was agreed that should never happen again and that we should as a committee, when these agricultural licences we had a duty of care to residents to let them know what was going on which did not happen in 2010. That is issue 1, when these things happen we should be telling the constituents so they have an opportunity to have a voice, can we reiterate what was agreed in 2016. The second issue Mr Harris thought, and this is relevant to Norfolk, this has been like drawing hens' teeth to get these regulations what was agreed out of North Norfolk, we are going to see it again on the bund. Mr Harris said that Cllr Toye should take this up, it is not appropriate that you cannot find these things on the website, the planning website at North Norfolk is second only to Catfield Parish Council's website, it is not fit for purpose. There are clearly issues, the reason this was asked for by people is they tell us what the rules are. It looks prima facie but the rules have been broken, we don't even know how many horses there are there, Mr Jordan has not told us, we have no idea. Mr Harris went on to say that there

are also other things about opening hours, are they being looked at? It is supposed to be the opening hours, the lighting specified, are any of these things? Mr Harris suggested, he does not agree with Mr Edwards on this one, he was going to agree until he heard this information. Clearly, this has demonstrated that there is a strong probability that they are in breach of these and unless and until someone actually reviews this and says how many horses and whether what it is pretty clear, it says here for the reason Dr Harris said, "shall not be used in connection with any other trade, business or as a riding school". They are advertising as a riding school, that clearly cannot be. Mr Harris said he came here to agree the muck heap as long as we had the proviso which is a concern that this has grown like topsy. That was what using agricultural licence under the radar so no one knew it was going on that is what has actually happened that there should be a restriction on the muck heap that it should not be used for any other purpose than muck. Mr Harris said that now he has seen all this and heard from Dr Harris clearly the Parish Council should not agree that, they should go back to NNDC and say there are these concerns which have been expressed by local residents and unless and until those concerns are addressed, we cannot approve this.

Dr Bacon stated that the officer is saying you should not be linking these supposed breaches of previous planning with the application for covering a muck heap, that they want the Parish Council, with some urgency, to make a decision whether they support or not the covering of the muck heap. Dr Bacon thought if the Parish Council goes back to NNDC and say we are still not going to give them a straight answer on that but going to still talk about the number of horses and what happens there the Parish Council will be ignored and they will go ahead and make a decision.

Mr Harris replied that is their choice, but clearly the people at that end have every right to have asked those questions, Rueben, who Mr Harris has a good regard for, has not answered these questions quickly, he said why should he look up on this stuff, because it is out of date. It is not out of date and it has not been complied with and the concern was that this was just another way of expanding the stables covertly. Mr Harris stated that he had said his piece, the Parish Council is a democratic institution if the vote goes the other way, he would have to recognise that but this needs picking up.

Dr Bacon replied that it should be picked up as a separate issue, as Mr Edwards said the Parish Council are not in the business of predicting, we are in the business of answering to a planning application on its face value and if something turns out different later then if it looks like the muck heap cover is going to be turned into further stabling then is the time when the Parish Council makes an issue of it.

Cllr Toye stated that that the Chairman was correct they are two separate issues. Cllr Toye asked if Mr Harris was showing a decision notice, Mr Harris confirmed it was a decision notice. Cllr Toye went on if there is a decision notice that says they should be doing certain things and they are not, that is an enforcement issue and that can be taken to enforcement. The clerk can write, Cllr Toye can write, there are lots of ways. Enforcement will then go and look to see what activities are going and see if they fit with the rules. We have to remember there are all sorts of permitted development regulations and they have changed recently. It is more complex and that is why we need to get an enforcement professional to go and have a look. They will look at those issues, in terms of the covering for the muck heap if that is taken in isolation and if it is acceptable in terms of type and scale and the Parish Council wants conditions which can be done, that is a separate issue if the Council wants to approve that. If the business then goes and does something else that is in contravention of that agreement then it is an enforcement issue but decisions cannot be made based on what people might do because they might do the right thing.

Mr Harris asked to make a couple of points, where Cllr Toye is not privy to the information is that when this first came up the concern expressed by parishioners that this was a covert way,

it was not really covering a muck heap which has been covered for years, it was a covert way using the agricultural planning permission, which they didn't even get told about, to expand it which had gone on before. Cllr Toye asked where was the evidence for the covert way of this being something else? Mr Harris replied that because they were saying we don't necessarily believe that. Cllr Toye replied that there is no evidence for that, that is the problem. Dr Bacon stated that this was people's belief not evidence that they will do that.

Cllr Toye stated that he understands that but they are separate issues, enforcement need to go, look at that, if they are doing things that were not agreed in 2010, enforcement will go and have a look.

