

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD at 7pm ON
WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2021 via ZOOM.**

Attendance: Dr Bacon in the Chair, Mr Filgate, Mr Harris, Mr Hill, Ms Johnson, Mr Jordan, Mr Read, Mrs Walker, Mrs Wickens, Cllr Grove-Jones (District Councillor), Cllr Price (County Councillor) and eleven 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. Apologies for Absence:** There were none.
- 2. Election of Chairman.** Mrs Wickens proposed Dr Bacon, this was seconded by Mr Hill. Mr Filgate proposed Mr Read, seconded by Ms Johnson. There were five votes for Dr Bacon and four votes for Mr Read. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Parish Council.
- 3. Election of Vice-Chairman.** Mr Read was proposed by Mr Harris and seconded by Ms Johnson, there being no other nominations Mr Read was elected as Vice-Chairman.

4. Committees

4.1 Scope. Dr Bacon explained that it is necessary to sort out what a committee is whether it is a standard committee, an advisory committee, an executive committee or a work party. At the moment there is something but it has not been formally sorted out as to what sort of committee it is. There is a committee which was originally looking at things on the Mushroom site, if that committee is a committee as such it should have formal meetings with the time and place advertised and be open to the public and minutes taken and then a report made to the Parish Council. If it is a work party then it does not have to be advertised and does not have to have formal minutes and it is of a lesser status but it just reports on a particular issue to the main body of the Council. Dr Bacon asked if a committee or any sort for any purpose as needed.

Mr Harris stated that the committee had worked well and he recommended that it should continue. Ms Johnson stated that they were a work party but they should be a committee. Mr Harris stated that whatever the group was worked well and they should continue with that with the same people because it worked constructively together and came up with the results, he would be in favour of continuing with that. Dr Bacon asked what the title of the committee should be, it should be a work party rather than a committee. Mr Harris replied that it did not matter to him what it is called, he was unsure if it is in the Standing Orders for the definition. Dr Bacon replied that it was in the Standing Orders, the point being that if it is going to be a committee it has to have advertised, open to the public, time and place of the meeting and formal minutes. If it is a work party it doesn't have to have those.

Ms Johnson thought it should be a committee, especially with the new Local Plan coming up and also because of the issues with Lea Road etc and the Mushroom Farm. She thought last year, they were a work party, they had one task to do which they did engaging NNDC but she thought now they need to be seeing, as a Parish Council, they are taking things seriously with regard our own destiny within the village from a planning point of view so we should go back to having the formal committee.

Dr Bacon stated that if it is going to be a formal committee it has to have those items that he said and asked what would be the title of the committee and the remit.

Ms Johnson said is used to be the planning committee a few years ago, Dr Bacon replied that planning committees, generally speaking when we have had them in the past, meant looking at planning applications only. Dr Bacon asked if Ms Johnson meant forward planning. Ms Johnson agreed forward planning for the future. Mr Harris thought it should be called the development committee so we are not looking at planning applications which come directly to the Parish Council whereas the development issues would be considered by this committee. Ms Johnson thought it was more strategic than current. Dr Bacon thought in that case something like the Strategic Development Committee. Mr Harris thought just the Development Committee whether it is strategic or not. Dr Bacon replied that the main reason not to call it the development committee is because that is the name the District Council uses for the committee that looks at planning applications, it might be confusing. Mr Harris accepted that as Strategic Development Committee. Dr Bacon asked if it was agreed to have the Strategic Development Committee which will have formal meetings, minutes members of the public invited to attend etc.

Mr Hill thought that matters of importance should be considered by the entire Parish Council, not just a committee. Dr Bacon explained that this would not be an executive committee, that carries out or makes decisions, it looks into things and makes a report back to the Council with recommendations. He went on to say that anyone can ask to be a member of it. Ms Johnson stated that it would be good to have four people representing different areas.

The scope was agreed.

4.2 Appointment of Committee Members. At present the members are Mr Filgate, Mr Harris and Ms Johnson. Dr Bacon asked who would like to be a member of the Committee. Mr Read thought it was best left as it is because the people who are there have got an understanding of what is going on and he thought they were the best people to carry it on for the Council. Dr Bacon would be interested in joining the Committee as well having been a former District Councillor involved in that Industrial Estate and planning.

Mr Snelling stated that he would like to put a spin on that as well but Dr Bacon stated that it is a Committee of the Council. Ms Johnson stated that Mr Snelling could attend meetings.

