

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD at 7pm ON WEDNESDAY 4IN  
THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

Dr Bacon welcomed everyone to the meeting, he stated that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of producing the minutes.

- 1. To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence:** Ms Johnson, Cllr Grove-Jones (District Councillor), Cllr Millership (District Councillor). Mr Read asked if these apologies had been approved as it says on the agenda there has to be approval. The clerk replied that Ms Johnson gave apologies at the previous meeting. The clerk explained that a reason for being absence from the meeting should be given, councillor should not be absence for 'playing bowls or something like that'. Ms Johnson is on holiday. Dr Bacon said that if someone phone up just before the meeting and said they were not attending because they wanted to watch the football that would not be a reason for approval, it is normal procedure in some meetings now but he did not understand why, perhaps if someone has several consecutive meetings where the reason was not valid. The clerk explained that it is to do with the six-month rule whereby if councillors do not attend, without approval they cease to be a councillor.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** Mr Jordan declared an interest in the planning application for Wood Street Farm.
- 3. To approve as accurate minutes of the last meeting of the council.**  
Mr Read stated that he would not approve the minutes as they are very inaccurate There are things that are not there, if that is being recorded it is not a true transcript of how it has been recorded. It seems as though we have gone back to the old ways before we recorded. There are several bits and pieces whether some of them are printer errors or whatever. Dr Bacon asked Mr Read to go through them so they could be decided on. Mr Read asked if he had all night to go through all the errors in the printing, there are a lot of grammatical errors. Also, it was agreed many meetings ago that all letters that went out all councillors had copies, there are several in the minutes he had not seen. Dr Bacon stated that was a matter arising rather than the accuracy of the minutes. Mr Read said they were totally inaccurate.

Mr Harris stated there had been a long discussion of whether Mrs Gardiner should have circulated the email, it was circulated, it was a public document and it should be inserted in the minutes as to what was said because otherwise you cannot see councillors are replying to so as it was a public document and asked to be so it should be in that particular part. Mr Harris said the whole of the letter should go in the minutes. Mr Read stated that if it was as spoken letter it should have been recorded and that was the idea of having a recorder. Mr Harris went on to say that Mrs Gardiner asked for it to be made public, Cllr Price wrote a thing saying it should not have been circulated but it was and therefore the minutes don't mean anything unless you insert it as a public document. Dr Bacon replied that he was happy to go along with that, if others agreed to an amendment inserting the words of the letter. Mr Harris proposed a yes otherwise it does not make sense at all. Dr Bacon stated in item 5.1 of correspondence the contents of the letter ned to be inserted at the beginning of 5.1.

Mr Hill asked if it was being suggested that every time the Council discusses a letter sent in from a parishioner as it becomes public are we suggesting that we should include them in the minutes. Mr Read, Mr Harris and members of the public said yes.

Mr Harris stated that there is an issue with the minutes anyway because the policy has changed on the minutes, hitherto since last November we had a discussion about the future of the minutes because they had become almost verbatim because the Chairman and the Clerk had decided to do that but now they have not been verbatim they have been changed to a precis, that may well not be right because we have not actually agreed that. This was one of the things that was to be said at the 360, if you go back to the minutes you will see that. This lot there are issues, he had not been raising issues about grammar, there is a lot of grammatical stuff in the minutes. On page 4 it says "Mrs Gardiner stated that if something had not been said tonight no one would have been aware of what happened that day. Mr Harris replied this was untrue, the fact that it was put in writing puts Mrs Gardiner into the dock and potentially" not 'as' but 'us', it is a legal issue there and that is what he said and if you listen to the recording. It should be 'us' not 'as'. Mr Harris stated that the issue of the minutes should be at the 360 and the minutes should not be changed until we get there. He gave one other where the sense changed and he had checked the recording. When he went on about the internal auditor the purpose of the point was not to say change the tick to a cross, the point was if you have an internal auditor who is unable to distinguish that the website is totally defunct you have to question the ability of the internal auditor and we need to look at that. The sense is not there if it were to be translated into the sense, that is the point of an internal auditor and an internal auditor who can't see the barn door then you have to raise questions. Mr Harris thought the clerk should have another go at the minutes, but he had made two points one on the specific grammar 'us' for 'as'. Dr Bacon thought that was a typo. The second point the issue he was making that if you have an internal auditor and they tick, tick, tick everything including that you have a good website when your website is totally deficient it is not just that you then put a cross where there was a tick you have to say we ought to think whether that internal auditor is a very good internal auditor, Mr Harris stated that he did say that the financial risk was not extensive which was accurately recorded. The point was if you have an internal auditor who can't see the barn door then you have to say how good the internal auditor is.

Dr Bacon asked if Mr Harris was suggesting that in future the council looks at next year's internal auditor, Mr Harris agreed he thought the council ought to have the discussion which we tried to start, Mr Beckley wrote a paper, Mr Harris wrote a paper which were not a million miles apart, but they have never been discussed it was going to take place at the 360.

Dr Bacon recapped that those were the points from Mr Harris but Mr Read had not specified what exactly he was referring to as the minutes being totally inadequate. The clerk agreed to go through and check them and then re-submit the minutes. This was agreed. Mr Read said there was not one hundred percent accuracy for what is recorded and what is written in the minutes. Dr Bacon asked if Mr Read had listened to the recording and checked word for word. Mr Read replied that he had listened to some of it where he thought there were inaccuracies and things are missing. Mr Harris made a proposal, others may know better, there are he understood systems which can translate this stuff into minutes, let's research whether that could be done, he was not saying that is the long term. The clerk stated that those systems would not pick up who said what because they will not be able to pick the individuals. Mr Harris said the clerk could put that in. May be this would be the solution then the clerk would not have to spend as long as she is now and then we ought to have a discussion about the future of the minutes but it has not taken place yet. Mr Harris said that he would make those two proposals to get one of these systems which is particularly relevant when there is so much contentious stuff going that might relieve the load on the clerk and secondly there needs to be a discussion about the future of the minutes.

Dr Bacon asked if everyone was happy with those particular points about the minutes, then we investigate this system of minuting and include minuting in the 360 meeting when we eventually have it. Mr Read thought it would be of benefit to everybody because over the

period of time that we were having Zoom meetings there was very little contention in the minutes because, yes, they were a long version which was very good of the Clerk she did a good job, they were printed out, everybody should see it there was very little where they need to be amended, somebody said that, they didn't say this, which we used to have before and that seems that this time we have got a set of minutes we have now gone back to the old ways before Zoom meetings and there are issues that are coming to light which we never had over Zoom.

Dr Bacon stated that he assumed this was still more or less verbatim but Mr Read is saying there are bits missing. Mr Harris stated that what happened about halfway through obviously the clerk got bored, he was making an assumption, and she did them entirely differently. The first half is relatively verbatim not absolutely but the second half not.

Dr Bacon stated that we have discussed what some people think are wrong with the minutes, we have discussed about some future actions now we need to either approve or not approve the minutes. Mr Snelling (A parishioner) said there was a lady at the meeting last time who mentioned that when she went up New Road to leave the village she was stuck waiting for a lorry coming out of Traymaster for ten minutes and as this is potentially a highway issue for us in the village that should also be in the minutes.

Dr Bacon asked again if someone could propose either we do or don't accept the minutes as a formality. Mr Harris stated proposed that the clerk has another go and they are agreed at the next meeting, Mr Read seconded this and said until they have been updated so we can see a proper updated copy then he would agree but not to sign them as they are. Mr Hill asked if we are saying from here forward that we are going to include every letter that we have to discuss in the minutes because it has already been commented that the minutes are much longer than they used to be surely this is coming to make them even longer. Dr Bacon replied that it seems strange to him to include the wording of letters in the minutes but if that is what people want then that is what we will have to do.

Mr Edwards suggested that if there is a very straight forward letter asking a very straight forward question of the Council it probably doesn't need to be included the clerk could put just a one-line entry in the minutes that says 'a parishioner or the parishioner's name asked that we investigate such and such' and the minutes would reflect what action the Council took. It is when there is a the more contentious issue that people might want to reflect back on them months from now so what actually did happen, when the argument resurfaces, what actually did happen that day. As Mr Harris rightly said without that letter being in there would be nothing to fall back on another point he made was when the website is improved something like that could be referenced in the minutes as saying refer to whatever and there would be a link at the bottom of the minutes to say if you want to read this that is where it is. Mr Edwards went on to say that there are some letters would the person who wrote want it made public, he was not sure what the rules were on that. Dr Bacon replied that sounded reasonable if the contents of a letter are likely to be controversial perhaps include the wording in the minutes but in most cases most letters would not need to have the wording in and the other point is the business of whether every single comment from a member of the public is also included in the minutes do we mention 'a lady said she had to wait ten minutes for lorry to reverse into Traymaster' does the clerk have the discretion to miss out any minor points like that, comments from the public or do we have to include every comment from everyone in the minutes. Dr Bacon stated he did not mind either way. Mr Read thought things like that where the lady sat up the back there and she said what she did should be included because of future issues that may or may not happen in this village could come up as a very valid point if it is not minuted nobody knows about it but if it is minuted you can go back either in paperwork or on the website such and such was brought up now that could be a valid point for future. Mr Read thought things should be included not pick and choose. It should all be on

paper or website everybody has the chance to read it before they come to a meeting, there is no having to go through all of it and picking out bits what are wrong, people have had the chance to read it, there may be one or two very select pieces which one or two people may say don't sound right. Our clerk can turn round and say that is exactly what was said by the recording and there are no disputes and that is what we are trying to get back to he thought no disputes over the minutes.

Dr Bacon asked in answer to his question should the clerk have the discretion to miss out some the odd comment from people then the answer is no, everything goes in.

Mr Hill asked could a member of the public not request that something is minuted if they particularly want it minuted because otherwise the clerk is going to be, what comments can the clerk then include or not include if somebody specifically wants to make a point and they request it to be minuted rather than a member of the public just making a general comment.

Mr Snelling (a parishioner) stated that many years ago going back to 2009 he referred to policies and documentation and he also stated at the time that he was happy for that to be recorded and unfortunately it was not, it has to be listened to because he had ten years of misinformation.

Mrs Gardiner stated that in some councils when public have spoken the Chairman then or someone asks someone on the Council to bring that up at the right time so that it is moved from there to one of the Councillors who then brings it up in the meeting. Dr Bacon replied that there has been, over the years, a change in the way that public participation has happened at Parish Council meetings, in the past, up until a year or two ago any comments from people who are not actually Parish Councillors were not minuted anyway but it now seems there is more public participation and therefore perhaps those comments should all be minuted. Mrs Gardiner suggested they should be minuted at the beginning when the public have had their time and name and question. Dr Bacon replied that the public are invited to chip in on various issues as they crop up.

Dr Bacon also mentioned that he did specifically ask the clerk to put a very brief minute of the piece that he read out about the renaming of Canon Wake Court because he thought that some of the personal implications of that would be better not fully minuted so that is abbreviated in these minutes.

Mr Harris stated that he had been reading that a participation by the public is now much more encouraged than it has been hitherto and he thought that needed to be taken onboard and reflect in what we actually do, it is not a bad thing anymore and we don't humour them they have a right to speak.

Mrs Filgate (a parishioner) stated that she understood there was a meeting without the public where the council was sorting out this format, we have now had half an hour and not even started the meeting. Could we not just start the meeting.

Dr Bacon replied that there was a meeting regarding policies, we can't go forward with the meeting until the minutes have either been adopted or not, there is a proposal at the moment which has been seconded that we do not adopt the minutes as they are, that the clerk does a revision of them and they are looked at next meeting, he asked for agreement on that.

Mr Edwards stated that he remembered a meeting not so long ago where he believed the minutes were not accepted, what has happened since. There is a set of minutes that are not approved. Dr Bacon said this was correct. Mr Edwards asked what the procedure was. The clerk stated that they sit unapproved, not signed.

#### 4. Public participation

4.1 Mrs Harris (a parishioner) stated the District Councillors have not been seen, how often do they have to attend, we have not seen them since January, they have not put much input into it. The clerk replied that both District Councillors have been given permission not to physically attend meetings for the time being. Mrs Harris asked if the clerk knew roughly when they will come back because there are big issues, how long can they be excused for. The Clerk replied that they have been given permission by the Leader of the Council not to attend meetings physically, they can still be contacted and discuss things with them. Mrs Harris said it had been six months, its bad for both of them we should really have one District Councillor we could refer to and they report to North Norfolk. She thought it was amiss. Dr Bacon stated that he suspected that in both cases they have been given approval for absence from the District Council for personal or health reasons but he did not know any further detail on that. As far as attendance is concerned Catfield did have, about ten years ago, a District Councillor who was a District Councillor for eight years who did not come to a single one of our meetings. Mr Harris asked what are the rules. Dr Bacon replied that apparently they don't have to, they have to attend the District Council meeting and various other meetings a least once every six months but as in that case a few years this man did not come to our meetings for four years and then he was reappointed by party and won an election and did not come for another four years so it is not an unusual occurrence. Mrs Harris asked so she should talk to the parties because they are both Liberals? Dr Bacon replied yes and the previous one was Conservative.

Mrs Filgate (a parishioner) stated that on the subject of CAT01 she wrote to the MP and he said that MPs are being encouraged to distance themselves from planning applications but we should contact our District Councillors, she said she is not able to unless she writes them an email. Dr Bacon replied that presumably the emails or telephone numbers for the District Councillors are in the parish magazine and they can be contacted. The clerk said that emails could to her to be passed on as well.

Mrs Filgate stated that she sent in a letter this afternoon but she wanted to say that it is very serious that Flagship put in an application without really consulting the public and they said that everyone was in agreement which was not the case. Mrs Filgate has been protesting since 2010 when there was the first application and the reason that was done the officers or by the committee was because of the access and a number of houses and the lay of the land and the possibility of flooding. These all are coming again and there are extra ones now. Dr Bacon asked Mrs Filgate if she would like to speak now or wait until this item comes up in the agenda, Mrs Filgate agreed to wait.