Mrs Harris (a parishioner) asked if such a big muck heap was needed for 24 horses, Mr Harris said that was the point. Cllr Toye replied that was the planning question which is a separate question. Mr Harris said no.

Dr Bacon stated that Cllr Toye has some expertise on this on planning and enforcement, he is the Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement and as he says they are two separate issues if the Parish Council wants to ask the Council Enforcement Officers to have a look at the issue that is one thing but the planning application is cover a muck heap with a particular size of cover and that should be judged as it says on its face value, a cover to cover a muck heap of a particular size and any predictions or fears about what might happen to that in the future are not a planning consideration.

Mr Harris stated that the point he was making is when this was raised and this is what he was saying to Cllr Toye, people said this is too big to be covering a muck heap this looks to him like it is a covert way of expanding the operations. Dr Bacon replied that if the planning officers will have looked at the site, they will have looked at the muck heap and they will have looked at the proposal and it is up to the planning officers to make a decision professionally about whether that is the right size cover for that muck heap.

Cllr Toye stated that if the Council think if the size of it and scale is too much for the operation, they are welcome to put that in their representation.

Mr Hill stated that the Council needs to consider is that horse muck heaps tend to be the most sprawling affairs of all muck heaps because they are normally tipped by the wheelbarrow full so it does tend to be a large area unless it is pushed up regularly by load which he expects they probably do but a large area needs to be allowed because it is tipped by the wheelbarrow.

Mrs Read (a parishioner) said if it is stacked, a muck heap made properly it could be tidier than a haystack. Mr Hill agreed but to make it properly everybody has to contribute to that and with all the liveries.... Mrs Read interrupted. Dr Bacon asked her not to interrupt when a councillor was speaking. Mrs Read stated that she has moved more horse s\*\*t than Mr Hill would ever do. Dr Bacon replied that it may well be the case but she was still interrupting when a councillor is speaking. Mrs Read when on to say that she worked on a stud, Dr Bacon tried to reply. Mrs Read said she worked with horses and the muck heap did not fill half the village hall. Dr Bacon stated that at the moment we are trying to listen to a councillor speak and Mrs Read was interrupting. Mrs Read said yes.

Mr Hill said that the point he was trying to make was that you can make a good horse muck heap if everybody does what they are supposed to do but often when there is a group of people not everybody. Mrs Read interrupted saying that is why there should be someone in charge. Dr Bacon again asked Mrs Read not to interrupt the councillor when they are speaking. Mrs Read stated that if everybody tipped their muck up that will, you have one person. Dr Bacon stated that there is a procedure for asking the parishioner to be removed



from the hall if she could not.... Mrs Read said Dr Bacon could call the police then. Dr Bacon went on there is a procedure that the Parish Council asks for the parishioner to be removed from the hall. Mrs Read asked if Dr Bacon wanted her to remove herself or were two heavies going to do it. Dr Bacon replied that it was up to her but all he was asking was please do not interrupt councillors when they are speaking.

Mrs Read replied that she would listen to anyone when they talk sense but she did not like talking to people who don't know what they are talking about. Dr Bacon replied that Mr Hill has been a farmer for years and he knows a lot about muck heaps but could Mrs Read please..... Mrs Read interrupted asking if Mr Hill knew about horse muck. Dr Bacon asked again that Mrs Read should not interrupt Mr Hill when he is speaking.

Mr Hill stated that he knew a little bit about horse muck and he did accept that if everybody does what you want them to do you would end up with a nicely stacked muck heap but people don't and so what they will probably find is that it is tipped here, there and everywhere or over a big area not very deep and it relies on somebody with a loader to come along and push it up as and when, that is why a reasonably big area is needed for a muck heap.

Mrs Read asked if she could speak, Dr Bacon replied certainly. Mrs Read stated that everybody take their muck heap and they tip it right in front of the muck heap, then the person in charge of the yard should say that muck goes on the top and you walk it, and you walk it, and then you make steps up until you can get up it every time you walk it down and you do it every day. It take about three quarters of an hour and after looking after 48/50 horses that were stabled all winter and she stacked the muck heap every day, it was part of the job and training.

Mr Hill stated that he used to deliver straw to stables and some had a muck heap as Mrs Read described but a lot did not.

Dr Bacon asked to get back to the issue in hand which looks like two separate issues, one is if the Parish Council asks the District Council Enforcement Officer could they look at the site and see if matches what is in the 2010 planning application and other is to make a decision on whether the Parish Council opposes or supports the proposed cover for a muck heap. Dr Bacon asked to take the planning application first.

Mr Harris asked to make a suggestion, there are two riders to the last bit. The first is there should be no other use on the muck heap which had been agreed months ago, the second is as Cllr Toye suggested the Parish Council should put in it that Rueben should have a look at it and form a view as to whether the idea that this was possibility not a muck heap cover but a covert way of expanding the business, he should form a view of the adequacy of it because some have expressed concern about that. This is the origin of all of this.