Mr Harris thought it should be the same people as before without Dr Bacon because it is more likely to do things if it is a smaller group rather than a larger one and if Dr Bacon is on this his record it is not exactly dynamic because if we talk about Lea Road when it comes up, it came up and it was agreed by the Parish Council to development the Mushroom Site in 2009 but when Dr Bacon came back it was stopped and that was twelve years ago so he recommended Dr Bacon's political control should be via the Parish Council and he should not be a member. Dr Bacon thanked Mr Harris for his comments on Dr Bacon's abilities or lack of them but in that case, there is a suggestion of four names and asked if it could be put to a vote and if one of them does not get accepted that name does not get accepted. Ms Johnson asked if Mr Hill would like to be on the Committee, because he was very keen. Mr Hill replied that he would have an interest in that, if there is room on the Committee. Dr Bacon stated that if Mr Hill would like to go forward for it, he would step aside.

Mr Hill asked if there was a limited to the number of people on the Committee? Dr Bacon replied that there is no limit to the number and at the moment the suggestion is Mr Filgate, Mr Harris, Ms Johnson and Mr Hill. There was some opposition to the idea that Dr Bacon should be on the Committee because of his lack of dynamism. Dr Bacon asked if everyone was happy for the Committee should be as above. Mr Hill replied that there was only one person who said they did not want Dr Bacon on the Committee and would have thought that he would have made a valuable contribution so there is one person who says they think he should be on the Committee. Mrs Wickens agreed with Mr Hill there is no reason why Dr Bacon should

not be on the Committee. Ms Johnson said there was no reason why he could not be on the Committee but she thought that as the Chairman of the Council needs to be there when they feed things back to actually advise at that point on what they do and how they go forward. Dr Bacon stated that very often in organisations the Chairman of the overall organisation is an automatic member of the Committee anyway. Ms Johnson stated that he could come along to all the meetings, there is nothing to stop him.

Mr Harris stated that if this is the case then he would suggest there is no committee at all and just come to the parish meeting. Mr Read agreed saying because soon enough everybody will be on it and it will just be another Parish Council meeting, well said.

Dr Bacon stated that there is now the suggestion that there is no committee dealing with the idea of future development. Mr Read said leave the Committee as they are because they know what they are doing, they have bene into it in the past, they have looked through no end of paperwork, as he understood and they are in touch with people where that is needed to be and they are in the groove to do it why disturb something as good, if it isn't broke don't mend it.

Mr Hill said that if there are other people who want to make a contribution, members of the Parish Council who want to make a contribution he could not see why they should be denied the opportunity to do that. Ms Johnson agreed with that point where people want to make a contribution they should be able to.

Dr Bacon stated that it was being challenged about whether he should be on the Committee or not, he took exception to the comments about him personally so he asks to be on the Committee and the Council as a whole can then vote on whether or not he should be on the Committee. Dr Bacon stated that in his defence that he is probably more experienced than anyone here in terms of forward development committees because he was on the District Council one for eight years as well as the Broads Authority one.

Mr Filgate stated that he was wondering whether could it not just be a working party because committees seems to make it very formal, the formality is not needed in a group but the Parish Council provides that formality so in way we have formality through the Parish Council who any working party or group would report to, is that a way forward? Dr Bacon replied that he did not mind if it was a working party or a committee. Ms Johnson stated that they could still invite people to a working party meeting and still do minutes. She had not done minutes of the meetings but has notes from the meeting they had before but she did not do minutes because it was not a committee but could start doing minutes so it is all documented and reported back formally, even as a work party.

Mr Jordan thought the minutes were essential to feed the information back to everyone that is not part of that committee or working party it is an accurate documentation so nothing gets missed as well.

Cllr Price stated that whether it is a committee or working party the involvement of the public and the communications with the public on a particular issue must be the prime concern and as long as that is included it doesn't make any difference whether it is a committee or working party and minutes will obviously be a very important aspect.

Mr Harris stated that the issue is the lack of dynamism or lack of action on the development strategy for this village over the last ten years, this is what we need to face and what we are going to talk about in Lea Road and how do you actually get some action into that. This is not a political control saying no is trying to do things which would not come to the committee it is just how do you get things done because when we talk about the development at Catfield

and the involvement of the public he suggested that the Parish Council in the last ten years has failed for instance we did not take part in the Regulation 18 and that is going to cost people dearly. The question is how do we get things done as a committee given that we have a record which is not very good.

Dr Bacon stated that one person who Mr Harris regarded not dynamic on a committee of four or five would be out voted anyway and they would be able to be as dynamic as they wanted. Dr Bacon went on to say that he thought it had been agreed there would be a committee then Mr Filgate says it should be a work party, the only issue he could see is that Mr Harris particularly for some reason does not want Dr Bacon on the committee, Dr Bacon thought the Parish Council should make a decision if the other names are accepted; Mr Filgate, Ms Johnson, Mr Harris and Mr Hill and then put it to a vote as to whether Dr Bacon should be on there as well. There were five votes in favour of Dr Bacon being on the Committee and 2 against and 2 abstentions. The Committee will therefore Dr Bacon, Mr Filgate, Mr Hill, Mr Harris and Ms Johnson. Ms Johnson thought it should be a work party but with its own formalities. This was agreed. Mr Read stated that the person who had been leading the group is very good and should carry on. It was also agreed that Ms Johnson would lead the group.