Ms Croft (a parishioner) asked if she could speak about the correspondence. She was quite concerned because she thought she had been indirectly mentioned as a 'grey haired with a foreign accent' when she read, she was disappointed. Ms Croft stated that she is a Christian and does not point fingers so whoever said that is very unchristian-like. When she read the email she thought it attacking her. Dr Bacon replied that as far as he knew it was not referring to Ms Croft. Ms Croft went on to say that the email reflected her because she is a foreigner, everyone here is a foreigner so please be clear be honest and be frank. It's no good it is basically breaking everyone here and it was very upsetting when she read it. She was shocked when she read it, she thought it was referring to her but please can we be frank and honest because you are representing the parishioners. Dr Bacon stated that he would defend what Mrs Gardiner said because she put in speech marks a quote that was something that was said by a parishioner. Ms Croft agreed she did put speech marks but she thought the speech marks were referring to her as well. Dr Bacon replied that Mrs Gardiner quoted what a member of the public said, that in no way implies that it makes Mrs Gardiner a racist or anything, she merely quoted what

somebody said. Ms Croft said that in order to make quoting matters correct could we be crystal clear and very honest with one another so as a Christian she believes in honesty and frank. Dr Bacon replied that Mrs Gardiner was being honest and frank about what somebody said.

Mrs Gardiner replied that as a Christian she was defending the person who was being slated on that day around the village which she thought was awful. It was not a councillor in this hall. Mrs Shearing was so upset so as a Christian Mrs Gardiner was defending her and why did people think they had the right to do that. Mrs Read (a parishioner) said so it was alright for Mrs Shearing to be upset but no one else. Mrs Gardiner said she was doing it before she joined the Council but it came to her by some parishioners who saw her and they had already been to North Norfolk and she had to say because if not no one would have known. Mrs Gardiner said she was sorry she would say it again because those things we cannot slate people who were quite honestly being..... Mrs Harris (a parishioner) said "you should be quiet Judith". Mrs Read (a parishioner) said that Mrs Gardiner as a member of the church should be disgusted with herself. Dr Bacon called for order.

Mr Harris stated that he did not wish to get into this again but a Christian person would first of all have read the Code of Conduct which clearly Mrs Gardiner had not, she would then have approached, the Code of Conduct is quite clear if you had a complaint or on behalf of a parishioner, she should have first gone to the candidate who was Mr Edwards and after that she should have gone to the person who she was assaulting who her presumed was his wife, although Ms Croft appears to think it was her. Mr Harris stated that Mrs Gardiner did not follow the Code of Conduct which was the first point, the other point that Mrs Gardiner made was the Mrs Harris had been spreading malicious rumours about planning, what his wife did, and Mrs Gardiner had not taken the trouble to find this out, was she actually showed people who had applied for what housing applications in the village and it is a very real issue, the majority of the planning proposals for new housing had been put in by the Shearing family, that was the truth and that is not defamation at all and Mrs Gardiner should have in a Christian way tried to actually go and find out the truth as the Code of Conduct which she misquoted made clear. Mr Harris stated that he did not wish to go any further on this he was sick of it, it is the wrong way of behaving.

Mr Edwards asked to read a statement, he thought it would put things into perspective on both sides of the argument.

*When I first declared myself as a candidate for our recent election, I assumed naturally enough that I would face some opposition, but never believed for one moment I would face such a series of unexpected obstacles, from such a variety of sources. The origin of many of the totally false claims made against me cannot be easily substantiated but as the old saying says, 'there's no smoke without fire', and someone somewhere must have been very busy with the matches.*

*From the outset it appeared the odds were being stacked firmly against me. Firstly, the article suggesting the election could have been avoided by co-opting, with considerable savings to the village, which was included in the Parish Magazine and written by an editorial team, one of whom was to oppose me, clearly hit the spot with some of the parishioners who effectively accused me of wasting parish funds by having the audacity to submit myself to the will of the electorate.*

*Then we had both the failure by NNDC to provide the requested election cards followed by the fiasco of postal votes being issued twice for the same election. I'm not sure if this had any impact on the May 20<sup>th</sup> poll but it clearly showed the District Council in a very poor light and did little to inspire confidence locally in the democratic process.*

*Further confusion then followed when the election was incorrectly advertised on the Parish Council website pages. The very fact I speak today as an elected councillor is little more than a miracle.*

*Once the election campaigning began in earnest further very disappointing experiences ensued.*

- 1) I was told more than once that 'I won't be voting for a foreigner', and 'we don't need outsiders like you telling us how to run our affairs'. It would appear that living locally for 33 years clearly isn't long enough to be accepted by some in the community. Now, considering one of my biggest hurdles on the path to success was the fact I, and my origins, was unknown to 99% of the village, it occurs to me someone somewhere must have been planting xenophobic seeds in the heads of the less tolerant within our midst.*
- 2) At one point stories were spread claiming I was only supporting Lea Road residents because I wanted to build houses on land adjacent to Thorn Road. Once again, somebody or bodies must have been active in fuelling such ludicrous rumours.*
- 3) On one occasion I was told 'you hardly expect me to vote against the advice of the man who brings me money from the poor's trust do you'.*
- 4) I was removed from a social media site group claiming to be the place for 'all village news and events' for posting my election leaflet on their page. In turn a supporter was also removed from the group. The site incidentally is administered by a close member of the Shearing family.*
- 5) That same person then went on to declare, on the same site a day or so after the poll, the election 'was a shambles, it was rigged'. I have the screenshot, I have the proof.*

*So, I'll admit the tactics employed by some individuals came as something of a shock, but, when all was said and done decided there was, in the interests of those I wished to represent, little or nothing to gain from making waves, so chose to do nothing and put it down as just yet another lesson in life.*

*And that is how matters would have remained but for the email circulated by Judith Gardiner and I believe discussed to some degree at the last meeting which I was unable to attend.*

*Although the content was, it now transpires, aimed at Mrs Harris the description of the lady with grey hair and foreign accent could easily have been aimed at my own wife. I have to accept it was also likely intended to question my own integrity which leaves me with no choice other than to respond.*

*Let me begin by bringing some of you up to speed on modern society.*

*Firstly, in 2021 a man's wife should no longer be viewed as part of his 'goods and chattels'. Today's modern wife is no longer obliged to act the little woman who does precisely and only what her husband tells her. So, in the context of the email, Mrs Harris's relationship to a councillor is an irrelevance, hence I fail to see what the perceived need was to 'bring this to the knowledge of councillors'. In fact, the matter clearly should never have become an item for discussion at a Parish Council meeting, a view I note shared by Councillor Richard Price.*

*Secondly, let me be clear in saying Mrs Harris was not campaigning under my control and was free to operate as she felt fit. What she said or didn't say to anybody regarding land put forward for potential development only she and those she spoke with will ever know. What I do know is she is an intelligent and honourable woman and likely said only what she knew to be true. If people then construed this differently then that really is their own problem. I'm afraid by the time these stories found their way to Mrs Gardiner they were, in much the same way as some stories relating to my campaign I've already referred to, nothing more or better than unsubstantiated gossip and village tittle tattle. Plainly the police saw little credence to the matter since they never opted to speak with me, which I understand would be their normal first port of call, or I believe have they spoken to Mrs Harris.*

*Now, let me move on to the strict code of conduct and standards of behaviour referenced in the email. Firstly, there is nothing within the code of conduct that prohibits campaigning on election day although*

*the email suggests otherwise. I will now refer to the Polling Stations Regulation Act 2007. The law prohibits campaigning activity within a prescribed area around the polling station. Campaigning activity includes the promotion of literature associated with election candidates. The prescribed area is defined as a 250-metre circle radiating from the main entrance of the polling station.*

*On the 20<sup>th</sup> May election day, you Judith, displayed a notice on the village hall notice board directing people how you wished them to vote, or if we are to be pedantic, not to vote, at an election in which you were a candidate. This was in fact an illegal act. You will recall you removed said notice as you left the hall shortly after the result was announced. I have a photograph of the notice concerned clearly showing where it was displayed and a number of parishioners who remember seeing it at different times of the day.*

*This now leads me to the question of what I might do about all this? Clearly, I am in the company of some who would think nothing of reporting this to the appropriate authority in a New York second. That though is not my way. I prefer to confront people directly in the hope they have the capacity to recognise the error of their ways and act appropriately. I believe, in line with my Christian upbringing, it is far better to vigorously encourage fair play than to constantly snatch at any opportunities of retribution. So, in answer to my own question, I plan to do absolutely nothing.*

*Let me just finish by saying though, 'let he who is without sin, cast the first stone'.*

Dr Bacon thanked Mr Edwards and asked him to let the clerk have a copy of his notes for minuting purposes, Mr Edwards agreed. Mr Read said it would be recorded.

Mrs Gardiner stated that she did not put that poster on that board, she saw it and she told the person in the polling station and they removed it but she did not put it up. Someone thought they were doing a service and please if anyone noticed that poster it said don't vote for Mrs Gardiner, but vote for either Mr Edwards or Mrs Shearing. Mrs Gardiner reiterated that she did not put it up, she came early to vote and it was not there.

4.2 Mrs Grove-Jones sent a note saying she had nothing to report.

4.3 Report from Cllr Price. Cllr Price reported on the latest Covid figures, there are 39 cases per 100,000 in North Norfolk, last week it was 16 per 100,00. There are 3173 people who have tested positive which is an increase of 48 over the last week and an increase of 71 since the last meeting. Face masks and handwashing are still important.

Cllr Price stated that at the last meeting he spoke about the ridiculous proposals of the Boundary Commission to move Catfield and some of his other parishes into Great Yarmouth and he is pleased to report that last night there had been a meeting of Norfolk and Suffolk MPs, Group Leaders, Association Chairs from all the parties and they have agreed a counter- proposal which has been submitted to the Boundary Commission which rightly keeps Catfield in North Norfolk.

Dr Bacon asked Cllr Price when he says "moved Catfield and other villages out of North Norfolk" that is for Parliamentary election purposes not for District Council purposes. Cllr Price agreed there are three areas, the Parliamentary, the County Divisions and the District Divisions and the idea is to ensure that the representation for the population by their elected member is equal and the important thing about submission that they are submitting is that it does fulfil the Boundary Commission criteria so if there are changes it is not affecting our area so they are saying Catfield must stay in North Norfolk and this is supported by Suffolk and Yarmouth as well and all the MPs.

Mr Filgate asked that for clarification presumably it is still open and advisable for individuals to reply to the consultation.



Cllr Price said that he had several of his parishes engaged in wild life projects and work with roadside verges and he has been pushing hard for this and he sits on one or two forestry groups and has been canvassing for this and trying to push this ahead because there are a couple of parishes where their lovely roadside orchids have been mown down and he has been creating merry hell about this so if this is an issue that Catfield is interested in Cllr Price advised that Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July there is a meeting of the County Infrastructure and Development Committee where the new verges policy will be discussed in great detail. The minutes can be found by accessing the County website in the proposals that almost trebling the number of roadside nature reserves huge encouragement for the environment wildlife of all categories. It can also be followed on the County YouTube channel.

Mrs Filgate (a parishioner) asked Cllr Price as the spokesman for the roads, she thought there should be 20mph limits. Cllr Price answered that there is more flexibility. At the moment the procedure is so prohibitively expensive and that is why it does not happen, this is public safety and protection of our villages that are more important so it is being looked at but don't hold your breath!

## **5. Matters Arising**

Dr Bacon stated that there is one point in 5.2 of the last meeting regarding to proposed campsite on Plumsgate Road. Dr Bacon thought it would be better raised under item 7 as a planning issue.

Mr Read said that the letters had been sent out and he had not seen copies, this was agreed some long while back that any letter went out the council would have a copy sent. Just for this set of minutes he marked four that he had not seen. Letter to NNDC regarding the Residents Association, letter to the Residents Association, Highways regarding the brambles where Mr Read asked which was considered more important a bumble bee or a kid's life. Mr read stated that he is all for wildlife but there are certain issues which people's health and safety and kiddies going to school that grass and brambles is higher than they are and they can't see. Mr Read stated that he understood that the letters that were sent out, maybe he was missed off the list when they were sent out and other councillors have seen but he had not. The clerk replied that she was waiting until she received a response and then would send the letters and the response so councillors were not inundated with emails but the responses have not been received, it has only been two weeks since the last meeting. The clerk will send the copies that she had sent out.

Mr Harris stated that he was in favour of seeing the letters when they go out because sometimes it is easy to miss things by mistake which we have had before and would be better to see them just as soon as they have gone out rather than wait, because there is nothing we can do about it. There has been no reply from the County Council about Mr Snelling's suggestions.

The clerk informed councillors that training had been booked for the evenings of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm by Zoom.