Dr Bacon replied that this was perfectly clear it is the kind of conditions the Parish Council wants to attach if they send an opinion on the cover for the muck heap. Mr Harris stated he was trying to find a solution.

Mrs Gardiner stated that surely the Parish Council can put that restriction and ask them to put the restriction on that it is not used for anything but a muck heap and that will then control that. Mrs Gardiner also stated that the Parish Council must also go to the officer and if they are breaching it there is clear evidence and they should be aware of that as well.

Mrs Harris stated that the last restrictions did not help so you can put conditions on to something there is nobody checking and therefore she thought the conditions are useless.

Dr Harris stated to answer the question about whether she was happy, she is not really happy at all with the idea of approving another planning permission before the previous conditions have been checked. Dr Harris thought it was like in her work if someone asked her if these people should be allowed to have this child and she knows they have mistreated three children before she would not be saying yes, we will wait until you harm them. In this case you know what you have done is we have got clear evidence that the restrictions have been breached and to think about approving another thing before it has been investigated, if it is investigated and there is no evidence fair enough but given if you say no sorry we need to investigate the usage of this before we can approve she was sure that they would prioritise checking what is happening and then look at actually is this a sensible size for a muck heap. Lots of questions have been raised about that from people who have got good knowledge on it and she thought it make her much happier if the investigation looked into the breaches.

Cllr Toye replied that in planning they are not linked and it is only now that they have asked for something else from eleven years ago, we are being told is being breached. Has it been breached for one year, two years, ten years? Dr Harris replied that this is the issue when you have restrictions and no one is checking. She did not even know it had been extended because no one tells her. It is the increase in traffic.

Mr Harris stated that no one told them what was going on. The Parish Council turned down some huts which was half way up the road because they were concerned about the traffic. The residents at that end of the village and they were very to the point last time, said they were worried about the increase in the traffic down the road which is much more than was caused by the huts which were turned down.

Dr Bacon asked for a decision on this, he did not care whether the Council finally decides to oppose or support the cover for the muck heap but he did not think it would make any difference to what the planners decide. Dr Bacon stated that the Council needs to move on and made a decision and attach suggested conditions to it. Dr Bacon asked someone to make a proposal like the Council does not oppose the cover for the muck but we want conditions that it cannot be used for any other purpose, Mr Harris asked if Rueben has he visited the site and formed a view as to whether this is the required or a covert way of expanding the operations.

Dr Bacon repeated, two conditions if a proposal is made. One is that it cannot have a change of use to any other use and the other is that if he has not done so the officer concerned should personally visit the site and look at it.

Mr Read stated that the chances are when people visit a site they don't actually see what has gone on, everything there is perfectly the day they go not when they have had riding lessons, jumping lessons and whatever else. Dr Bacon replied that is a different, that is to do with enforcement of the existing conditions. All he was trying to clear up first of all is a cover for a muck heap and asked for someone to make a proposal.

Mr Hill proposed that cover for the muck heap should be approved and state that it is not to be used for any other purpose other than covering a muck heap, this was seconded by Mrs Wickens.

Dr Bacon asked if anyone wanted to make an amendment

Mr Harris stated that amendment he was making is the trouble is if you divide it up in this way it is artificial because the reason, Dr Bacon asked if this was an amendment. Mr Harris replied "yes, you are going to get an amendment if you listen". The reason is there is a view that this is a covert way of expanding it that is why they raised the issue in the first place. The planning

have found it very difficult to actually understand that was the nature of the concern therefore the Council ought to spell out that and say there is a strong feeling that this has gone through on the agricultural licence scheme and therefore there is a concern that this may be a way of expanding it surreptitiously so there ought to be some reference to that so that Rueben knows that is what is actually afoot because otherwise you are going to have this enforcement and never know anything about that. He ought to know that is the nature of the concern because that is why it has taken up so much time.

Dr Bacon asked for the wording of the amendment Mr Harris was proposing. Mr Harris stated he agreed with what had been said so long that it is only for this purpose and there had been strong concern from local residents in that end of the village about the how the agricultural way of planning has been used to expand this without any consultation with local residents about what has been going on because that is their concern. He asked Dr Harris if that was correct, she is not alone there are others. Mr Harris asked the words to be read back which the clerk did. Mr Harris stated that the local residents' concern is that this livery has been developed and is currently running in breach of the previous restrictions and this is covert way of expanding therefore they have concern about that. Ms Johnson seconded the amendment.

Dr Bacon asked for a vote on the amendment and asked Cllr Toye to confirm this is the correct procedure, he did so.