5. Declaration of Interests: Mr Harris's standard declaration regarding the legal dispute with A Alston about hedges still applies. The courts at the moment are doing nothing as far as he can see. He asked for this declaration to continue without having to waste time on it each week. He will report if there is any change in the status. Mr Filgate stated that he is a neighbour of Lea Road.

6. Public Forum. Mr Snelling asked if everyone knew about the new amended boundaries that are changing in the village with a new CAT01 and CAT 02 which are coming up in the Local Plan draft Settlement Boundaries small growth village and Catfield is included in that . Dr Bacon asked if this is a new boundary or a proposal for a new boundary that we have not yet been consulted on? Mr Snelling replied that it is a draft plan so this is something that will be coming up. Dr Bacon stated that this would come to the Parish Council for consultation in due course.

6.1 District Councillor's Report. Cllr Price reported that he had said everything in the Annual Parish Meeting because of purdah and the election he could not say anymore but was happy to take questions and when Lea Road comes up, he would be happy to speak on that. Mr Read thanked Mr Richard Price for everything he has done over the last year for us.

7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated were accepted. Proposed by Mrs Wickens, seconded by Ms Johnson with all in agreement.

8. Matters Arising. Ms Johnson sent a document regarding the re-siting of the dog bin in Back Lane. The document was shared. Ms Johnson stated that it had been agreed they would have a look and try and put more detail on paper for Councillors to see what is being referred to with regard to the positions of the bins and she thanked Mrs Harris for helping with this. Ms Johnson explained the drawing showing where the current bins are located, the sites that could be considered and the site that was discussed a few meetings ago. The plan also showed the routes that are walked. If the bin that is positioned outside the house on the corner is moved, it does not look so bad if it is moved to the end of footpath on Church Road and then another bin on the corner in Dale Lane/ Back Lane it would not be too unsightly because of the bushes that are there. Ms Johnson stated that if the Parish Council is covered for the costs of moving that bin to this location then there would be one very happy home owner and she thought there would not be too much negative feedback from the person who lives in the house at the end of Thorn Road and the Parish Council could consider putting in another dog bin by the old oak tree on the corner of The Loke joining Dale Lane and Back Lane meet which could be on a post. This means that people going into the village have got rid of the packages before they go back into the main area. The idea was that people coming along the routes from mainly within the village area, having the other bin might be a good idea because the current gets overfull on

occasions so the waste could be shared between the two bins. The Parish Council could consider doing this if the bin is relocated and the household does pay as they suggested they were willing to do so.

Mr Hill stated that it was his understanding that he was to be involved on working on this project he had not been contacted. Ms Johnson stated she had emailed Mr Hill. He had not seen an email. Mr Harris stated that this is what happens when there are too big working groups who find it difficult nothing gets done that was the point he was trying to make on the Development Committee. Ms Johnson stated that she fed it back last time but it was not very clear and she was asked to document it, she had emailed Mr Hill before they went on the walk round. Mr Harris stated that he had the same problem over the staithe, this is one of the issues why our Parish Council has a poor record in actually getting anything done it takes ages to get dog bins agreed. Mr Hill stated that the information had been sent to the wrong email. Mr Hill asked to be phoned as he does not always look at the emails, there were only two members of the Parish Council involved in this and one of them did not communicate with the other one. Ms Johnson stated that Mr Hill had the same opportunity to contact her about it.

Dr Bacon stated that there had been an unfortunate lack of communication and asked to move on and deal with the bin. Ms Johnson proposed if the Parish Council gets the recovery of the costs and she wondered whether she should speak to the other homeowner first. Dr Bacon suggested that this could be moved forward by saying that the Parish Council, if they do, supports the proposition and that Ms Johnson will then move it forward by making further investigations like speaking to the nearby residents. Ms Johnson agreed and that she needs to speak to the resident who agreed to the move. The clerk stated that we do not have the details of the person because NNDC withheld the details so the Parish Council needs to go back through the District Council to do that. Ms Johnson suggested that there could be a proposal for the second bin. Dr Bacon said that Ms Johnson's proposal was to move the bins as described, this was seconded by Mrs Walker with all agreement and Ms Johnson will take this forward. The clerk has costs for new bin. **Action Point clerk to send costs to Ms Johnson. Action Point Ms Johnson to contact the homeowner and speak to nearby residents. Action Point Clerk to inform NNDC.**