Mr Harris asked what was happening about the 360 meeting, what was the date for that. The clerk replied that she had sent out a Doodle poll and had four responses. Mr Harris asked to make a comment why he thought it is important to have the 360, we have been talking for quite a time about why you need a 360 and it was agreed last November when a constituent wrote in very critical of the Council's failings. Mr Harris tried to put items down that need to be addressed. In his view they are as follows:

1. A Failure to Listen and Respond Adequately to Parishioners Concerns  
 All too often the PC's response has been to talk down to parishioners or suggest that they, the parishioner, should raise their concerns directly with Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council or the Police.  
 The PC has too infrequently used its own influence to get results.
2. Inability to get things done  
 A failure to convert talk into action is obvious.  
 Two things may be relevant:
  - i. Until recently there has been a failure to denote action points and person responsible in the minutes
  - ii. A reluctance to follow up actions between meetings to see they get done. On occasion this has been actively resisted.
3. One of the worst PC websites on the web  
 Per page 31 of Governance Tool Kit  
 "A good website can say a lot about the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of a Parish Council."  
 Exactly.
4. A Failure to Review Rules and Regulations for many years  
 We are now having to catch up by looking at what they say and checking how far they actually reflect our circumstances.
5. Dominance of Traditional Farming Influence  
 For example:
  - i. The repeated emphasis on the right of farmers to build on their land.
  - ii. Resistance to any suggestion that farmers have obligations to the wider community.
  - iii. A noticeable ignorance of, and lack of interest in, the conservation issues which are now becoming to the forefront of the national debate on farming. One of the PC's few legal obligations is to look after the environment and it is noticeable that many of the new parishioners are actively concerned about the natural environment in which they now live.
6. A Failure to Develop a Coherent Approach to Planning to Reflect the Interests of the Wider Community not Sectional Interests  
 This may well be connected to point 5. Above.  
 Particularly relevant are:
  - i. A failure to participate in the clause 18 regulation consultations
  - ii. No attempt to seek parishioners' input into where future development should go.
  - iii. Allowing the mushroom site to lie derelict for 30 years.  
 The Good Councillor's guide (page 47) comments,  
 "there are those councils who understand the system and have influence....and there are those that don't."
7. A complacent approach which didn't think training and a proper induction of councillors and the clerk were necessary. Mr Harris stated that we only started the training when he actually paid his own way for a course.
8. A reluctance of Parish Councillors to prepare themselves properly  
 Too often it is apparent that councillors haven't read the papers and prepared themselves for the meeting.  
 The Good Councillor's Guide says (page 13),  
 "As a councillor, you have a responsibility to be well informed, especially about diverse local views. You cannot assume that you represent the interests of all electors without consulting them."
9. A Loss of Committed Councillors who could have made a difference by failing to make them welcome and engaged. This is a very important point, over the years Mr Harris said that he had seen this happen.

Mr Harris thought that the council ought to register the first thing in a 360 is to register where the council is failing. There may be other views but we need to do that, after this is done you then have to say why is this happening and training will not help the council out of that they have to first of all say I recognise I now have an issue, we have an issue in spades and that is why there has been all the trouble on the council. We have to recognise that not just brush it off once we have done that we should discuss why that is the case and then there should be a meeting to discuss that either online or offline. The meeting that was held offline was very productive, more work was done in that because people can say things frankly. Then have the training, because when you have recognised that you have a problem or we have a problem, I have a problem, we have a problem then you do something about it but at the moment we don't and that why he said that. Mr Harris thought others should think what are the problems we have, what is it that causes the discord that we have had in recent times at these meetings. Then we should have the 360 as we agreed to do almost a year ago.

Dr Bacon said he was still waiting for the 360 to happen. Ms Johnson was arranging it and then we did have some dates on the Doodle Poll the only people who replied were Mr Edwards, Mr Filgate, Mr Harris and Dr Bacon so there have only been four replies. Mr Read stated that he had replied. The clerk stated that it did not come through, it comes through automatically and puts all the dates in. Mr Read stated he put all the dates in, he is free for any date. The clerk replied that it had not come through, Mrs Read said it was not her problem. Mr Harris said to try and get on with this we have lost as a village good people from the assembly because they did not think they could make a difference they were not made to feel welcome. What did Mr Edwards say? He is a very talented person come to the village, he understands IT backwards, he should be welcomed to this group not fought off and treated as a foreigner.

Mr Read stated that carrying from what Mr Harris just said about making people feel welcome unfortunately Mr Edwards could not make it to his first meeting because other things, there was no welcome tonight from the Chairman, from the clerk nobody, it just goes to prove the point.

Mr Edwards said in fairness to the clerk she immediately emailed him after he was elected to congratulate him and he said that she had been absolutely spot on with the communication.

Mr Read stated that the Chairman was very gracious in his welcome, he understood! Dr Bacon stated that he is hopeless at doing anything personal one to one and he doubted if he ever speaks to any councillors in terms of welcoming them. Mr Read replied that if Dr Bacon was so hopeless why was he sitting in that position.

Mr Hill stated that when he first joined the Council nobody welcomed him either. Mr Read stated no one welcomed him because he was not wanted. Mr Hill stated it was a general thing it is not that someone is not wanted. Dr Bacon stated that he did not see it as his job to welcome people he just gets on with the business.

Mr Hill stated that in response to the agricultural weight mentioned by Mr Harris that he does not accept that, and that Mr Harris stated that Mr Hill objects the building on the industrial estate and say that we should build on farmland, that really goes hand in hand with Mr Harris's suggestion that Mr Hill agrees with that the wider village is consulted and Mrs Harris also made the suggestion that Mr Harris might like to put some of his land forward for development but which again is something could all be considered. Mr Hill thought taking a broader view regarding that particular issue, he did not agree with building on the industrial site but he did agree with engaging the whole village to ask where they think the village should be developed.

Mr Harris stated that his wife may be foreign but she is a Christian unlike some.

Mr Hill said that Mrs Harris suggested that, Mr Hill thought it would be a good idea. Mr Harris replied that if the village came forward and said their preference was to build on Mr Harris' land that was the point he was making. Mr Hill replied that they could not if it was not offered. Mr Harris said if the village said we want your land rather than some other land he would obviously consider that, his land is not sacred. Mrs Harris rightly said that because she believes you should love thy neighbour that is why she believes it. Mr Harris said that the issue about where future development in the village should be clearly the parishioners should have a say in that, he had been saying that ever since he had been on this committee. Mr Hill agreed and Mr Harris replied that something should be done about it. Therefore it is correct, Mr Harris stated that his concern with Mr Hill is that he does not live in the village and every time anything is suggested about the village, about building on the industrial site which is crazy that they have not built on the industrial site or some of the site, Mr Hill always registers the right to build on farmland. Mr Hill agreed with that but said he constantly oppose building on the industrial land because there is a small amount of industrial land and lot of people who want to use, there is a lot of available farmland that could be developed for residential and in the last minutes there have been issues between industrial and residential. Surely it makes sense to give the residential to develop further away from the industrial.

Dr Bacon suggested that this was going over old ground about housing development and we need to make progress on the agenda. Mr Harris stated that he was one of the first, if not the very first on the Council to say we should talk to the parishioners about where they think development should be and for clarity's sake if the parishioners said we think your land is the right land for these reasons he would seriously consider that but he is not in it to make a fast buck. The point he made about his wife is because his wife believes that you should support the community not just develop your own land. Mr Harris went on to say that it is a disgrace that the mushroom site has not been developed and if you look at the record to go back for the planning for Lea Road you would find that the mushroom site was given the same marks, this is one of the other things in that document that his wife was showing round was that the mushroom site had the same ranking as Lea Road that it was blocked partly in this forum.

Mr Snelling (a parishioner) said that the time it was a brownfield site and therefore it was actually above a greenfield site.

Dr Bacon asked for progress in the meeting rather than going over old ground.

Mr Read asked for a decision when the 360 would be. Mr Hill asked for the dates that were suggested by the people who replied. Dr Bacon replied 2 people for 9<sup>th</sup> July, 4 people for 12<sup>th</sup> July, 3 for the 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 for the 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 for the 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 for 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 for 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 for 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 for 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr Read asked for his name to be added as the clerk said she did not get it through and he was prepared for any day. The clerk can no longer make 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Mr Edwards asked who actually wants a 360, everyone agreed that it is needed. Cllr Price asked that either the Council return to this matter after 6.2 on the agenda or let him bring 6.2 forward into this conversation. Dr Bacon said that we seem to have got onto 6.2.

Cllr Price stated that he was in all the years, he has thirteen parishes, seven as a District Councillor so for the last fourteen years he had been attending two or three parish meetings every week and he was very upset to hear what was said at the last meeting in relation to this particular letter. I have raised these concerns with a number of experts who know more about this than him. No disrespect to the clerk who he has a good relationship with but he has a very senior Parish Council clerk who deals with several parishes and is a local clerk as well. He discussed the situation with her, he also discussed it with the senior officer at NALC and essentially one of the things that came up and the meeting has taken place on polices etc. Cllr Price asked if there is an Equal Opportunities Policy, if not he would recommend that there is one because all good parishes do

and if there was an Equal Opportunities Policy adopted by the Parish Council that email would not have been allowed, the choice of words and the description of people was unfortunate the reaction he has from talking to people who know more about this than him was far more adverse. Minutes have been discussed tonight and he reads many minutes every week from different parishes. Parishes have different ways of doing it, some the clerk summaries, some are verbatim. He personally believes that Parish Councillors have the right to decide how they want to do it but there is no harm in talking to NALC and finding out what the best practice is, what is the Association of parish clerks recommend and get some knowledge before that decision is made. As far as the 360 is concerned he had discussed this, what sort of meeting and is it a public meeting, is it a parish council meeting, does it have to have an agenda and it should never be even considered without having an agreed list of objectives. Cllr Price said welcome to Mr Edwards, it was the first time they had met each other. The important thing that came across particularly talking with the senior advisor at NALC is he believes and Cllr Price believes, as stated in his email to the clerk, that there is a fundamental training need which has to be addressed first. Cllr Price apologised to Mr Harris that he disagreed with him on this. The training particularly for councillors with different amounts of experience on the Parish Council, it needs to cover Equal Opportunities Policy, the role of the Parish Councillor, the role of the Parish Clerk and the role of the Chairman. These have to be addressed by a senior NALC trainer, that can be taken onboard and appreciate it because the most important quality we all have to have, that serve the public which is what everyone does, is respect and that has been sadly lacking and that is not constructive to a good and active Parish Council. There are different relationships, he has parish Chairs who have been chairing for thirty years and things change. He has several parishes, one parish council that is so divided there have been so many resignations, the clerk resigned four District Councillors were appointed as temporary parish clerks and the Monitoring Officer came in acted as clerk and that happened for three months until everything established and everyone understood how a Parish Council should function to serve it parish. Cllr Price thought that is something why he recommends the training comes first, when that has happened and the Councillors have been able to ask questions and had time to consider what you learn at training then it is time to consider the 360. Cllr Price stated that he was not qualified enough on the legalities of training on the parish Clerk so it would wrong for him to chair the meeting, he has no technical knowledge of what the parish clerk does. When issues can't be solved the normal thing would be to go to the person who is raising the issue and try and find a solution. It is sad when it becomes a public event to say "he said, she said". You do all have the right and the public have the right to seek advice from the District Monitoring Officer if there are concerns because that is the role of the Monitoring Officer. Dr Bacon thanked Cllr Price.

Dr Bacon asked the Council if they still want a 360. Mr Harris stated that he has great respect for Cllr Price but he had also considerable experience of working with various groups of people over many years and this had been one of the most disagreeable experiences he has had and because of the lack of engagement people have not wished to take advantage of the skill sets that a lot of people could give unless there is a recognition that things are not being done right at the moment, and he had given his list which he had thought about extensively. Others should consider if they think there are other things that are being done wrong, unless there is a recognition of that there is no point having training. NALC will train the Council, Mr Harris has done the training he is the only one who has done it. Dr Bacon replied that he has done Chairman training, three or four sessions of Chairman training run by Broadland District Council on behalf of them and the Broads Authority and he went with the Broads Authority chair to do chairman training with them about four years ago. Mr Harris said he was delighted for the chairman but one of the problems is the problems is his chairing, because he does not involve or draw out. Mr Harris stated that unless we have that recognition of how we are not doing things right and those things that are not being done right. Mr Harris said he would like to hear other's views including Mr Hill. Mr Harris said his recommendation is as agreed a year ago the council should do both the training but before that or after, preferably before there should be the 360. Without the public offline, the offline meeting was the most productive we have had. Anybody can say, Mr Jordan can say, "the trouble is Harris

you talk too much". That is the purpose of the meeting, that is what modern HR things do. The 360 enables people to advise other people of where their faults are. Unless we get recognition of where we are going wrong he thought training, which he had done and Dr Bacon has done the Chairman training, Mr Harris has done the workers one. We should have the 360 meeting, everyone had voted for it before Cllr Price spoke, there should also be the training.

Dr Bacon stated that no progress has been made fixing the date. Mr Edwards asked if one meeting would be enough to fix also the issues, he had been an observer for some time watching the meetings. The first time the 360 was proposed it was for a one hour meeting, he thought it would not be possible to sort everything out in an hour. Dr Bacon replied that would just be a start. Mr Edwards agreed.

Mr Filgate thought that councillors need to be aware that there are members who are parish councillors who are not at the meeting how would they be included in the 360, he stated that needs to be thought about as well as fixing dates. Looking at how we do it with training and he did not hear anybody saying we should not do training and 360 so in a sense we are agreeing that. There is still the question how to include those who cannot. Dr Bacon replied that if a date is fixed for anything if some people happen not to be here then those who are here have to do the fixing otherwise it means waiting until there is one hundred percent attendance.

Mr Harris stated that Ms Johnson suggested there should be a hybrid meeting which he thought was a very good idea. Mr Edwards replied this was not possible because there is no wifi in the hall.

Dr Bacon asked to make progress in this could councillors decide that they are fixing a date for the 360 meeting or not whether it is before or after training. Mr Read thought the 360 there are deep fundamental problems that need to be discussed and hopefully we can reach a conclusion where we can all agree and move for the sake of the public who we represent and also for his point of view he thought he would benefit from the training, it is a good idea but he believed the 360 should be first.

Dr Bacon stated that the dates that had five ticks for it; 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July. Dr Bacon asked about availability of the hall, Mrs Gardiner said the hall would be available on a Wednesday or Friday or daytime. Mrs Gardiner said the hall would be available on 16<sup>th</sup> in the evening or 19<sup>th</sup> in the daytime. It was agreed that a face to face meeting in the hall. The clerk stated that it would be dependant on whoever was chairing the meeting to see if they were available. Mr Harris thought it was not necessary to have a chair, if it was going to be a private meeting without public participation then the one where Ms Johnson sort of chaired worked well.