There were four votes in favour of the amendment, three against and two abstentions.

Dr Bacon stated that the proposal now is that the Parish Council approves or support the application for a cover on the muck heap with conditions or suggested conditions from the Council about strictly no change of use to something different and Mr Harris's clause added to it. There were eight votes in favour and one abstention. **Action Point Clerk to send a response.**

Dr Bacon stated that the other issue is about enforcement if anyone wants to make any proposals about suggesting that the clerk writes to somebody about something.

Mr Hill stated that Mr Harris said that the operation is in breach of the planning permission that was granted in 2010, as far as Mr Hill could see they are not, they went through wall the correct planning requirements at that time, they did not consult with anybody he accepted. They were not required to and so nobody has done anything. With the point that the audience have made about the breaches of this Mr Hill had not actually seen any concrete evidence, it is their opinion. Dr Bacon confirmed it was alleged breaches and asked if the Council wanted the clerk to write to the enforcement officer to look into alleged breaches of the existing 2010 permission.

Mr Edwards suggested that the residents in the area could pool their information they have gathered together and submit it to the clerk in writing to say these are the concerns we have got and we would like the Parish Council to consider them i.e. that would involve asking for enforcement investigation sooner or later. Mr Edwards stated that at this stage hearsay is mentioned and allegations etc so he has nothing to go on which would make him want to vote in favour of calling in the enforcement officer at the moment but there are interesting facts coming to the surface and he thought the Council would be duty bound at some stage to support the public in their concerns but he thought the way to kick it off would be for the residents concerned to put it all in writing so it is an official complaint coming from the residents and then the Parish Council can take some action and in turn he thought it would be referred to the enforcement officer.

Dr Bacon thought there was some unnecessary involvement of the Parish Council in this, there could be two things. One is the clerk just says because of concerns that have been raised we request that the enforcement officer investigate along the lines said and the other is that if individuals or a group of neighbours or anybody else wants to provide lots of details they provide them to the enforcement officer not for the clerk to collate all that lot and pass it. They could send those concerns direct to the enforcement officer all the Parish Council needs to do it say we have concerns raised to us please could you investigate.

Dr Bacon asked Cllr Toye who replied that the Chairman was correct as many people as they want can report their concerns.

Mr Edwards stated that the point he wanted to take up with Cllr Toye was in a comment he made earlier saying some of this goes way back, Jimmy Savile went way back. Cllr Toye replied that his point was if there are big concerns why are they being aired now. If it has been growing then there are opportunities even if it is traffic you can raise those concerns.

Dr Bacon asked for agreement on that form of action.

Mr Harris stated that the trouble with it is, when the Parish Council writes it has more authority than the residents and the Parish Council needs to say that there have been strong opinions written, if it was him, he would get Dr Harris to get her friends together and put down the list, like we did on Lea Road, on what they think the concerns are and then we get the clerk, ask the clerk to send it is. She does not have to say she agrees with these concerns, she just has to say that strong opinions have been expressed by residents at that end of the village and these are their concerns, then they are more likely to take it seriously.

Dr Bacon thought and he was prepared to put a proposal to get this moving, that he thought we need the clerk to say to inform the enforcement officer that there are concerns could they investigate relating to the 2010 permission and that anybody else individuals or groups of people can make their own direct representations with as much evidence as they want direct to the enforcement officer. Dr Bacon stated that he would propose that if someone would second him.

Mr Read stated that the Parish Council should be behind it because the weight they carry rather than an individual. Dr Bacon replied that the Parish Council is saying that concerns have been brought to us and we are passing these concerns to the officer and saying will they investigate. We don't need to specify the precise details other people can do that. Dr Bacon thought that it would be creating more work for the clerk having to collate all this rather than letting the individuals pass the evidence direct to the officer concerns.

Mr Harris stated that why the Council wrote a good letter to NNDC after the excellent public meeting on Lea Road is because he put down what he understood the issues were and it was compared with what the clerk put down and then we had a comprehensive letter which was very telling because it actually recorded properly what had gone on at the meeting. Mr Harris stated that in his view it would be more effective to actually try and get from the residents up there what their concerns are and therefore if that is submitted to the clerk, the clerk does not have to do any work at all, she just says these are the concerns that have been strongly expressed by parishioners not that we agree them, these we wish to bring them to your attention. That would carry more authority than a two-liner saying "oh someone has said this". That would be Mr Harris's proposal.

Dr Bacon replied that he was happy to do that if it doesn't involve the clerk in work but just literally passing on something. Mr Harris asked Dr Harris if she would write a list of the problems. Dr Harris replied that she was happy to write a list of the problems and forward it

to the clerk and it would be helpful for that to come from the Parish Council even if it is just summarising the list.