9. Correspondence. An email had been received from a resident in Elderbush Lane stating that a young boy had cleaned up rubbish left on the football pitch. The boy should be given credit for this. The resident also asked if there should be a bin on the football pitch. Mr Harris thought the child should be thanked, a letter should be sent to the child to say thank you very much it is appreciated. Mr Harris asked if the lady who wrote the email knew who it was. The Clerk replied that the resident did not say who it was, she said the young boy needs to be given credit but it is not possible to name a child. Ms Johnson thought it would be worth if the resident did know to speak to the child's parents and if it is a child at school then the Parish Council can at least allow him to be given credit within school for doing this it should be applauded. Dr Bacon stated that the other issue which has been raised is whether or not there should be a litter bin at the field. Ms Johnson thought this would be a good idea if it encourages more use of it. Mr Jordan stated it would get more use as people are not going away so much now, he asked what the costs would be. The clerk replied that she would look into this and there would be a cost for emptying the bin from NNDC. **Action Point Clerk to obtain costs.**

An email from Mrs Bailey of Lea Road, who was present. Firstly, she thanked the Parish Council for the line that they took regarding Flagship over the Lea Road proposal. Secondly, is about the village hall and saying that this ancient structure should be replaced by a modern village hall perhaps on a different site and the third part of the email is about future housing and, if there any future housing, to make sure that we get planning gain from in the form of something like a Section 106 Agreement or a CIL payment where some payment comes to the village in payment for the development. Dr Bacon said that on the question of the village hall this has been raised in the past, the idea of a new village hall. Mrs Bailey suggests the football field as a suitable site, previous discussions have involved something like the field along the road to Ludham and Potter Heigham, opposite the entrance to St

Catherine's Avenue which is a gap in the development between the village and Ludham Road. If the Parish Council were to go for a village hall that would be a suitable location, it would no doubt get planning permission whereas it would not get permission for housing and part of the cost would be covered by selling off the old village hall site for housing development. It has been looked at in the past, it is a possibility that one day there might be a new village hall in Catfield to replace the old one. Dr Bacon stated that in neighbouring villages the key thing is, as Mr Harris would say, is dynamism, it would need somebody, person or persons willing to lead a campaign to get that achieved whether they are Councillors or not.

Ms Johnson asked Dr Bacon to explained where the land was. Dr Bacon replied saying that this is land between Thorn Road and Ludham Road, there is a deliberate gap and not developed but for a development such as a village hall it would get permission. Mr Harris stated that one of the things this working party or whatever it was has come up with, and he thought we should later discuss, is that we have been remiss in that we have not got any input into the future planning in the village, we never asked people their opinions about it, we should rectify that. We should then ask them where we think the future development should be and it may be at that time that we should also enquire about a new village hall because this has been raised by Mrs Bailey but he thought it is important that we try and develop our own village plan. If we had done that ten years ago or even taken part in the planning discussion we might be in a better place now talking to our friends from Lea Road and on the Mushroom Site, we need to be proactive and not just think our job is to react to it when people put forward schemes for redevelopment because that means that it goes in the wrong place from the village's point of view. We need to actually have a view, having listened to and taken account of our electors.

Mr Hill agreed with this, Mr Harris makes a good point. Regarding the village hall is there any way that the Parish Council could establish whether there would be extra demand for a new village hall were one to materialise and it does seem with a lot of these construction projects they often get out of control a bit. If the Parish Council were to be satisfied with a fairly basic village hall that would probably be a lot more easily achieved than something that was all together more involved. Is there fundamentally the demand for a new village hall?

Dr Bacon replied that places like Neatishead and Hickling get used by all sorts of groups from quite a wide radius. Mr Hill asked that if we had a better village hall there would be more use of it, he thought that needs to be established as one of the fundamental points.

Mrs Bailey (parishioner) stated that the people of the parish deserve a better village hall than the one they have, and also if there is something that is nice and looks good people will want to use it more and they have lots of different things going on the summer at Hickling, different groups have it for the day.

Mr Harris thought that people should be asked and the other thing is there is a notable absence of facilities for young people in the village, maybe we should be trying to address that as well but of course not many on the Council are young but that is one of the things that it noticeable by its absence. The Council has not been proactive on any of these issues.

Ms Johnson stated that as a Trustees for the Poppy Centre in Stalham which she was active on working on that to get funding for the building it took a long time because they hit it when charity funds were at an all time low. The building houses a gym, large functional rooms, kitchen area, it is used by lots of organisations. Initially it was going to be for the youth but during the day it can be used by groups who want to go bowling or dancing and other activities like flower arranging, it is in use all the time. Now Covid is allowing them to open up again they are starting to readvertise its use. It had been built in such a way that much of the running costs for it are covered by the heat incentive that they get back because green energy has been used where they can to try and get some feedback and they run the charity shop in Stalham that brings in revenue as well. Ms Johnson thought it should be like that in Catfield for the youth and for other members of the community but it is hard work and it has to

planned right and scaled right, we need to know what area we have got, what parking area we would have and also think of the neighbours because you don't want it to be a nuisance to people living close by. Ms Johnson asked if it is land that the Parish Council owns.