Mr Filgate stated that he would like to attend but he would be travelling, Mrs Wickens also could not attend on any of the suggested dates. Mr Filgate stated that the point of the meeting was for everybody to share views on how things were being done or not being done and if a certain number of people cannot be there.

Dr Bacon suggested that the clerk would send a new Doodle Poll and extend the dates and see what results there are. Dr Bacon asked if everybody could reply to the poll. Mr Harris suggested that if people cannot come he spent a little time writing out what he thinks is going wrong, others could also do that. Mr Edwards suggested that every councillor submits a written report on what they feel is wrong and get it in so it is in front of everybody before the meeting, this would save time because everyone would have had a look before the meeting. **Action Point clerk to send out a Doodle Poll.**

## 6. Correspondence

6.1 A resident had complained about the lighting to the rear of the houses opposite the village hall. The clerk explained that she gathered it is the lights shining brightly into the bedroom

windows, she had previously written to Flagship and they refused to dim the lights. Mr Read said he thought this was same problem he complained about many months ago also Mrs Filgate complained about the same thing. Dr Bacon replied that this has come up several times about the lighting that Flagship was responsible for, the Parish Council keeps complaining, they keep disagreeing or ignoring us. **Action Point clerk to write to Flagship.**

Mr Filgate stated that one of the responses was they could not reduce the lighting because if the safety of the residents. Dr Bacon stated that if all the other residents could send a letter as well to Flagship saying we agree the lights are wrong and we put that above our so called safety they might take notice of that.

Mr Read stated that going back many years to when it was built it was asked that it should be low level lighting but the council were not forceful enough at the time to put in their objections.

6.3 Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme. Details had been circulated. The clerk explained that if the Parish needs trods or footpaths etc the County Council will meet half the cost if the Parish Council meet the other half. Dr Bacon asked for suggestions for the next meeting, the letter explained which things could be included. The clerk also stated that she needs to complete a grant application for training and this scheme could be used.

## **7. To Consider Planning Matters**

7.1 Flagship application for land to the south of Lea Road. Dr Bacon explained that a planning application had now been received. The first thing is whether the Parish Council wants to discuss this tonight or whether there is time to put this off until the next meeting when more people will know about it and more people would be prepared and whether if anybody wants to arrange a public meeting before the next meeting.

Mr Edwards stated that the time limit, he believed, comes up before the next Parish meeting. The clerk replied that she had asked for an extension of time, if it is reasonable NNDC would agreed to what the Parish Council asks, it needs to be a reasonable request.

Dr Bacon stated that the next meeting would be 4<sup>th</sup> August which would mean getting opinions in within a few days of that. The clerk stated that she has also asked for a paper copy of the plans to come in the post. Mr Edwards said that there is a lot of paperwork which he had started browsing it will take a long time to read properly. Mr Edwards stated that as he understood matters there are only three outcomes that the Parish Council can have for this; support it, oppose it or make a comment. Dr Bacon replied what often happens is sometimes the parish Council sends in something like 'no objection', sometimes we say support, sometimes we write back saying we object particularly to points x, y and z and sometimes we say we don't object but we draw your attention to certain particular points.

Mr Edwards went on to say that if we truly represent the residents as opposed to our own views we know that every man and his dog in Lea Road does not want this to go ahead. So if we represent the residents then it should be given that we are going to oppose it, they should be step one. Dr Bacon asked if Mr Edwards meant all 1,000, Mr Edwards replied that he was talking about the people who would be impacted by the development, they are the people who we should listen o the most. Mr Edwards stated that it does not affect him at all. The people who live there will be affected, the 1,000 may well have an opinion but it is not their backyard that is going to be trampled on. Mr Edwards went on to say that it can be discussed until we are blue in the face but if we truly represent the people concerned the Council should oppose it. If people disagree with that he would like to hear their reasons why it is a bad policy.

Dr Bacon explained that what should be decided is if this would be discussed now or would it be delayed, then discussed and a decision made on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

Mr Snelling (a resident) warned that because of the lack of time that anyone has managed to read it, someone the Association, Friendship Group of Lea Road had little time to read a few things out of all the pages and there is a comment in there that Flagship want the Parish Council to take responsibility for maintaining the public open space and therefore charging the Parish Council. Dr Bacon stated that normally that is District Council. Mr Snelling went on if the Parish Council start delaying this is one little policy it might be causing more problems in the future for the Parish Council and for the residents as well so we need time to read this, if we keep delaying it will cause problems. They have constraints and this has been going on so long now it should have finished in 2019, wheels have been turning and if the goalposts have been moving backwards and it is still current for the moment. It is now getting to the stage where they have had enough, too much money has been spent, we have to finish this off. Mr Snelling said if we now delay too much we are not going to be able to answer things because no one here probably has read that information. One document is ninety-one pages and who has time to understand some of the legalities.

Dr Bacon reiterated that a decision needs to be made about whether the Parish Council is going to discuss this and decided tonight or whether we are going to put it off until 4<sup>th</sup> August, he did not mind either way.

Mr Harris thought it would be ludicrous to discuss this tonight if you look at what has actually happened, the fact that this was sent out the day before the meeting is ridiculous, he believed it was bullying the inhabitants of Lea Road. They are taking advantage. Mr Harris said some of the stuff goes back three years, the Parish Council wrote a letter to NNDC recently asking for quite a lot of this information which they are now shedding out and they are giving us no time, he presumed NNDC would know the dates of the Parish Council meetings because it looks like NNDC is trying to force this through. He found that distasteful and he thought the Parish Council should not allow the bullying of the residents of Lea Road to take place in this way, they have had enough of it before and this is a straight case of bullying. Mr Harris stated that in his view the Parish Council should explain to NNDC that what they have done is unreasonable and that this should be discussed on 4<sup>th</sup> August. He thought for the Parish Council to have that period of time for residents to read this properly would then enable them to come to terms with what they have not provided us with before, we have asked for this stuff and they have not provided it. If you look at the correspondence you will see that in black and white. Some of this stuff has been literally out there for three years if you read it, they could have given it to us three years ago and they didn't.

Mr Harris went on to say that we should go back to them and say what you put to us is unreasonable for us and the residents to even consider this for this meeting tonight, we have no comment to make at all other than we think it is unreasonable. We would wish have until 4<sup>th</sup> August and then we will give you whatever opinion we can by then, we are not going to delay it. We need to come up with a decision. We need to have a measured decision which is thought through with people having read it. Mr Harris said when we had the discussion with planning at the last one, he thought we talked about some of the problems that are going on with the planning in North Norfolk, did we actually refer to that in the letters that we wrote, like their website is useless and down most of the time. The clerk said she would check. Mr Harris thought she should go back now and say there were problems raised within the Parish Council about the timing of this, it looks like to him that it is collusion.

Dr Bacon explained that it is normal procedure that when an application is received a few days before a Parish Council meeting that the clerks asks for an extension of time to make a reply and there is normally no problem with that and it is pretty certain that the Parish Council could say they will reply after the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August there would not be a problem. Mr Harris replied that the only things is last time we did say that there have been other issues about Lea Road there



is the issue of the traffic monitoring, all sorts of things, have they been doing it? That is going to come up and he did think last time that we did say that in the letters we were going to refer to the problems that we are experiencing, their website is absolutely not fit for purpose. They admit it themselves and we should refer to that and to the fact that we have not been provided with this information which we have asked for repeatedly.

Mr Snelling asked if the Parish Council is happy that in the past we have asked for information and the last meeting was held on Tuesday and the day after they then put the application in and they did not let anyone know, in the past we have always asked for information it is a general courtesy.

Cllr Price stated that the application is dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June so it has taken North Norfolk Planning, there is a huge amount of documentation to prepare. When he was campaigning for the last election with Duncan Baker MP they were approached by residents in Lea Road and they discussed the application with them, they looked at the site and he had been doing what he could to support the residents since. If you look at the correspondence trail from the last meeting he did write to the person dealing with this at Flagship and requested that they let Duncan Baker and himself know when they were going to submit an application, he received nothing from them. Also, it was not clear on the website normally that there has to be the legal yellow planning application is there one there yet? There is not. Cllr Price went on to say that normally the procedure is the planning officer comes out, places two of these and to prove they have done it then photograph it and the evidence would include the date that replies have to be submitted and the photograph of that is posted with the documents on the District Council website.

Cllr Price stated that he sat for twelve years at NNDC attended many planning applications, you can go on the website and look at the minutes of the meetings, this is a major application so it will have to go to the Development Committee. One of the biggest and most frustrating things was the fact that all the nominated consultees so many of them did not reply, they should reply so having had a quick look through the documents he has emailed with the reference number and urged a number of departments and agencies to consider this application in great detail and submit a reply to North Norfolk so that information is going to be there, on the website, it will be published, it will be there for the District Councillors who make the decision to consider. He had been on to Highways, flood people, health people who say it does not affect Catfield, how many people are going to be living on this – 81 – is there sufficient capacity in the doctors' surgeries to cope.

Dr Bacon said that there is not time to go into fine details we need to make a decision if this should be adjourned to 4<sup>th</sup> August therefore we need to make a decision now on that basis without going into the details.

Cllr Price said he was trying to give the Councillors and public information that they need to consider to help them make that decision. About the health issues, about the schools, how many children would be living there would there be sufficient capacity for those children to be accommodated in the schools. Obviously Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and Norfolk Wildlife because all these people are going to look at this and be able to respond, it is important that the Council knows that these people are going to take it seriously and that should help, they will need time to make their reports. Don't expect them to put a reply in next week. Cllr Price did not think the Parish Council should make a decision until they have seen what those people have said.

Dr Bacon stated that if the Parish Council does delay until 4<sup>th</sup> August which he thought was the sensible thing to do, there was talk before about arranging a public meeting that some people were wanting to arrange for the residents or anybody else; Parish Councillors, anyone in the parish to attend if they are going to do that it has to be done between now and 4<sup>th</sup> August. Mr

Harris said it could be on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Mrs Gardiner suggested a meeting before that because it is such a vast thing, you can't spend a normal meeting covering that, could there be a special meeting to discuss the planning. Mr Harris stated that there needs to be time for people to look at the documents, so there should be a public meeting. Mr Hill asked if it would be sensible to have the public meeting just before the Parish Council meeting. Mr Harris suggested meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August then decide on 4<sup>th</sup> August at the Parish Council meeting.

Mr Harris asked who owns Flagship, what he finds distasteful about all of this is the bullying that is going on to Lea Road they are not playing straight at all. Who owns them and why is North Norfolk pushing this. Mr Edwards believed they are a charity, a housing trust, they are not part of North Norfolk. Mr Harris asked why is North Norfolk pushing this in the way they are they are trying every trick in the book.

Mr Snelling stated that we are dealing with Flagship again what other problems are going to come up and bite us.

Dr Bacon asked if the Parish Council is now of a mind to delay their decision and discussion until 4<sup>th</sup> August. This was agreed. Mr Harris stated with a public meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Dr Bacon stated that if somebody wants to organise a public meeting that is up to somebody to organise.

Mr Harris said the Parish Council should organise it. Dr Bacon said somebody had got to organise, somebody had to chair it, Mr Harris replied that Dr Bacon could chair the meeting, Dr Bacon stated that he would rather not chair, it is a public meeting and he would rather not chair it.

Mr Harris asked if Cllr Price would chair it, but he [Cllr Price] thought that it would not be appropriate. Dr Bacon suggested that the vice-chairman might want to chair the meeting, this was agreed. Mr Read stated that he could shout as well as the Chairman and tell them to shut up.

Mr Edwards suggested that it is necessary to get the word out to everybody that the meeting is taking place. Dr Bacon asked how many people could be in the village hall in August, Mrs Gardiner replied that it would be restriction-free.

Dr Bacon recapped – it had been decided about what the Parish Council was going to do and as far as a public meeting is concerned there is going to be one on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and Mr Read has agreed to chair it. Mr Harris stated that Flagship should come, they had volunteered to come if it was organised. It was agreed that the meeting would start at 7pm.

Mrs Bailey (a parishioner) asked who would do the publicity for the public meeting, was it down to the residents to get it all out there. The clerk replied that there is time to get it in the magazine, Mrs Gardiner will do that. Mr Edwards will do some posters. Dr Bacon suggested that some people could get together outside the meeting and organise leaflets etc.

Mr Harris stated that it is entirely appropriate that it should be handled in this way, it has got to be done properly otherwise no one will feel confident about it. There should be proper procedure, a proper chance to put the cases and proper chance the following day for the Parish Council to give an opinion if they feel they can. Of course they will put in their report to North Norfolk.

8.55pm Cllr Price left the meeting.

7.2 Planning application PF/21/1516 Land at Wood Street which has been circulated and was touched at the last meeting, cover for the muck heap. Mr Harris stated that he would say the same as at the last meeting. Dr Bacon said that as the applicant is the person that Mr Harris is having a legal dispute with did he want to declare an interest, he was not stopping Mr Harris speaking but did he think he should declare an interest. Mr Harris said no. He has disputes all

over the place with Alston, it is inevitable Mr Harris took his licences away all those years ago. Dr Bacon replied that as Mr Harris said, if he is in a legal dispute with somebody he thought Mr Harris should declare it as an interest. Mrs Harris (a parishioner) interrupted saying Dr Bacon did not say that last week, get on with it. You just choose what you want to say. Dr Bacon said that he was only trying to get the procedure correct. Mr Harris replied that because he has an issue, which he had declared for many months in a road which is a long way away from this he was allowed to have opinions reflecting parishioners' views. Dr Bacon said that he was not saying Mr Harris should not speak on it, just saying for the record he should declare that there is an interest but if Mr Harris thinks he does not need to then he does not have to. Mr Harris replied that he had no financial interest in this whatsoever, could Dr Bacon explain where the financial interest is. Dr Bacon replied that there is a legal and financial implication to the legal dispute with Andrew Alston. Mrs Harris said read the minutes from last week, last week Dr Bacon said you don't have to say it anymore it's taken for granted. Dr Bacon asked Mrs Harris not to interrupt, all he was saying was he was drawing Mr Harris's attention to a potential interest if he wished to declare it or not it is up to him whether he does or not and he is deciding not, that is fine.