Mr Edwards asked if the Chairman would prefer it if they liaise with Dr Harris, got the list of concerns, composed a letter. Dr Bacon replied that he did not want liaising and composing, he just wanted the clerk to pass on some information to the Enforcement officer and say please investigate.

Mr Edwards asked if the Chairman had a problem if they presented the completed article to the clerk, Dr Bacon replied that was fine if anybody wanted to get together and produce something to the clerk and the clerk then passes it on, on behalf of the Parish Council to the enforcement officer.

Mr Edwards said that covers both sides, the concerns and the Parish Council gets it together. Mr Harris stated that Dr Harris writes very good prescriptions, it is her job.

Mrs Gardiner asked Dr Harris if this was the first time there had been show jumping and gymkhanas or has this been going on for several times. Dr Harris replied that she was not very internet savvy so she found the Facebook page the previous day and she was amazed, she could not believe that actually it was in her road. She thought she had the wrong place; it was not until she saw the address and then she looked at the pictures and they are those barns and the people gathered round. Mrs Gardiner asked if it had happened last year because as a rider she knows and used to gymkhana all over this area and go to other liveries they would just arrive because the message went out and they did not have Facebook, there were various local gymkhanas. If this happened last year it should have been reported then.

Mr Harris stated that one of the things making matters worse is because the farmer has ploughed up some of the so called bridleways, they had under the pilot scheme and that has put more horses on the road, that is one of the problems.

Dr Bacon asked, we have made a decision, can we please move on.

Mr Hill asked has that been agreed that the Parish Council is going to put their weight as a Parish Council behind this complaint against this establishment because he had grave concerns about that.

Dr Bacon stated that if that was what Mr Harris had proposed, if he has a seconder. Dr Bacon stated that he had dropped his proposal to along with what Mr Harris was proposing. Mr Harris stated that he didn't actually say, he just said not that we support this, these are strong concerns that we are making on behalf of these people please could you look at these issues not saying that we agree these issues.

Dr Bacon reiterated these strong concerns have come to the Parish Council from parishioners and we are passing these on to the enforcement officer. Dr Bacon asked for agreement to that or not as the case may be and then move on.

Mr Edwards would like to hear what Mr Hill's gave concerns are, could he elaborate. Mr Hill stated that on a number of occasions this Parish Council has taken action that is targeted directly or indirectly an individual who farms in this village and he thought as a Parish Council we should remain totally impartial and that is what he tries to do in the view that he take agree with it or not, he tries to remain impartial. He is a farmer, Mr Hill is a farmer that has absolutely nothing to do with it, he tries to stay down the middle and he thought this Parish Council to put its weight behind the concerns of a small number of individuals and he appreciate and accept their concerns but he thought this Parish Council would be well advised

to remain neutral, that was his personal opinion he has no objection with anybody's concerns or the points they made, they are perfectly entitled to raise those points, he had nothing against any of them but he thought the Parish Council should remain completely neutral.

Dr Harris said the Parish Council has an obligation to represent her as a resident of Wood Street. Mrs Harris said that Mr Hill does not live in the village. Mr Hill replied that the fact that he does not live in the village does not make a difference. He accepted Dr Harris's point, but the Parish Council is here to represent everybody in the village and Dr Harris is at the meeting because of her particular concern, there might be a lot of people in the village who are perfectly happy with the arrangement that is down there.

Dr Harris replied that they are relatively few houses down Wood Street and so the impact on a relatively small number of people but impacts quite significantly on them and she knows her neighbours, it is not just her, she knows her neighbours feel strongly about it. Dr Bacon replied that he is her nearest neighbour and he does not feel strongly about it.

Mr Hill accepted the point and if Dr Harris wishes to inform the enforcement officer and say we as a group of parishioners have this concern, he accepts that, but he does believe this Parish Council should remain neutral and unbiased in every respect.

A member of the public said she although she did not live in Wood Street, she walked down Plumsgate Road nearly every morning and the cars are just awful. It is dangerous road. Mr Hill replied that he lived in Sharp Street and the cars going down there are far more than there have ever been, he accepts there is more traffic everywhere.

Cllr Toye stated the key question is you have what was approved in 2010 which says it was not approved for certain activities, there is evidence been presented to the Parish Council that says those activities are going on and therefore what the Parish Council is representing to enforcement is the contravention of that planning. It has nothing to do with taking sides with anything, the Parish Council is aware within the parish that there was a planning approval and people are not complying with that planning approval, that is what is being notified to the enforcement officer.

Dr Bacon stated that this what is needed to be agreed. This was **agreed**.