Dr Bacon explained that it belongs to Mr Shearing, what would normally happen in cases like this is that because the land would not be normally allowed to have housing on it, it is more or less agricultural value rather than planning value and then you can get cheap land where a village hall would be allowed but then sell off the site of the village hall at planning value because you could get two or three houses on the site. That is the way it has happened in several other villages. Ms Johnson thought that would be a good idea as long as Mr Shearing was willing to sell it. Ms Johnson acknowledged that a lot of work had been done at the village hall to get it up to scratch. Dr Bacon stated that if the Parish Council went along this route it could be several years before there is actually a village hall open and in use and we would be using the existing one for quite a while.

Mr Harris stated that his view would be that we ought to start at the basics we need to get a village plan, until we have a village plan we are not capable of responding professionally on any of these issues. Therefore, that is the priority and unless someone takes this on and says they will take it on in a dynamic way drive it forward it would not happen. The key priority is to get a village plan so we don't have repeats of the Lea Road issue which has been around for over twelve years.

Dr Bacon asked Mrs Bailey if she was happy with the discussion, she agreed that she was but would anything be done, would anybody take it onboard and do something? Dr Bacon replied that it would be up to individuals whether they want to get involved in doing that.

Mr Harris told Mrs Bailey what he said was that the first priority is try and get a handle as a village on the future development of the village, that is number one and that will stop things, or make it less likely to have Lea Road because there will be more issues like that and we must address the Mushroom Site which is also a priority. If someone, and Mr Harris thought it should be noted that a new village hall like others have done who have actually taken it onboard and driven is a good thing so a long-term aspiration is to have a new village hall but in the meantime we need to get the basics right and the basics are to get the planning constraints in the village sorted out and to get a constructive relationship with North Norfolk because at the moment we have no relationship on planning.

Mrs Gardiner said that it is a wonderful idea that we have a new village hall, it has been discussed over the years, it is not a new thing, but she also knows what happened in Hickling and Mrs Gardiner thought Catfield needs to be mindful that Hickling was split in half, Trustees suddenly were responsible for an awful lot of money and it got out of hand and they are responsible for the money. Mrs Gardiner urged caution, it is very serious, and people moved out of the village because they were getting death threats, it is nasty and people went bankrupt over it. People need to be in agreement that they are going to sell land for this to go forward and it was discussed years ago that perhaps someone might like to swap some land, Mrs Gardiner had been told this could not happen because it had been gifted to the parish for use as a village hall. Dr Bacon replied that it was gifted, in terms of the charitable aspect of it is acceptable to exchange one site for another site if you are getting a building on it.

Cllr Price stated that he knows the village halls and Hickling had been fraught with problems and he had attended many meetings there and he is now supporting their community orchard, planting fruit trees to benefit the community. Also, the New Victory Hall in Neatishead which is pioneering and low energy, he had been there the previous week when they had to meet outside, groups were meeting there and they measured out and placed cones to make sure everybody was socially distanced. There is ample parking, accessibility does create a huge benefit to the community. It does need taking forward as part of a village plan.

A letter had been received from Andrew Alston, this had been circulated. Dr Bacon explained that Mr Alston was saying that there had been lots of discussion involving him and his agricultural activities and he is suggesting that he thinks, like some other parish councils do, that the Parish Council should

have a footpath officer and a countryside officer who would then liaise with the farming community with regard to any problems in those things. That is something the Parish Council could consider but Dr Bacon suggested that this could be considered in the future.

The other thing that Mr Alston mentioned was parking and people abusing or misusing his property to park on he is talking about he gave permission for the piece of car park opposite the church to be used by the people going to the church and he talking about the possibility of having that locked and the church having a key to it so that they can let people on to go to church. Dr Bacon stated that this would be fine for church services but at the moment it is also used by people visiting graves or just visiting the church on a casual basis which doesn't have somebody there with a key all the time.

Mr Read thought it was a bit much for Mr Alston to tell the Parish Council what they should or should not be doing, telling them they have to have a footpath officer and a countryside officer. Mr Read thought it was a bit much, a suggestion is better than trying to tell us. Dr Bacon replied that it was a suggestion. Mr Read said it was not how it was written in words when he read it. Ms Johnson thought it was a good idea. Dr Bacon read from the letter "I suggest at your up and coming meeting that you give considerable thought that one of the Councillors be appointed as a footpaths officer". Mr Read stated that it is not so much the footpaths that are the problem, a lot of the time it is the problems of the roads and the state they are left in. Admittedly this last winter was better than the one before but the roads are a bigger problem than the footpaths.

Dr Bacon stated that Mr Alston specifically in this letter is suggesting that the Council might consider the idea of a footpath officer and suggesting that they have a countryside officer, it is something that could be discussed and decide yes or no to at a future meeting. Mr Harris agreed that it should be discussed at the 360 meeting as Mr Alston suggests. Mr Harris went on to say that the ELMS one is interesting because it again reflects what was talked about before, the Government is trying to get farmers to be more cooperative and to try and take steps to reverse the damage proactively which modern farming has done to the environment over the last fifty years. Secondly, farming is more than well represented on the committee at the moment and it may be even better represented in due course, they may even be a majority of landowners at the moment or people involved in farming so it is not that it is under represented.