Mr Harris said he would seek advice from the clerk, he has no financial interest whatever in this development. He does have, which he religiously declared for months, a litigation with Mr Alston and others about damage to a hedge the other side of the village or a long way away. He did not see how that has any relevance. Dr Bacon said that he was just asking whether Mr Harris thinks he should and he said he does not. Mr Harris asked the clerk who replied it was up to Mr Harris if he wanted to declare an interest. Mr Harris reiterated that he had no financial interest, people know he has an issue in Fenside. He has had people say to him in Dr Bacon's end of the village, perhaps Dr Bacon should declare an interest as a neighbour. Mr Harris stated that the issue in Plumsgate Road is traffic, we talked about this before and it has been in the thing when we wrote about the travellers site and we had a letter well written by the clerk putting that out. The same issue applies to any development up there, the issue that Mr Harris raised last time and he thought the Parish Council needed an answer to is what are the number of horses that are allowed up there or have been agreed by North Norfolk and they have to distinguish between full livery and DIY livery because that has an effect on the traffic up the road. Mr Harris thought the Parish Council should write to the Council saying we need that information before we come to a conclusion about this and also whether they monitored that because one of the concerns he is increasingly getting about North Norfolk, if you look all over the place they never monitored the mushroom site, they never monitored Lea Road, they never monitor anything. What are the number of horses that are allowed up there and have they actually checked, because if you actually look at what's happening up there it has been expanding considerably using the farm planning because that's what appears to be and that's what has been brought to Mr Harris's attention and he thought that the Parish Council should ask those legitimate questions which were legitimate in terms of the travellers site and the other site up the road which Dr Bacon talked about, the same questions apply to the livery and therefore we should ask them.

Dr Bacon stated that his only comment on that would be that he does not see where covering a muck-heap will add one more car to the traffic in Wood Street. Mr Harris replied that he thought it could be, it is a big muck heap and it could be used for horses or other things to expand and therefore those questions should be asked. Let's get an answer and so we can give an informed reply, they are legitimate questions, they are consistent with what we have asked for other people so we ask exactly the same, there is more traffic generated by the livery than there is by the gypsy site.

Mr Read stated that if a building goes up which is protecting the muck heap which is fair comment who is to say that in three, five, ten years down the line that doesn't get filled in and used for other purposes and when that was put up for a specific purpose and that can be changed and as Mr Harris said the big problem is we have never been told the numbers of horses what is registered and licenced to keep and how they are kept whether they are people who come down

today or whether there is somebody looking after them. When Mr Read used to have his dog and walked the dog, the traffic at times in the morning was horrendous, even from the church going down that way or on Plumsgate Road and that was one of the biggest problems and because that was one of these things they have to get done before the kiddies went to school they used to come down that road very fast. The traffic was the biggest problem.

Dr Bacon stated that he thought one of the comments that could be made is if they do grant permission for it to be a cover for a muck heap that it is strictly conditioned to have no other change of use on it, that it stays as cover for a muck heap. Mr Read agreed, Mr Harris also agreed that should be one but do we need to ask those questions how many horses up there because if you look it has grown like topsy, and this has been put to Mr Harris by people living up there, near Dr Bacon, he has an interest too. Dr Bacon replied that he has an interest in it, he is a neighbour but it is not a bother to him. Mr Harris replied that Dr Bacon was bothered about traffic on that road, on Plumsgate Road. The biggest generator of traffic on that road is the livery, Mr Harris stated that personally he had nothing against it, it is a good use but what was actually agreed and is it being complied with?

Mr Hill asked if this should be brought up as a separate issue, we have been asked about a cover for a muck heap so we can ask why does the muck heap sprawl so much and he would suggest that the muck heap sprawls a lot because it is tipped out with a wheelbarrow so that is fair enough and horse muck can spread. He is required to cover it, he has put an application in to ask for a building to cover it, we are asked to consider that application. If somebody has got other concerns about some other area of the business then should that not be brought up as a separate item and considered as a separate item. Dr Bacon agreed that it should not be linked to a planning application, the planning application should be judged on its merits.

Mr Harris replied that as Mr Read pointed out what is the potential use of that for other purposes i.e. putting more horses in. Dr Bacon said that is what he said about having a specific restriction on it. Mr Harris agreed that should be put in, the Parish Council should also find out, he thought it was an entirely legitimate and relevant which he proposed we do, to say what are the rules on this and how much has it been looked at. What has been agreed in planning terms for the number of horses up there, full livery, DIY because they are the number one generator or traffic up that road which is a concern to everyone. That would be Mr Harris's proposal, it has doubled in size since it started.

Mrs Gardiner stated that the Parish Council could ask what the original planning was. This is a single application but she thought it would be worth knowing because it may well go into overuse and the Parish Council can voice their opinion on that. Mrs Gardner suggested that the clerk could contact NNDC and ask what the original planning was. Mr Harris stated that it should go in a letter, which councillors should see.

Dr Bacon asked in terms of the planning application itself for the cover for the muck, if the Parish Council was for it or against it. Mr Read replied that until the council knows the numbers he could not say one way or the other, if they have the correct number or less than is officially stated that they were allowed to fair comment, he agree, if the numbers are not right he cannot agree. Mr Harris agreed with that. Mr Filgate agreed with this, he said that the council does need to know.

Dr Bacon recapped, the Council could not give an answer yes or no to whether they support or oppose the specific application but would like further information. Mr Read stated that like the last one the council needs to have a degree of time to get these figures through and that is not pushed through the planning before we get an answer. The deadline is the following day, a response can be emailed. **Action Point clerk to respond with comments as above.**

7.3 Broads Authority planning application BA/2020/0254/FUL Habitat restoration and hydrological connectivity works at Catfield Fen. Provision of a temporary welfare facility for the duration of the works. Presumably a portaloos for people working there. Mr Harris suggested that a reply should be sent in exactly the same way as the previous application, say we are not technically competent but the council would rely on the advice of the relevant bodies who it is going to, the Broads Authority and to Natural England and the rest and if they are in favour the Council is in favour.

Dr Bacon stated that this is 300 metres to the south of Hubbards Cottage, in the Butterfly Trust land presumably. Mr Harris stated that they are proposing to try and protect a rare species which is on that site which has been the subject of Catfield public enquiry. They are trying to protect that and they are also trying to do some more restoration work. The restoration work is less significant than last year, last year they were bringing in more bulldozers to try and clean up the site, they have reduced that, they have not eliminated it. Mr Harris suggested that the Council should reply as they did last year which he thought was sensible. Mr Harris stated that the Council should better inform themselves on these issues. **Action Point clerk to respond.**

7.4 Planning application PF/21/1294 land east of the Limes. Two-storey detached dwelling and detached garage/car ports to the rear. Dr Bacon explained this is for where there was a barn which was pulled down, there had previously been an application for a house and this is a revision of that application but for a different applicant. Mr Filgate stated that as a direct neighbour and there is a border query that he is raising, this may not be the new owner or the people who drew up their plans problems but the lines do not concur and do not actually coincide with Mr Filgate's deeds for the Rose House next door. They have deeds going back to the nineteenth century which are slightly different lines and they do need to raise that with the new owners and it does affect the planning on one particular edge of the property which adjoins his property.

Mr Harris thought it looked as if it was rather large for the site but no doubt North Norfolk will take a view but it looks like overdevelopment of the site. Mr Read stated that as he understood looking at the plans they are moving it because of a boundary line. Mr Filgate replied that he believed there was reference to trees, unfortunately the drawings are exactly the same as the previous one showing the boundary as wrong, in his view, it may not be the fault of the person who drew the plans. Mr Read stated that if you look at the plan from Limes Road and you look at it, it looks to be way too big for the available land and another point is the garages and car port it says storage above, he would like it put in there that it is not converted in the future to residential. Dr Bacon agreed, it is a bit like boat sheds where they end up with a so-called sail loft becoming accommodation. Mr Read stated that it would be easy to say they did not need a garage anymore, there are three bays of garage and an upstairs as well. There should be something put in that it cannot be converted to residential. Dr Bacon stated that the cart lodge is overdone and looks like potential for future development.

Dr Bacon asked if there were any issues with the house, Mr Read replied that it is too big for the site. Mr Filgate agreed. Mrs Gardiner stated that it does not matter what the Parish Council says North Norfolk if they want it they will allow it to go through. Dr Bacon stated that the argument for saying a house that size it is in a biggish plot next door to a large house but it does not stop the Parish Council commenting that they think it should be reduced in scale a bit. Mr Read replied that it is not in character with the surrounding buildings either. Dr Bacon agreed it looked modern and for that to be squeezed between an eighteenth-century house and nineteenth-century house to have that very modern looking building was not right. Mr Harris agreed. **Action point the clerk will reply with comments about the cart lodge, the scale of the development that might be too large for the site and it ought to be scaled down.**

7.5 Plumsgate Road campsite. Dr Bacon explained that he had two or three people comment to him on this. One of the comments that particularly comes out is that a hundred yards away somebody has also developed a campsite and they went through the planning procedures, they

originally applied for a very large number and got reduced considerably but they went through the planning system and the owner of this site seems to be doing it without going through the planning system and developing a similar campsite almost next door. At the moment there has been one thing that looks like a shepherd's hut been delivered to the site, if it is meant to be just farm diversification where you can have fifty-six days using a field as temporary campsite it should not be having things like permanent shepherd's huts on it, it should be literally people coming in tents or in a towed caravan, spending a night or two and then going away again. If someone wants to develop the site for something more permanent then that would need facilities as well and it ought to be subject to a planning application.

Mr Hill asked if it is possible to have five caravans without planning permission. Dr Bacon stated that he was not sure of the numbers. Mr Edwards stated that assuming that they are affiliated to a camping or caravan club which the site owner technically will be because he has affiliated himself to Sanctuary Camping they in turn will have an English Nature licence for a five unit site. That means he can operate. Mr Edwards had read the website very carefully, when you make a booking to stay on the campsite you also become a member of Sanctuary Camping. He is allowed five units throughout the year without planning permission but there are limitations. The only thing he is allowed to do put a tank somewhere with water for washing up in, it says there is no drinking water on the site it is for washing. Mr Edwards believed the site owner he would be entitled to have an elsan disposal point for the toilets and he assumed there would be a holding tank which would be emptied. Mr Edwards went on to say that the owner has not broken any laws and he may well operate a very tidy, law abiding operation. Mr Edwards stated that he had heard the site referred to earlier in the meeting as a travellers site, it is not, it is an affiliated campsite. Mr Edwards thought Mr Read was concerned what happens if a bunch of gypsies turn up overnight and invade the place, if they were going to do that they would probably have done that by now because they wouldn't put a sign up saying campsite. Mr Edwards thought the Council should sit back with a watching brief, let the man do his business, if he runs it within the law the Parish Council is in no position to stop him, Mr Edwards is a supporter of small business but if he steps out of line obviously it is up to the Council to notice these things and report him to the appropriate people. He has covered his tracks very carefully because he is affiliated to Sanctuary Camping. Mr Edwards looked up on English Nature's website to see if they do actually have a licence and the website is not very up to date. Dr Bacon replied that they say they are certified which presumably refers to that.

Mr Edwards said that as he understands it the Sanctuary Camping people he thought they could run as many sites as they like. There are some fairly stringent codes of practice they have to adhere to and if they step out of line Sanctuary camping would step on him and in turn English Nature would step on Sanctuary Camping there are a lot of safeguards in place. Mr Edwards said he would be fearful of saying that the Parish Council is against because the man openly admits to being a gypsy. Mr Edwards went on to say that it would introduce five holidaymaker units to the village each time, he recognised that there are concerns about traffic on Plumsgate Road but it is so near to the end. Dr Bacon asked if Highways gives any opinions on this kind of thing. Mr Edwards replied that if they are operating within the law and they are entitled to run a camp site on the land, if highways came and said they were concerned about cars and kids and tents to the owner of the land, he would say where is the problems because there are tractors going up and down all the time, there are horse boxes, where is the problem. Mr Edwards believed it could end up operating very nicely, if he is operating within the law so be it, it is five units that would maybe be patronising the village shop, the pub, he looks at the positive side of things.

Mrs Gardiner stated that Lessingham Star is also labelled as a Sanctuary site and the other day there were so many tents on the site. Mr Edwards replied that they could operate all through the year with the limit of five units or they could use the fifty-six days and fill the field as full as they like within the safety boundaries. If they classify it as a rally with lots of caravans turning up that would be not so good because twenty-five lots of people who all know each other and the

beer starts flowing might not be so good for the neighbours but fortunately, with the exception of one, there are not any near neighbours. Dr Bacon stated that some of the other sites locally are also down very bad roads for instance near Sutton church or Lessingham. Dr Bacon stated that in terms of North Norfolk planners he thought that all the Council could say is that could they make sure that whatever is going on there is within the law and within planning laws if there is anything relevant.

Mr Harris stated that the only things the Council had not talked about which was in the letter that went out was the black water which is very close to an SSSI. Dr Bacon replied that beside the site is a ditch which goes down to Handmarsh and Sutton Broad. Mr Harris stated that he agreed with what Mr Edwards said but clearly that is an issue because of the SSSI very close.