**Action Point clerk to send on the information to NNDC.**

An email had been received from the owner of the Mushroom Site who had taken exception to the June minutes she had also states that her statement should be stated and written into the minutes in full, this had been circulated to all councillors.

The email stated that the owner of the site thought that the action taken by the Parish Council was discriminatory against her family and that the Council should act with fairness and impartiality. They ask for an explanation of the apparent bias in the minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The issue of 'stealing' land is a civil matter being pursued independently. The owner states that the amalgamation of the bund into the rear gardens of the properties owned by the Greenoaks Residents Association Management Company Limited amounts to a change of use and is a breach of planning control. The owner of the site asked the Parish Council to inform the residents that if they were to market or sell their properties, they must by law disclose that they have a dispute with the owners of the industrial site.

Dr Bacon stated that it is not for a member of the public to tell the Parish Council what to put in the minutes, Mr Harris agreed that the Council had decided not to do that anymore. Dr Bacon also stated that it is not the job of the Parish Council to tell residents of their legal obligations, if there is a breach of planning control it is not for the Parish Council to investigate

but is a matter for enforcement. Dr Bacon explained that there had been various changes relating to the bund and the Parish Council discussed the issue and felt that NNDC planning officers have somewhere in their possession the detailed conditions about when the bund was put it about twenty years ago.

Mr Harris stated that the owner of the Mushroom Site had misinterpreted the minutes. Dr Bacon said when Mr Harris said the Parish Council should support the Residents Association he did not mean the Parish Council support the Residents Association in their argument against their neighbour but support them in pressing NNDC to come up with the original planning conditions. Mr Harris thought a response should be sent saying that the Parish Council were not taking sides but just wanted to get to the facts. Mr Harris said again that NNDC do not seem to be able to find previous planning or take any account of the restrictions which are put in, the website is deficient. Cllr Toye replied that the website is the same as the ones used by many councils across the country. Finding the right key words or references is needed. **Action Point clerk to respond.**

9.4 An email had been received from the owner of the Mushroom Site who had taken exception to the June minutes she had also states that her statement should be stated and written into the minutes in full, this had been circulated to all councillors.

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The owners of the Mushroom site had also asked for copies of the correspondence that the Residents Association sent to the Parish Council. Dr Bacon has consulted Norfolk ALC on this matter, as the Residents Association is an organisation who wrote to the Parish Council and unless the letter was marked strictly confidential a copy can be passed on. Ms Johnson thought

that a copy of the Parish Council's letter to NNDC could be passed on as it clearly shows that the Parish Council only asked that question about the ownership of the bund. **Action Point clerk to send the information on.**

9.5 Mr Harris reported that he had spoken to Mark Ashwell at NNDC to find out where we are in the current cycle. Mr Ashwell said they are at the Regulation 19 and they are putting together their plan which needs to go to an independent Government inspector to ensure it is compliant with the requirements. Mr Ashwell thinks it will be ready for consultation with the Parish Council around March 2022. The consultation would not be extensive. Mr Ashwell said they were going to retain the development boundary and they will be pushing affordable housing but they will not be allocating specific site proposals. Mr Harris told Mr Ashwell that the Lea Road enquiry had thrown up a lot of changes since 2009 particularly on flooding and water as we know the groundwater is going to be rising. Mr Ashwell replied that they could listen to that, he also said Lea Road would take as long as they need.

Mr Harris said it was interesting that the Parish Council said in July 2009 that they wanted to develop the mushroom site and that had been written in, but it had not happened. The mushroom site is within the curtilage of the village whereas Lea Road was outside and they had equal ranking although NNDC had gone for the site outside the curtilage of the village. Mr Ashwell replied that it was heavily supported outside.

Mr Harris did not think the Parish Council had the time nor the capabilities to do an individual neighbourhood plan at present but he thought the Parish Council could, so they are better informed, put together a questionnaire which could be circulated to all parishioners and ask their opinion. Mr Harris had prepared a draft which would be circulated. The owner of the village shop would be prepared to have a box to receive responses. Mr Harris went on to suggest that once this exercise was complete there could be another parish meeting under the umbrella of the Parish Council where they could see what people's ideas are. This would also show that the Parish Council is representing parishioners' interests. This was agreed. **Action Point Mr Harris to circulate a questionnaire.**

Mr Read agreed that parishioners should have a say where future development should go. Ms Johnson suggested parishioners could also be asked what amenities and activities for children they would like to see and ideas for the football field. Ms Johnson went on to say there could be discussion regarding whether the village hall should be sold and have a new hall somewhere else.

Cllr Toye stated that a resident's survey is a good idea and he would encourage the Parish Council to have a neighbourhood plan. A motion was taken to council to write to Government, the planning paper that came out they are trying to bring back into law and this would remove consultation in certain respects and Parish Councils would not have a say. Neighbourhood plans would enable Parish Councils to have a say, there would be support from NNDC. They are a lot of work but worthwhile.