Dr Bacon asked if everyone was happy to leave this for the time being, agreed.

Mr Edwards (parishioner) stated that on the subject of correspondence he asked that he believed it had been agreed at the last meeting that a letter was going to be sent to Flagship, was that sent and secondly has a response been received and if so what was the tone of the reply. Dr Bacon replied that this issue will come up under item 13. Mr Harris stated that there is an issue on the minutes, there are a lot of action points in the minutes which he was not sure be under matter arising for example the Parish Council is supposed to be getting a date for the 360 meeting, that had not been covered.

Ms Johnson replied that she has a meeting the following day with NALC and she thought we have had several meetings now, we know we need a 360 and there is a lot discontent over certain things and she thought we should be happening is that if there are areas which need to be brought up and discussed. She did not want to waste too much time at the future meeting going over old ground that may not be valid anymore. Ms Johnson thought perhaps we should arrange a training session to be a dual aim to enable us to move forward as a good working Parish Council and also to set some ground rules for certain criteria within that on how we operate and also to clear the air at the beginning and if people have got some major concerns we could write them down and send them to the person who is going to do the training to say these are areas that we don't agree on can you give some advice. They have said they will help us do that and help us focus on where we should be going with regard to the responsibilities in the village and so we could have one or two sessions. There is no point organising a date until we could have both new Parish Councillors elected so they can benefit from training as well. We were looking at the date in June for that.

Mr Harris replied that this was agreed in November, it was then postponed because of the Code of Conduct complaint against him. In the findings on that the Deputy Monitoring Officer pointed out there were shortcomings in the governance of Catfield Parish Council. We need to address those and some of those will come up later. We can't just ignore this, it was agreed in November and we need to have that meeting. Mr Harris agreed when the new Councillors are there, whoever they may be, but we need to now do it, rather like everything we have in Catfield it takes a long time. Ms Johnson agreed but stated that what must be remembered is that it was November and it is now May so there is water under the bridge, we have been more open in the way we speak to each other which is good to get things out in the open to discuss them. There are some things with behaviour or standards or the way that we do things that we do need to set procedures for and she thought this would come out. Ms Johnson did not think we should spend a whole session on this when we could be doing something which is more positive and moving forward.

Mr Harris stated that he agreed with that, because they had talked about this outside but we must actually try and work out where the governance and interpersonal issues are and then have the training you can't just say we are going to have the training and proceed, this was agreed in November. Ms Johnson stated that after she has had the meeting then she can come back with some proposals and ideas. Mr Harris stated that he also agreed with Ms Johnson it would be better to do this when it is personal rather than on Zoom, in the village hall. We need to address those issues. Mr Harris is still trying to get out of NNDC what those governance issues are, perhaps our District Councillors can help us achieve that because they have got absolutely nothing out of North Norfolk, they make Geoff Boycott look like Ben Stokes. They have been blocking and blocking and blocking and it would be helpful if our District Councillors would try and unblock that because last time he thought Mrs Grove-Jones was at the meeting she talked about the Lord Evans review and that makes it quite clear that these things should be transparent and this at the moment is not transparent at all, we need answers. Mrs Harris said were just repeating ourselves which is the point he had been making before is that is our habit in this Parish Council.

Mr Read stated that if we have a meeting which we urgently need to get things sorted out he thought it should be done, sorted, before we go on to training don't confuse the two together let's get a 360 sorted out and everything done and then we do the training not confuse the two together because that is not going to work.

Ms Johnson stated that if we have a 360 we want to make sure that what we suggest are valid points and that we are doing things for the right reason so we do need to have some guidance there with doing things. Another Code of Conduct had been sent out for this meeting which is in way different from the other, it was generated by a different organisation, it is thinking about things like that and do we accept it or do we work on it, do we think about some of the aspects of it. Where is the freedom of speech that was in some of the Code of Conducts that we have seen, we should always have that. Mr Read agreed but said that Ms Johnson is talking about training and to him that is a totally different subject to getting things sorted out as a Parish Council at a 360 meeting, training is a totally different aspect.

Dr Bacon said that this is being left to Ms Johnson to sort out with NALC. Ms Johnson said yes but if people want a 360 let's have one and do it one evening. Mr Harris replied that this had been agreed in November but the point at issue it was what he thought was good with the minutes this time is there were proposals and specific action points which is great because it means you can go through the minutes and quite quickly say has this been done and when he went through almost all the action points had been done which was rather impressive and that shows the advantage of something we never had before we have not even got the minutes sorted out yet although Mr Beckley and Mr Harris had quite a long exchange on that. To get action points in the minutes and then follow up the action points makes it more likely that things would get done rather than spend six months trying to find a key for the box to the display cabinet, that is the trouble with our council we don't actually move

ahead. Unfortunately, the consequence of that is what we are seeing in Lea Road and on the Mushroom Farm.