## **8. Environmental Matters**

8.1 Dog bins. Mr Edwards said that as he understands from the minutes of the last meeting it was agreed to forge ahead on everything that was in his paper apart from the problem with the siting of the bin outside the Old Chapel. Mr Edwards asked for an update for information as far as the Chapel was concerned because it is becoming confusing, has the owners of the Old Chapel ever approached the Parish Council asking them to move the bin, the clerk replied that they had not. Mr Edwards went on that as he understands matters there was a mess there a couple of weeks ago the bin was overflowing, he believes that was mainly down to Serco not performing within their contract, he could not prove it was pretty sure that was the case. He believed a resident contact NNDC directly, made a complaint and NNDC acted quite swiftly got it emptied and they have now agreed temporary additional collection arrangements free of charge.

The siting of the bin where it is now was decided, no doubt after considerable consideration, by the Parish Council of the day and it would appear it is a very popular route with the dog walkers so one would argue that it had been well sited. The fact that the resident has not formally asked for it to be moved, there was a bit about them paying to have it moved obviously had no substance to it. For the moment it should stay where it is surely and they forge ahead with the other bins that were decided on and get the order in, if the clerk wants to mark up as subject agreed as an action point so be it. If it was to come up that they definitely want the bin moved, he had a bit of a problem with it in that the point where it is sited and the Council agreed to that, it was considered quite ok to site the bin opposite the house of God but when some man comes along and buys a converted chapel suddenly it is not a good place for it. It's not fair. As it stands it was agreed by the Council, no one has complained about officially, NNDC have been proactive in making sure it got emptied. Mr Edwards would like to set up a monitoring program, and he would do it, so he could check just how often they fill up and we can try a gauge what is actually needed as a schedule for collection because the Council pays each time they come round.

Dr Bacon stated that the Parish Council did make a decision last time which cannot just be automatically overturned at this meeting, the decision was made to buy x,y and z and placing them so we have to go ahead with that. Mr Edwards agreed that was fine, he was just saying we need to make sure that we are only paying for the number of collections that are needed, he thought NNDC did a knee jerk reaction, he did not think it was necessary to have double collection. Maybe one bin would be used more than another, it is something that can be monitored and come up with a satisfactory program to move onwards. Mr Edwards believed from his enquiries it is very easy to change the schedule without too much problem.

Mrs Bailey (a parishioner) asked that the bin lid is actually mended on that dog bin because it just falls off, it either needs to replace the whole bin or put a proper lid on it because it is ridiculous. Mr Hill said that it needs to be either replaced or mended. Dr Bacon stated that he straightened it a couple of years ago but it had been knocked sideways again. Mr Hill asked if it means the Parish Council has to purchase a new bin, with the new bins were there any options on the colour. The clerk replied that she had not received a response.

Mr Edwards said that with regard to colour when you drive through any village everyone knows that a red bin is the dog bin and if change that there could be confusion. Mr Edwards asked the clerk to go ahead with what was agreed, the chapel bin stays where it is but maybe instruct NNDC to do maintenance on it, it needs some repairs. Dr Bacon replied that he thought NNDC only do replacement not repair. Mr Harris stated that it was said at the last meeting that the resident did not like the one proposed for Church Road and it would be possible if it was thought sensible from the Chapel to have one the other side of the road anyway. **Action Point clerk to order new dog bins and have the bin near the Chapel mended or replaced.**

8.2 Johnny Crowe Staithe. Dr Bacon reported that he was going to go with Mr Filgate and Mr Read to see the person concerned, soon after the last meeting he moved away but today Dr Bacon received a message to say he was back again. He will fix a date to go and see him with Mr Filgate and Mr Read. He presumes it is the same person.

8.3 Highway Issues. Mr Edwards stated that there are potholes reappearing in difference places, the clerk said if he gives her a list, she will report them. **Action Point Mr Edwards to provide a list, clerk to report the potholes.**

## 9. Recreation Grounds

The RoSPA report had been received. Mr Edwards asked if there are any implications for the Parish Council, he read the report the issues were fairly minor so there is no worry for the kids to carry on using the equipment. Dr Bacon agreed there are no immediate warnings about safety that cannot wait until the next meeting. Mr Filgate stated that there are considerable issues, it was a very thorough report. It was agreed to discuss next meeting.

Mr Read reported that there were kids on the playground about 10.15pm kicking balls into the wall, he could hear them from his house. He did not know what ages they were. **Action Point clerk to ask the police to patrol.**

## 10. Finance

10.1 Bank Reconciliation. This had been circulated. Mrs Wickens proposed this should be approved, seconded by Mr Filgate with all in agreement and was signed by Mr Harris.

10.2 To approve payments:

101373 for £106 payable to HMRC for tax;

101374 for 50 payable to R Nichols for cutting the Rond

101375 for 90.60 payable to RoSPA Playsafe for the playground inspection.

The clerk's salary will be paid by standing order.

Mr Filgate proposed that the payments were made, seconded by Mr Harris with everyone in agreement.

## 11. Progress Reports for Information

11.1 Village Hall. Mrs Gardiner reported that things will change and hopefully get back to normal. Mr Read stated that the kitchen door is the emergency exit. Mrs Gardiner replied that it was at the moment. Mr Read stated that it is now getting dark there are a lot of overgrown grass, somebody could trip over the pipe. Mrs Gardiner replied that the pipe should not be there and it has been mentioned, it should have been underground and done properly. Mr Hill stated that he and Mr Read had asked for the pipe to be above ground because the underground system is completely chock a block and they agreed to do a temporary job to get rid of the water away from the footings of the hall where it was all laying and ponding and the contractor did what was asked. Mr Read agreed it was a temporary job because they did not want to spend a lot of money because of the extension going on. Mr Gardiner stated that the problem is if there is a function and the caterers normally park down the side, the grass cannot be cut now with a machine. Mr



Hill said that the idea was that you were supposed to be able to pick the pipe up and do whatever you want and then put it back so you should still be able to cut the grass but Andy Man did do exactly what he was asked to do. Mrs Gardiner stated that the people on a Monday are complaining that they might not see the pipe and someone might fall over it.

Dr Bacon asked if the grass cutter normally cuts that piece of grass, he does. That should not stop the grass cutter doing his normal cut, he could just miss the pipe. It's not as if he takes a tractor out there. Mrs Daniels (a parishioner) remarked that there is a concrete block. Mr Hill replied that the pipe is sitting on the concrete block. It is beside the block. Dr Bacon will trim the grass outside the front and down the side.

11.2 All Saints Church. Dr Bacon reported that there is still no vicar and the churchyard is still being maintained by volunteers.

11.3 Poors Trust. Nothing to report.

## **12. Website**

Dr Bacon asked if this could be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Edwards suggested that he would not do a website because it would be a conflict of interest but he was happy to advise. He suggested that he could put together a list of the different things you can and can't have on a website of course the more you have the more you end up paying. Perhaps he could circulate this before the next meeting and see what the consensus is of what people would like to see from their website. Do we want the bare minimum or something more. How far should the minutes be archived, how many years should they go back. Would the council like some local advertising then we could go ahead and get some quotes.

Dr Bacon said that the clerk had some discussions with the person who did the Potter Heigham website.

Mr Read said where the agenda say improve or new, he personally believes the Council should have their own website rather than improve the mess that there is at the moment. Dr Bacon agreed.

## **13. Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in the village hall with the public meeting being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

## **14. Any Other Business**

Mr Edwards said that in another village he saw a sign for dog fouling and asked the clerk if she could make enquiries for them. Mr Edwards thought it would be a good idea to have a fairly substantial article in the magazine we are clamping down on dog mess. Whether we are not, so long as people believe there are fines for those that get caught because it is one thing to have the bins. Mr Edwards passed the clerk a copy of the sign. Dr Bacon stated that there is a sign like that at the church.

Mrs Harris (a parishioner) asked if the council had organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> August as the public meeting for Lea Road so all the Councillors come, is that organised. Somebody has got to take over so people know it is happening. Mrs Harris asked if everybody had agreed.

Mr Edwards stated that the residents should get the word around. Mrs Harris replied that there is no point in doing this if there are no councillors here.

Mr Harris stated that it is a formal Parish Council meeting so the Parish Council will all come and Victory Housing are going to be invited, the parish magazine is going to publicise it but Lea Road will get the posters out. Is that what was agreed? The clerk confirmed that. Mr Harris went on that it would be chaired by Mr Read, that is his understanding of what was agreed. Mr Filgate stated a formal Parish Council meeting. Mr Harris said so there would be two Parish Council meetings. Dr Bacon replied that it would not be a formal Parish Council meeting because

presumably at that meeting Parish Councillors and members of the public would be equally free to chip in so it is not a Parish Council meeting where it is Councillors and public as separate people, everybody is there together Parish Councillors and residents and anybody else.

Mr Harris replied that Dr Bacon makes a good point, we have to agree the terms reference and he would be happy with that if Mr Read is going to chair it, everybody should be able to have their free speech. It is a proper formal meeting, and we are going to hear all the arguments and the next day the Parish Council will decide as a body if they agree it or not. The clerk asked if this would be minuted, Mr Harris said yes otherwise what's the purpose of it. To have what the arguments are he thought would be a good thing to have it down.

Dr Bacon stated that to him it is not a Parish Council meeting, it is a public meeting which happens to be called by some members of the public and some members of the Council and he also thought it would not be the job of the Parish Clerk to minute that meeting, it is either unminuted or the meeting arranges its own minutes. Mr Harris thought this is a proper meeting summoned by the Parish Council because we are saying and which we volunteered before that there would be a meeting, public meeting called when the planning came in. Dr Bacon replied that a public meeting is different from a Parish Council meeting.

Mr Harris said a public meeting summoned by the Parish Council. Dr Bacon stated that there is an important difference, it is not a Parish Council meeting, it is a meeting which some members of the Parish Council are involved in calling and the people who attend it are all on equal footing, members of the public, residents, parish councillors are all members of the public for that meeting.

Mr Harris said this is where he takes issue, he thought the Parish Council as a body have actually agreed that it would be right to have the public meeting and they have actually hired the hall and are doing it to enable it to happen. Dr Bacon agreed with that. Mr Harris went on to say that he would be happy for Dr Bacon to chair it but Dr Bacon does not want to because presumably he wants to speak freely, that does not bother him, he thought it was fair but it is a proper meeting of the Parish Council. Mrs Harris said it was an official meeting.

Dr Bacon asked for other opinions on this and asked who thought it would be a formal meeting of the Parish Council. Mr Read added that he personally thought that it really concerns all the Parish Councillors if they choose for whatever reason that they can't come or they don't want to come they have no consideration when the Parish Council puts anything to a vote because they don't know what has happened, they won't know the feelings of the parishioners and what they said because they had not been to hear it so the Parish Council should be at the meeting.

Dr Bacon replied that Parish Councillors should be at the meeting, it is different from saying it is a formal meeting of the Parish Council. He agreed that Councillors should attend and probably most of them would be.

Mr Edwards stated that if councillors are here as a Parish Council, they have to behave themselves, if he was here as a resident and he get a little bit heated and say something a bit nasty to one of the Flagship people in a fit of anger he is not having to abide by any Code of Conduct, he is just a parishioner so it is a double edged sword. He could see the value of it being a Parish Council meeting with some sort of formality and substance to it but on the other hand it might constrain what can be said.

Dr Bacon thought it was a very important legal difference that it is not a meeting of the Parish Council even though most Parish Councillors are likely to attend.

Mr Harris thought it had to be called by the Parish Council. Dr Bacon said called by, attended by but not a formal Parish Council meeting.

Mr Jordan stated that if Mr Read is the Chairman surely when we have the Parish Council meeting the following day Mr Read's points or minutes or summary is then bringing that to the Parish Council. There was agreement on this.

Mr Harris stated that the risk is the Parish Council don't do that the parishioners will think the Council are washing their hands of it and he thought that was a mistake. Dr Bacon replied that he was all in favour of holding the meeting and the Parish Councillors being there but legally it is either a Parish Council meeting or it is not a Parish Council meeting.

Mrs Harris stated that Dr Bacon was splitting hairs, just say that it is an extraordinary consultation.

Dr Bacon said it is a public meeting, including Parish Councillors attending it, Mr Hill agreed with Dr Bacon otherwise if it is a Parish Council meeting the clerk has got to minute it and all the things. Dr Bacon stated that also if it is a Parish Council meeting it would be a case of Parish Councillors have priority in terms of speaking and members of the public are only invited if the Chair wants to invite them to speak. It is a public meeting for anyone in the parish to come to.

Mrs Bailey (a parishioner) asked how are we going to make sure we get Flagship to the meeting because unless they attend what is the point. Dr Bacon doubted that they would attend, they can be asked.

Mr Harris stated that this makes him jittery about it because it is being set up for failure which is a mistake and more poison will be introduced into the parish. We should have this called by the Parish Council and write to Flagship taking them up on, they said they would attend. The clerk should write and the format of the meeting should be called by the Parish Council and organised by the Parish Council and minuted by the Parish Council. Mr Harris said Dr Bacon did not want to chair the meeting because it would give him more opportunity to speak, he personally would be quite relaxed with that. To actually not use the dignity of the Parish Council is a mistake in his view because it will lead to potential failure and it leads to that lot saying here we go. He thought the Parish Council should be very careful about that and vote on it because he thought a vote had been taken before.

Mr Hill stated that even if the Parish Council request that Flagship come, they cannot make them. Dr Bacon stated that the Parish Council are organising a public meeting, it is not a Parish Council meeting. Mr Hill agreed. Mrs Bailey stated that unless there are both sides there or Flagship and what the villagers feel how can you have a consultation if they are not there to consult. Dr Bacon replied that the Parish Council can only invite them.

Mr Harris stated that he was not sure the rule book actually covers this but the Parish Council is able to call an extraordinary meeting which is what we are doing this is an extraordinary situation, we should call an extraordinary meeting, that would be his proposal. Mr Harris said as Dr Bacon rightly wants the right to speak freely rather than from the chair, fine we should recognise that and for that reason we are having Mr Read being the chair but the structure should be the same otherwise you will lose the dignity of this office.