A member of the public thought the survey was a good idea, at meetings there only a select few to hear from. She was pleased to hear the council mention children, children need things to do.

Cllr Toye suggested that councillors could knock on doors with the survey, people are more likely to respond and it raises the profile of the Council.

## **10. Environmental Issues**

10.1 Johnny Crowe's Staithe. Dr Bacon, Mr Filgate and Mr Hill visit Johnny Crowe Staithe and spoke to the boat owner, they had an amicable conversation. The person could see the Parish



Council's point and was prepared to move away into the main river. He has technical problems with his boat at present. The Broads Authority Ranger had indicated that the man would be reasonable. Dr Bacon explained to the person that the Parish Council had plans for the future of the Staithe and wanted parts of it cleared and parts to be public mooring and at present he is blocking that. Dr Bacon hoped that if the Parish Council keep in touch with the person on an amicable basis he would probably move.

10.2 Update on dig bins. The clerk had circulated information, permission from Highways has been given for the first two and the officer is raising the worksheet for the installation of all three dog bins. The dog bin in Back Lane has been replaced. Mr Edwards stated that Serco had been instructed to do the job.

10.3 Highway Issues. The clerk had been in contact with Highways regarding the brambles, she had sent a plan because they had picked up on an incorrect location. Mr Read stated that the grass is also high.

Ms Johnson remarked that the road closure for BT had come through very late after the works had commenced.

- 11. Finance:** The current account stands at £2640.57, the number two account £629.52 and the BPA £18180.76 making a total of £21450.85  
One cheque was presented for payment: 10013800 in the sum of £106 payable to HMRC for tax. The clerk's salary will be paid by standing Order. Mr Edwards proposed that these payments be made, this was seconded by Mrs Gardiner will all in agreement.

**12. Progress Reports**

12.1 Village Hall. Mrs Gardiner reported saying the management committee has been looking at making improvements, plans have been drawn up, these have been circulated. They need to make improvements, a good store area to remove the bikes from the hall. They need the spinners because they bring in a good income. They would like a large store cupboard going to the left of the hall, if it went the full length of the hall with a folding door in the middle there could be a meeting room/small area. It would be good to have a different entrance to the side. A third toilet will also be put in at some time. The kitchen was improved previously. They have also added another door to the side. There are groups using the hall, Mrs Gardiner has been working on the spinning group to do a junior session but sadly they are not interested. We need to get the youth doing things.

Mrs Gardiner stated that whilst it would be lovely to have a new hall it could not be achieved overnight. The roof surface would be taken off, there had been discussion regarding what could replace it. The village hall committee would like to know if the Parish Council would put in the planning application and take it over because it is their building, if they wish to go ahead with the improvements. There are architects' fees to be paid. The committee has worked hard to fund raise and they have money to go towards a grant.

Dr Bacon asked Cllr Toye if there are grants available, he replied that there are always grants available there is the Sustainable communities funds and the grants would be towards environmental projects for instance replacing the heaters and double glazing. The Rural services network also have funding opportunities. Cllr Toye could put the Parish Council in touch with other organisation who have done similar projects.

Mr Edwards asked about cost. Mrs Gardiner replied that originally it was around £70,000 five years ago but now could be in the region of £125,000, this would include cladding the outside of the building and would include the fees. Mr Edwards was concerned that building supplies

had gone up considerably. The village hall sits on prime building land, he could not see the practicality of spending a lot of money on the present hall. The land at the football field could lend itself to a village hall or that land could be developed and a developer could sponsor a new village hall somewhere else.

Mr Read asked if any money had been received through lockdown, Mrs Gardiner confirmed they had.

Dr Bacon suggested that the Parish Council should decide on the principle of whether this is the right thing to do without going into details. Ms Johnson replied that she had been involved with the Poppy Centre which took a long time and she thought the village hall should be extended, it would be ideal to have a new building but the football field is not the right place, it needs to be more central to the village. It would need to be made more attractive to people to use and get things for the youngsters.

Mr Hill stated that Catfield has an opportunity in conjunction with Mr Harris's suggestion or a questionnaire, to have a look and decide how the village would like to structure the business for the next fifty or sixty years going forward but he accepted it would take a lot of work.

Mr Harris stated that he was torn before anything is done, the value of the site should be looked at. The village should also be asked how they feel about it. It also depends what happens under Regulation 19 and what expected of Catfield if more houses are asked for as a service village. Mr Harris suggested that this should be paused to see what the village would like, what comes out of Regulation 19 and he thought the Council should be aware of what the site is worth and what other potential sites there are.