Mr Hill said that he could see Mr Read's point that the 360 and the training they are both going to be a full meeting in themselves.

Dr Bacon said again, that this is left to Ms Johnson to discuss with NALC and sort out where we go from here. Agreed. **Action Point: Ms Johnson to contact NALC.**

10. Finance . The current account has £3,820.15, the number 2 account £629.52 and the BPA £22,180.26 giving a total of £26,681.41. The first half of the Precept had just been received.

Two cheques were presented for payment:

101367 for £93 payable to HMRC for tax,

101368 for £507.90 payable to BHIB for insurance.

The clerk's salary will be paid by Standing Order.

The clerk stated that she has ensured that the SAM2 signs are covered under the insurance policy. Mr Read asked what the insurance was covering. The clerk stated that it covers public liability, employer's liability, the playground equipment, SAM signs and anything else the Parish Council owns. Mr Read thanked the clerk.

Mr Harris asked does it cover the councillors in their roles, as sometimes bodies pick up liabilities? Mr Harris stated that we need to know how much are we insured for. The clerk will check the figure and report back. **Action Point clerk to check the policy and inform councillors.**

Ms Johnson proposed that the payments should be made, this was seconded by Mrs Wickens with all in agreement.

The clerk circulated the Annual Governance & Accountability Review form which had been completed in line with year-end accounts which were presented last month. Mr Harris stated that this is effectively a balance sheet. He has comments on the other documents which are coming up. Mr Harris stated that this has to be looked at in terms of the financial paper that is out there for example in the financial paper it says that the bank reconciliation will be done every quarter and someone would sign it off, does this happen? The clerk replied that it goes to the internal auditor. Mr Harris stated that the paper says one of our members signs off so in fact the financial stuff is not actually what is in the stuff, the bank rec done every quarter and then one of us, he did not know who it is then signs it. The clerk explained that on the AGAR form the internal auditor signs to say that they check them every quarter. Mr Harris stated that he understood that but what the paper says is that one of us looks at the bank, AGAR is a balance sheet so it says that's the cash, now bank reconciliation makes sure that there is a bank rec and one of us: "On a regular basis at least once a quarter and at each financial year-end a member, other than the Chairman, should be appointed to verify bank rec". The trouble with all of these things is you have it sitting out there until it goes wrong. Dr Bacon stated that Mr Beckley used to do that. The clerk replied that she had been told that it could not be someone inside the Parish Council and that is why it went to an internal auditor. Mr Harris stated that there are two points here, of course they should be audited but this says and this is what we are being asked to approve, is that one of us just checks that the bank rec is done and then signs. The risk on all of this stuff we have had an enormous amount of stuff come at us.

Dr Bacon stated that he was happy to have both, a member of the council check quarterly as well as the auditor. Mr Harris stated that he was not suggesting that, but just suggesting if that is not what happens we take it out of the document, the trouble with all of this paper that comes in that no one has the time to read it, they assume it has been passed by NALC or someone and they just accept it. The Code of Conduct is exactly the same. He raised the point is the AGAR is a balance sheet, the way to know if the balance sheet is right or the cash is to have a bank rec, this says the way you control the bank rec is one of us signs it. Dr Bacon stated that the answer could be that we do that as well he was

perfectly happy with that. Mr Harris thought this was not necessary but there should be a discussion on whether it makes sense. We should not just pass these things on the nod, he thought that the balance sheet could be accepted as it is because it looked all right. Ms Johnson stated this could be brought up at the 360. Ms Harris stated that there are a hundred pages to check, the only reason he pointed this out is that we are agreeing things which are not being done and that is where the risk is.

Mrs Wickens wondered if Mr Harris had a wireless going in the background because she could hear somebody speaking all the time in the background. Mr Harris said it was not him. Mr Harris said his wife was in the background, Mrs Wickens asked Mrs Harris to refrain when Mr Harris was talking otherwise we could get confused. Mrs Harris said she was not talking.

Ms Johnson proposed that the AGAR form be accepted, Mrs Walker seconded this with all in agreement.

11. To Review and Accept Policies

Standing Orders. Mr Harris said he had been on the committee now for two years, he had not seen this stuff before and he had a look at the Agenda for this meeting in 2019 and none of it was there, did he miss something. The clerk explained that she thought the Standing orders were approved in October 2018. Mr Harris asked how often should they be approved. The clerk replied that when she did training last year they said every three years but believed now it should be every year. Dr Bacon stated that every annual meeting the Parish Council needs to review and accept those policies, it may be a formality of re-accepting or it may be a case of we want to discuss in detail some of the contents.