The clerk stated that if the meeting is an official Parish Council meeting and the chairman is present, the chairman has to chair the meeting. Mr Harris replied then he would have to chair, he could not see what Dr Bacon has against it, it is possible to speak freely from the chair.

Mr Hill said that Mr Edwards made a very good point if he wants to speak as a parishioner at the meeting he is free to do that as it is a public meeting. Mr Harris replied that he could speak as the

chairman as a parishioner, let him speak and give his opinions. Mr Hill said that as a member of the council if he wants to speak freely which he might want to if it is a public meeting he has got the freedom to do that. Mr Harris stated that when you speak they are looking at you as a parish councillor. Mr Hill replied that if it is a public meeting he would be speaking as a member of the public.

Dr Bacon stated that the council needs to get to a decision on this. Mr Snelling interrupted saying that the parishioners ask for help and for assistance is there anything that the council can do to help. Dr Bacon stated that all they can say it is either a Parish Council meeting or a public meeting.

Mr Harris said he was suggesting that we call an extraordinary meeting, it's why we said this originally let's get into how we were three hours ago or whenever, what was said that should we be able to do it on 4<sup>th</sup> and Mrs Gardiner said it would crowd everything else out. That is how this started so we were talking in those terms as Parish Council meeting. He thought everyone should speak freely.

Dr Bacon said that in that case it needs to be put to the vote one way or the other it is either a Parish Council meeting or it is a public meeting.

Mr Edwards asked members of the public for their opinion, Mrs Harris said it should be an extraordinary meeting.

Mrs Wickens proposed that it is a public meeting. Mrs Harris said with all councillors attending. Mr Hill seconded the proposal, there were three in favour.

Mr Harris proposed that to reflect the interest which we have just heard from that lot that we should have a proper Parish Council meeting and if Dr Bacon chooses not to chair it then that is his own thing and Mr Read can do it. Mr Read seconded this, that it should be an extraordinary meeting. There were three in favour.

Dr Bacon stated that there is a split three..... Mrs Harris interrupted saying that she feels sorry for the poor people who live on Lea Road or any place in Catfield because the Parish Council doesn't reflect them, they are just thinking of themselves. Dr Bacon went on, there is a split vote three/three and three abstentions, that means the Chairman has a casting vote and he voted for a public meeting and so the casting vote is for a public meeting.

Mr Read said that he was sorry to let down the people of the parish and he left the meeting.

Mrs Snelling (a parishioner) said it was disgusting to the Chairman and said it had been a charade, disgraceful. Mr Snelling (a parishioner) said the Eastern Daily Press had been in contact, there has been interest in the media and they had contacted certain people and he has asked them be careful with any information that it handed out but he feel that the people who had spoken to him about it they may well want to go ahead with certain actions, there has also been communications and rumours as well that certain people have been in communications with third parties. Therefore he suggested that not upsetting the parishioners is such a good idea, talking to them a bit more might be better than upsetting the entire village and people on the council, we need to work together. Mrs Snelling said there are other people in the village who are supporting them and she asked Dr Bacon "why "don't you". Dr Bacon replied that he did not say that he doesn't, we are just voting on the procedures for a meeting. Mrs Snelling called Dr Bacon a fibber saying that she speaks on behalf of all Lea Road, all of it. Mr Snelling stated that they have asked the Parish Council to help them, that is the main thing. There are so many personal things going on it should not matter, people need to work together and help each other. There has already been data breach in communications in this meeting alone, the last few meetings he had recorded multiple data breaches. He has not said he would have to write emails and accuse

everyone and get legal lawyers in there. Dr Bacon replied that if Mr Snelling thought there was a date breach then report it to who he thinks he should.

Mr Snelling went on that the Council are going for training that is trying to sort things out, what we need to learn by all the measures and policies and everything that are now coming out, in the future there is going to be huge changes and everybody in the village are going to have to work closer together and there is more on that at another time. There is a professional report coming out which will cover a small quantity of the future of the village and it would be an interesting read but there will be more information to come out. There are things here that will affect a lot but he could not say some things but he implored everyone, land owners, people who just own a house here please work together. If the residents are asking for help please could the Council have a think about how they can help the village and if they say there is no way of doing it then they are going to have to say it through them but if there is something they can do to help the people here in the village brilliant.

Mr Harris asked how was this going to be reported in the magazine because what he understood, Mr Snelling interrupted that he could not have it that the parishioners have fallen out with the Parish Council. Mr Harris went on to say what has to be recorded. Mrs Snelling interrupted that there are people who are housebound and they can't get out.

Mr Hill asked if she would accept that they could get help and the Parish Council have called a public meeting so there can be a meeting so the Parish Council have organised something to try and help. Mrs Snelling stated that he appreciated what Mr Hill was saying but it comes back to the question, the Council asked what they would prefer. Mr Edwards stated that he did look round and asked the residents, they are now saying the Council don't care.

Mr Snelling said it was so hard when there are multiple people concerned here to get a yes/no answer. Mr Edwards replied that it has now been agreed that it is a public meeting we will have to live with that but what he would say is what the Parish Council owe the residents is to listen carefully to everything said at the public meeting, take that into the following night's Parish Council meeting and act and vote accordingly that way it will be argued they are supporting the residents, having listened to all they have to say the night before in a matter which it would appear some people here will come forward. Mr Edwards stated that he could see it working out ok for the residents either way but it has to be a good public meeting and it has to be, Mr Read has gone now, he is chairing it. Mr Edwards stated that he thought the clerk had said Dr Bacon has to chair the meeting, the clerk replied not if it was a public meeting. Mr Edwards stated that he hoped Mr Read runs the meeting in such a way that if people are getting out of control he will keep order. If Flagship turn up people would listen to them.

Dr Bacon stated that the meeting has ended but the conversation could carry on.

Mr Harris stated that his understanding when there was a vote before it was clear the request was from the floor that there should be parish meeting a formal parish meeting, that was his understanding that these guys actually said and that should be recorded and the vote they turned that down for right or wrong they decided not to do that but the request was that we made a formal meeting because there are implications about the inviting of Flagship and Mrs Gardiner quite rightly pointed out NNDC should be here.

Mr Hill stated that it was his understanding that after there had been a discussion was that it was going to a public meeting, we agreed was going to happen. Mr Harris agreed a public meeting but not public which was a parish meeting, not just because half of this lot. Mr Harris stated that it was his understanding that it was a public meeting not a parish council meeting. Mr Harris said Parish Council public meeting is what was proposed because that is what these guys wanted because it is a more formal structure and easier to get Flagship and also NNDC which he agreed

should be invited and that is what was said and these guys, the ones who are still left please help us please do that and then we turned it down, that was his understanding or what happened.

Mrs Wickens stated that Mr Harris added two words in the middle, it was decided a public meeting and now Mr Harris has just called it a public parish council meeting. Mr Harris replied that is what we voted on, that is what he was voting and you turned it down. Mrs Wickens went on to say earlier when we were discussing this earlier it was decided that it would be a public meeting that is why Dr Bacon said he did not want to chair the public meeting and it is going in the magazine. Mr Harris stated that he did not understand any of that and that is probably why his wife, very rightly, asked the question.

Dr Bacon stated that he was clear all along that as far as he was concerned all through the meeting we were arranging a public meeting. Mr Harris said that he misunderstood that and clearly these guys did. Mr Harris thought it was mistake because once again we are no taking responsibility for this, he is happy for Dr Bacon to speak his own opinion, he has been speaking as Chairman for years anyway.

Mr Snelling asked how can the Parish Council help the residents to achieve a formal way of having a meeting with ideas to come out. Dr Bacon replied that is what the Parish Council has done, they have arranged a public meeting. Mr Snelling asked if the notes that are written down by a public meeting, are they legally official to go to the Parish Council to be recorded. Mr Jordan replied that there is no difference from Mr Snelling bringing a point forward, so the points can be brought to the Parish Council. Mr Harris said he would have to look at the rule book, clearly Dr Bacon and perhaps the Mrs Wickens looked at it beforehand because you have to go into what is declaring an exceptional meeting because he thought that the Parish Council was declaring an exceptional meeting because the structure of the meeting we have this in the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> August, on the Wednesday which is a formal Parish Council meeting, that is the structure in which it was discussed and then what was said quite rightly by Mrs Gardiner that she thought it would crowd out everything else it needs to be separate. That was the structure, no one said this is not a formal meeting, not at all so if you have managed to introduce that he thought it was a mistake and he thought it had been done by manipulation rather than direct and the Parish Council has not met the requirements of parishioners, he thought that given the background on what has happened on Lea Road is a serious error.

Mr Jordan asked if the minutes would needed to be formally adopted from the meeting. Mr Harris said yes sure adopted the minutes all you are going to do at this meeting and rightly is hear what they and other parishioners, there are many parishioners who think there should be more public housing, there has been a debate which the police have been involved in about where it should go but that is an issue and he was very much in favour of people having the opportunity to express those views but what the Council has done is made it slightly, or we have washed our hands or it, and that is what they will think. That is what they have said which is why half of them walked out.

Mr Edwards said that he had now listened to these guys, he misunderstood earlier on what the general feeling was, he took notice of Mrs Bailey had to say and he asked what they would prefer, he felt that he misunderstood things, he thought we owe to these people they have made it very clear now the council is not offering what they want. He proposed changing that opinion and it becomes a Parish Council meeting. Dr Bacon replied that it was too late for that now, the meeting is closed.

Mrs Harris said that Dr Bacon could not say that, Mr Hill agreed that the Chairman had said the meeting was closed and there was a proper vote, it was all done through the proper channels. Dr Bacon stated that very unhappily he ended up having to make a casting vote which he did not like having to do.

Mrs Snelling said that Dr Bacon should tell Flagship or Victory Housing that Dr Bacon is for it because it was overheard saying. Dr Bacon replied that is one of the reasons why he does not want to chair the meeting.

Mr Harris stated that Mrs Wickens was not correct, what actually happened in the discussion was that he said the Council was going to have it on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr Bacon stated that all along it has been discussed for months, Mr Harris said that was not correct, Dr Bacon went on for months the Council has been talking about having a public meeting on the subject and inviting somebody like Cllr Price to chair it. Mr Harris agreed that was right but that it would be a formal meeting. Dr Bacon replied that earlier on Mr Harris asked Cllr Price if he was willing to chair the meeting, Mr Harris agreed saying there is no reason why he should not for an extraordinary meeting. Dr Bacon replied that Cllr Price could not chair a Parish Council meeting, he could chair a public meeting. Mr Harris said set up by the Parish Council, he can but this is not a meeting set up by the Parish Council, we would have to look at the rule book, perhaps we should ask the clerk because we have the rights under the Standing orders to call for extraordinary meeting, that is what he thought we were doing.

Mr Hill stated that they could listen to the tape again, Mr Harris was quite right saying that Mrs Gardiner said if this meeting was on 4<sup>th</sup> August it would crowd the meeting out then we moved in the direction of discussing, what he always understood to be, a public meeting and his understanding as it was agreed to have a public meeting. Dr Bacon said a public meeting with somebody like Cllr Price chairing it was the original. Mr Hill replied that Cllr Price said he could not which is understandable so he is sorry if he has misunderstood but that was his understanding all the way through that it was a public meeting.

Mr Harris said you can have a public meeting with the parish, under the parish's aegis, he would ask the clerk if you can do that. Mr Hill said he was not saying you can't do that, he was saying that is what he thought had been agreed to have a public meeting. Mr Harris said it was not made clear because this lot will go away thinking they have been cheated, he thought it was such an error on Lea Road, it is such an emotive thing and once again this is why, and Dr Bacon should look at himself he did not make any of this clear, The only person who made this clear was his wife who again asked Dr Bacon perhaps she should be reported to the police for that.

Dr Bacon replied that he made it very clear that we were talking about a public meeting and earlier on there was even discussion about Cllr Price chairing that public meeting. Mr Snelling said if the Parish Council can't agree to help. Mr Harris said that Dr Bacon did not make it clear he did not fulfil his function as a chairman at all.

Mrs Gardiner said to Mr Snelling that she did not think the Parish Council had refused to help and she suggested that they definitely contact Flagship and if the clerk does not want to do it she would do as we need to contact NNDC we need them to come, they must come to that meeting.

Mrs Harris said they won't it has to be Parish Council. Mr Harris said that it was not made clear about the chairman.

Mr Filgate said that he was not sure even if the Parish Council call other authorities to come to a meeting they would have to. His concern about making the public meeting a Parish Council meeting is Parish Council meetings have a very clear structure, business that has to be gone through, agenda, minutes you cannot have a full and frank detailed discussion and listen to all the views, as Mr Edwards pointed out ninety-one pages of the planning.

Mrs Harris said an extraordinary Parish Council meeting.

Dr Bacon stated that as a Parish Council meeting it would be two classes of citizens, it would be Parish Councillors and there would be members of the public, that is wrong this should be a public meeting where everyone is equal. Mr Snelling said that they don't have enough help from the Parish Council.

Mr Harris said there is the rule book which he had read before this meeting but you can call an extraordinary meeting under the rules. He did not know what the limits of that and he suspect in the interest of democracy to try and make it fit the purpose and the purpose of this is to have a public meeting, under the aegis of us lot so it is a formal meeting not something organised by them which actually has authority and would influence what the Parish Council does the next day. We unfortunately will be interpreted at turning our backs. Dr Bacon replied that it will be a formal meeting, it will be chaired as a formal meeting. Mrs Harris said they had already voted, so if you get another two people or one why do we even have the planning meeting because he had already made sure that it was.