Mr Hill stated that Mrs Gardiner and the committee had put in a tremendous amount of effort.

Mrs Harris (parishioner) asked with regard to the monies held in the Charity Commission they show as being £7,000 in the red. Mrs Gardiner replied that technically they are not and she is in discussion with the Charity Commission because they are not allowed to have more than £25,000 in their account and because of their funding raising they have. They cannot go for a grant if they do not have planning permission.

Mrs Gardiner asked if there was a covenant on the land, Dr Bacon replied that the land was gifted, Mr Harris thought that the covenant could be removed if a new hall was built. Dr Bacon agreed this is often the case if a new hall was built on an alternative site. It was agreed that the football pitch is too far out of the centre of the village.

It was agreed to delay as Mr Harris said earlier until the Regulation 19 has been discussed and the results of the survey have been received. Dr Bacon stated that if it is decided to modernise the village hall the plans that have been presented look a good scheme. This was agreed. Mr Harris asked if it was necessary to do the whole scheme or could half be done. This could be discussed in the future.

12.2 Recreation Grounds. Two quotes had been obtained for the hedge cutting. Mr Read asked how one of the contractors found out how to cut the hedge because the clerk had asked both contractors to contact Mr Read when they looked at the work. Mr Edwards asked if the Parish Council had sight of the contractor's public liability insurance and health and safety policies. It was agreed that if both contractors send their public liability insurance, and health and safety policy if they have one, the clerk could instruct the person who provided the lower quote as he was the one who met with Mr Read and had been given the exact specification.  
**Clerk to obtain the information and instruct the contractor.**

12.3 All Saints Church. There is still no rector. The grass cutting volunteers continue to work well.

12.4 Poores Trusts – appointment of new Trustees. Dr Bacon explain that the term of office had ended for two Trustees, they are both willing to serve again, two other names have been put forward. Standing Orders provide for a show of hands to vote.

Mr Harris stated that the appointments should be deferred until next meeting as there had been no date on the advertisement, nothing would be lost by postponing for a month. The advert could be placed in the magazine again with a cut off date.

Dr Bacon stated that it is on the agenda to appoint new Trustees it had been decided last meeting that it would be publicised and the opportunity for people to put themselves forward, the magazine had been out for about ten days.

Mrs Harris stated she did not received hers until Saturday.

Mr Edwards read out a statement regarding how the Parish Council faces criticism in acting at times in an insular manner in the way it handles certain elements of its business. Many refer to it as a private members club. The parish Council should be concerned that they are seen in this light by some they purport to represent. The appointment of two Trustees presents an opportunity to demonstrate to the parishioners they can operate in a fair and impartial manner. Mr Edwards wrote to the Parish Council after the last election of Trustees criticising them over the manner in which the election had been conducted. Dr Bacon voted himself into office by a margin of just one vote. Dr Bacon explained to Mr Edwards, at the time, that he had acted in in line with the Constitution of the charity and Mr Edwards accepted that explanation, but Mr Edwards did not think it was an edifying action. The Trustees were made up entirely of Parish Councillors although others had offered their services. If councillors are able to vote for themselves, they have an unfair advantage over other candidates. Mr Edwards would like to put forward two proposals: that Parish Councillors are ineligible to vote in an election for Trustees for the Poores Trust in which they are a candidate, voting should also be carried out by secret ballot. That clearly goes against Standing Orders. Mr Edwards did not like to think that people vote in a particular way out of loyalty or embarrassment. The second proposal was that no more than 50% of the Trustees should be Parish Councillors unless no other non-councillor candidates put themselves forward for the vacancies. Steps needs to be taken to demonstrate to parishioners transparency and an inclusive approach in future.

Dr Bacon stated that the election process Standing Orders state that voting should be by a show of hands. Mr Harris replied that the Standing Orders could be changed if everyone agreed, Ms Johnson agreed with this. Dr Bacon acknowledged that a secret ballot had taken place before but he has not realised this breached the Standing Orders until he read them.

Dr Bacon went on to say that having 50% of Trustees being non-councillors would breach the 1916 Charity Commission Scheme which says that the four Trustees may be but need not necessarily be Parish Councillors, it is not within the Parish Council's remit to make a restriction on that.

Mr Harris asked for the Trust Deed to be circulated. Mr Harris proposed that the advert should be placed again with a date for responses to be received and the election postponed until next month, Mr Edwards seconded this. There were six votes in favour, one against and two abstentions. **Action Point clerk to readvertise the vacancies. Dr Bacon to circulate the Trust Deed.**

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** the date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the village hall.
14. **Any Other Business/Information.** Mr Read asked if the letter had been sent regarding the hedge opposite the Post Office, the clerk confirmed that it had been sent.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date