Mr Filgate stated the he thought the Parish Council had already written to Victory Housing and officially asked them as a Parish Council to come to a meeting. Mr Harris agreed and said but will they, we need to put it under our authority that they actually know is the Parish Council inviting them rather than them, that is what we are actually discussing.

Dr Bacon replied that it is the Parish Council calling the meeting but it is calling a public meeting, so the Parish Council will invite Flagship and North Norfolk. Mr Harris said so it will be a formal meeting of the Parish Council, Dr Bacon replied no. Mr Harris went on not a Parish Council meeting. Dr Bacon explained the Parish Council have organised a meeting and they are inviting Flagship and North Norfolk to attend it.

Mr Harris asked if anybody had looked at the rule book to see what we can or can't do, had Dr Bacon looked at this. Dr Bacon replied no. Mrs Harris asked how can Dr Bacon have an opinion. Dr Bacon replied that for months he had been working on the assumption that there was going to be a public meeting and last time it was decided we can't have the public meeting until we know there is an actual planning application in. Mr Harris said when we had the discussion earlier about should we do the 4<sup>th</sup> August why didn't Dr Bacon say you can't do that it is a Parish Council meeting, he did not say a thing. The conversation that he had with Mrs Gardiner was exactly what went on and you can find it on the tape.

Mrs Harris said there should be a vote of no confidence in the chairman.

Mr Snelling said the public open spaces affect the cost; how many other costs are in there that Flagship could put over to the village. Mrs Snelling said that is before they have even started. Mr Snelling said because if we still have problems with the lights with Flagship how are we going to deal with any other things. They don't look after the things for the lifetime of the development which is approximately hundred years but as you can see they keep pushing and pushing over to the Parish Councils. Mrs Harris replied because they know our Parish Council, they don't have to do anything. Nothing gets done in Catfield.

Mr Edwards said that it would appear nothing further can be done tonight, he has listened very carefully, the decision has been made and there is nothing he can do about it. This meeting would appear to be a public meeting and he did not think much can be done unless there some technicalities that can be called upon from the rule book. Mr Harris said unfortunately we don't know the technicalities here because he would like to have seen us enable it so we can do under the Parish Council, that is the sensible thing. Mr Harris said we can't ask the clerk because she won't know, Mrs Harris said our clerk does not know.



Mr Edwards stated that it was very frustrating to sit here at his first Parish Council meeting and be leaving shortly knowing that we have left the parishioners disgruntled he has joined this thing to do quite the opposite. He was not there for any personal benefit or glory and he would just do what the people want done. Mrs Harris said this has been the Parish Council for the last thirty years, because it has been run like that, people come on and want to do something and when they can't then they leave. Mr Harris said that Mr Jordan abstained, Mr Jordan replied that he did because he did not fully understand it. Mr Harris said Mr Jordan could have come up with a different proposal perhaps we should. Another proposal is see we can find a solution to this which makes it a formal meeting which allows Dr Bacon and other to speak freely without embarrassment, that is what we really want. Mr Jordan replied then that is what should have been proposed so Mr Harris asked why don't we have that vote again, we haven't closed the meeting.

Dr Bacon stated that he had closed the meeting, he said the meeting was closed and we can't retake a vote and reverse it.

Mrs Harris asked who says that, does Dr Bacon know the rules. Dr Bacon replied that he knows some of them and one of the rules is to reverse a decision you are supposed to wait until not even the next meeting but longer than that. Mr Harris said that unfortunately he thought there has been a misapprehension in how it's been briefed for this as he has pointed out more than once, he did not believe Dr Bacon closed the meeting because Mr Harris said no we want to talk some more about it which is what we have been doing since and it does look like we have made a mistake. Mr Harris thought the Parish Council ought to try and find a route out of it and that would be the judicious thing to do, the sensible thing to do, find a route out of this which covers both houses. At the moment you are going to have that lot saying they have been cheated and by Dr Bacon, that is not a good thing, not good for any of us. This has been the most disagreeable, in case Dr Bacon was not listening, experience of his whole business life, and he had dealt with the Russians. Much easier dealing with the Russians than the Parish Council in Catfield. More flexible, more welcoming.

Mr Hill stated that it was not reasonable to blame Dr Bacon we have a Parish Council everyone had a discussion and then took a vote, a method was agreed on, took a vote the vote went through the proper channels it was a result. Mr Harris stated that what he said, so we understand each other is that he (Dr Bacon) was we discussed this in terms of a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> and that is what we understood was going on, that is the whole of the discussion. Mr Hill replied that he thought Mrs Gardiner said it would crowd it out. Mr Harris said therefore we did not say oh no this is a different formal meeting, and he was saying that the Chairman introduced a new element at that late stage so we were not properly advised of what was going on so we voted in ignorance.

Mr Hill stated that Mrs Wickens thought she understood. Mr Harris said she may have understood it but you were not briefed by the Chairman, he did not think Mrs Gardiner or Mr Jordan understood it.

Mr Hill stated that at a public meeting we all have the same opportunity to present whatever to Flagship or whoever might be here to discuss with each other and he understood perfectly it would be a public meeting. Mr Harris replied that it would be under the aegis of the Parish Council because the invitation has to say this is a Parish Council meeting which is going to open up as an extraordinary one, which is going to open up this issue for discussion not for decision, the decision will be made the next day, that is what we talked about and that is what he understood. We did have this directed by the Chairman properly and that was fair and then we see that what happened from that lot because they said.

Dr Bacon asked to quote from the minutes of the last meeting "Response from Flagship Housing, Lea Road. It was agreed that no further discussion was necessary until a planning application had

been received. Mr Harris stated that there was no point in having a public meeting until there is an application from Flagship and then see if Cllr Price could get someone to chair a public meeting. No Information has been received as yet. Cllr Price asked to be informed when the planning application comes in". Dr Bacon said this is the public meeting.

Mr Harris said the public meeting, we invite the public as the Parish Council to come to the meeting. Dr Bacon reiterated "to arrange a public meeting and to ask Cllr Price to chair it".

Mr Harris said but that is under the aegis of us and he asked the question what the standing orders actually say about extraordinary meetings and whether we could not find a solution to this problem which makes it a formal meeting in which Dr Bacon can speak freely and the rest of us can because it is not a decision meeting, this is a meeting that actually airs the views and then the next day is a formal meeting.

Mr Hill stated that if it is an extraordinary meeting of a Parish Council it would still have the same structure as a normal meeting, he thought he would be right in saying that because it is, although an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council it is still a meeting of the Parish Council. Mr Harris asked Mr Hill if he had read the Standing Orders. Mr Hill went on to say that the structure under which it was run would be the same structure as a normal Parish Council meeting. Mr Harris said that the trouble is Mr Hill does not know that, he had not read the Standing Orders, nor had he. Mr Harris said what he was asking the clerk for is to avoid this unpleasantness which is now self-evident whether there is any way that we could do that and to cover both these bases to make it a formal meeting but one where Parish Councillors, it is not a decision one it is purely and information one can be achieved. If we did that we would actually get the support of the village.

Dr Bacon stated that it is a public meeting and it is as formal as you care to make it, as the chairman at the time makes it. Mrs Harris said that everybody knows that it is like a wedding she can pretend to be married but if there is nothing official with it you are not married.

Mr Snelling said the residents they asked for help and it was not discussed that letter would that be better it then suddenly became votes and some decisions. You voted without communications.

Mr Harris said the Dr Bacon rammed the vote through without actually explaining what he was up to, or what the implications were. Mr Harris said Dr Bacon should recognise it and try and get out of this mess. Mr Hill stated that he was sorry he misunderstood but his understanding was perfectly clear as was Mrs Wickens all the way through. Mrs Harris said Mr Hill was just a yes sayer as usual.

Mr Snelling said there was a very confusing situation the residents were asking for help and suddenly a vote was casted without any feedback. Then suddenly the meeting was closed.

Mrs Harris said Mr Hill would always vote with Dr Bacon. Mr Hill said that Mr Edwards asked the floor what do the floor want. Mrs Snelling said all Lea Road are one person. Mr Hill said again that Mr Edwards asked them. Mrs Snelling said she had not had time to speak to the rest of them to show what we have spoken about and how we implicate it and how you support us. Mr Hill replied that the Parish Council had been trying to help by calling a meeting. Mrs Harris said Mr Hill was not helping, he just has his own interests at heart. Mr Hill went on to say a vote was taken, the residents have got a meeting. Mrs Snelling said that she speak on behalf of them but they have to notify them. Mr Snelling said again the residents asked for help, there was a discussion at one stage to do the 4<sup>th</sup> which is going to half what we are doing tonight, there was a discussion that it would be on the public side and because of time constraints it was then pushed into all sorts of different areas. It jumped all over the place and there was no constructive feedback, they did not

come back to the parishioners to ask. It was away so quick not everyone could understand. The people that were also here did not understand it and they feel like they have been let down.

Mr Hill replied to Mr Snelling that he wanted a meeting and the Parish Council have called a meeting. Mr Snelling said there could be a chat where ok if we decide on a public and we start on a Parish Council meeting what are the benefits for it, what can we and can't we do. You did not have that. It is a shame this did not happen a little while ago, it just got voted out so quickly.

Mr Hill said that Mr Snelling must acknowledge it has been talked about as a public meeting all the way through, as Dr Bacon has just informed us from the minutes and Mr Hill understood all along it was going to be a public meeting and that is what was organised. Mr Snelling the residents wanted communications and help of the Council and assistance so things can work smoothly. Mrs Snelling asked why the Council split, why don't they stick together as a team. Mr Snelling said at the time it was as rough call and they were waiting for the application to come through now the application has come through that was the time for us to then talk together and decide what is the best way that everyone can help each other in the best means for the village and those communications were shut down in such a very short period of time that there has been mass confusion unfortunately by everybody and people have been upset so really there should have been a bit more time allocation for it. Mr Hill stated there is a meeting that has been organised by the Parish Council which is inviting Flagship and North Norfolk inviting whoever would like to come to that meeting which hopefully will be a constructive meeting it will then report back to the Parish Council the following night to the Parish Council. Mr Hills said that he understood there is a lot of feeling in this but the residents have got their meeting, it has been organised by the Parish Council who are inviting the different bodies, asking them to come along and hopefully they will come along we have a constructive meeting they can air all that they have got to say and everybody in hall will be neutral.

Mr Snelling said now we have got the communications and it is brilliant but if we had it at the time. Mr Hill replied that hopefully Mr Snelling had got what he required, Mr Snelling agreed.

Mr Harris asked if the middle way could be found on this, it would be a meeting, a formal meeting called by the Parish Council, not a formal extraordinary meeting which the Parish Council will invite North Norfolk and the other interested parties to attend to this extraordinary meeting. Dr Bacon replied no, a public meeting. Mr Harris said extraordinary public meeting. Dr Bacon replied a public meeting, nothing extraordinary about it at all.

Mrs Harris said an extraordinary meeting, special. Mr Harris said perhaps we should ask the clerk to come up with a formula which would get out of this because that is what we should be doing. Mrs Harris said that is what the clerk does. Mr Harris went on the trouble is if that lot feel that the Parish Council are washing their hands of them making this a non-formal meeting they will say you are not helping us. Dr Bacon replied that it is a formal public meeting, with a chair who will set out the rules at the start of the meeting called by the Parish Council and the Parish Council will invite the applicant and the District Council. As far as minutes are concerned it is up to the meeting to organise its own minutes, Dr Bacon said the clerk could not be expected to come to minute. Mr Harris said the clerk should do the minutes because she has to listen to the arguments, the clerk is one of the most important persons in Parish Council as Dr Bacon will learn in training. She has to understand the arguments otherwise how can she write the bloody letters, it's ridiculous, of course she had to come.

Dr Bacon asked if the Parish Council would pay the clerk overtime, you have to consider that. Mr Harris replied that the clerk's salary has to be reviewed as agreed at the last meeting, that has to be considered. Obviously talking about minutes has to be considered as well but there are many issues about how this Council's been performing and why which we have not gone into. Let us go back to main issue, how can we actually get the middle ground on this as meeting called by the

Parish Council. Dr Bacon reiterated it is a public meeting called by the Parish Council, the Parish Council invites North Norfolk and Flagship and the Chairman on the evening sets out the rules to everybody present and as far as the participants are concerned Parish Councillors hopefully will all be there but they will be there as parishioners along with everybody else, they won't be in a special position of 'we are Parish Councillors, you are the public' everybody is equal there at a public meeting called by the Parish Council, chaired by in this case the Vice-Chair of the Parish Council and he will set out the rules for the event at the start of the meeting. Mr Hill thought this was reasonable the way Dr Bacon just explained that. Mr Snelling said if it was just him personally he could answer he just has to hold back for a minute. Mr Hill asked Mr Snelling to take that information to the residents and say this is what has been discussed. Mr Snelling he needs to make sure it is presented in a way that we were not upset and concerned by it.

Mr Harris said it isn't it is a public meeting called by the parish Council to try and get the views of parishioners and also to enable them to talk with North Norfolk and Flagship so we should put that out. The purpose of the meeting is an exceptional meeting or a special meeting and the purpose of the meeting called by the Parish Council to enable parishioners to express their views and to enable them to talk to North Norfolk and Flagship who will be invited by the Parish Council to attend and it will be minuted and chaired by Mr Read.

Mr Filgate stated that he was not sure if Mr Read is going to do the minutes. Mr Read returned to the meeting he said he would chair the meeting because he personally did not believe that us as Parish Councillors are representing the people who live in this village, the way that was conducted before he walked out he thought they had been sold down the river.

Mr Harris stated that we are trying to find a middle way now. Mr Harris said why don't we get a draft together which we can all look at and agree. It has to be in the form of the Parish Council but clearly you can't have us behaving as Parish Councillors they can do that the next day. You can put in there the Parish Council wishes to hear the views of parishioners and will then come to it opinion the following day August 4<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting ended 10.35pm

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date