The clerk stated that she had been covering all this in her CiLCA training as well, part of what she had been doing. Mr Harris thought this was a very good thing but we ought to know, because it goes back to the previous conversation, this came up in the Code of Conduct we have not got a Code of Conduct at all. Dr Bacon stated that we have one but whether Mr Harris had seen it or not there is one. Mr Harris said it had not been approved every year, otherwise he would not have been dismissed, there is not one, it is not operative it has not been for years. Over half of the committee has never seen it. Dr Bacon replied that there is one, whether some people have seen it or not is certainly a mistake. Mr Harris stated that Dr Bacon was not listening to him this should be approved every year. Dr Bacon said that what we are looking at now is a new Code of Conduct which..... Mr Harris said no he wanted to go back to a general point, all this stuff needs to be approved every year that is what the clerk had just said, it has not been approved for years. The clerk replied that she had only just learnt that because she had been doing the CiLCA, it was approved and adopted and there are many parish councils that are exactly the same.

Mr Harris replied that there are many parish councils but we have to recognise the point and this is why the Deputy Monitoring Officer said there are governance issues within our council and we have to learn from, he is delighted that these are being put forward, it is the right thing. It has not been done before but then when we get it, it should not just go through on the nod, these are detailed papers that we need to look at.

Mr Harris stated that was the technical issues why Dr Bacon's charge against him was dismissed, that is why because it was not, it became apparent within a week. Dr Bacon stated that the charge was not dismissed it was just not investigated. Mr Harris told Dr Bacon to be careful, Dr Bacon replied that he was being very careful.

Dr Bacon asked to carry on with the business of the meeting, to review and accept policies, we have Standing Orders revised November 2018 and it is a case of renewal of the acceptance of those Standing Orders unless anybody wanted to challenged that they should not be. Mr Read thought more time was needed to study it and come up with what is actually needed. The Dr Bacon said that copies had been sent and he had time to study it thoroughly, Mr Read replied that Dr Bacon was more educated than he so that is probably why he has done it. Ms Johnson stated she had not had time to

go thoroughly go through it. The clerk stated that they were taken from the Model Standing Orders issued by NALC and at the time when they were accepted Mr Beckley, Dr Bacon and the clerk met and went through them all and adapted them to what, at the time, Catfield Parish Council needed. Mr Harris said unfortunately that is part of the problem we have had the three of you sat together and said this is fine. Mr Hill stated that someone had to do it and they did it. Mr Harris stated that the weakness is that as a committee. Dr Bacon stated that they were delegated to look at the Standing Orders. Mr Harris stated that he had never delegated Dr Bacon to do anything that he was aware of.

Dr Bacon stated that this needs to move on, either accept the Standing Orders or not, it is up to the Parish Council to vote on it.

Mr Harris said or you can take Mr Read's suggestion of having more time and then pointing out saying at the 360 people can bring up any points, he did not have any points on the Standing Orders. He had points on some of the others but not on that particular one. The Standing Orders were only send round because he had missed them.

Dr Bacon asked for a decision to accept the Standing Orders or not. Mrs Wickens proposed that they were accepted, Mr Hill seconded. There were three in favour and four against. Not accepted.

Mr Harris proposed to listen to Ms Johnson and actually give people more time and then in the 360 either agree them or not. Dr Bacon agreed with what Mr Harris was saying except we cannot formally accept anything at the 360 meeting, they can be accepted at the following formal meeting. Dr Bacon explained that it was Mr Harris's proposal to delay accepting them until there has been further discussion about them and then vote on adopting them. Ms Johnson stated that we can make sure nothing is missed out then that would be useful for the Parish Council.

Financial Regulations. Mr Harris said that he had pointed out the thing that was not being done, there may be other points like that which are not being done. Dr Bacon asked Mr Harris if to make progress in this meeting was Mr Harris making the same proposal that ... Mr Harris said yes on all of them that we should have the time to look at it and anybody who has troubles, some have considerably more trouble than others and it would be helpful to ..what those problems are that would be his suggestion.

Dr Bacon asked to take them one at a time because there may be some that Mr Harris would say are so uncontroversial that everybody can just agree to them.

Financial Regulations, delay accepting them until there has been further discussion.

The new Code of Conduct. Dr Bacon explained this was recommended by the National and County Associations that they should be adopted. Mr Read said that this needs serious discussion to bring it up to date to the modern age and not that thing that suddenly appeared. Dr Bacon explained that this is the new Code of Conduct from the National Association. Mr Read said that it should be you get the basic format of it but that should be what suits our Parish Council because one size doesn't fit all. Mr Harris said that unfortunately he is quite experienced in this, the first thing is we do not have to accept this. It is NALC but we have every right to change it to suit ourselves. There are serious, in his view, problems with this one. Dr Bacon suggested to move the meeting forward this should be left for further discussion at the meeting. Mr Harris stated that he would hint to what the issues are he would tell the Council. Ms Johnson stated that it should be left for the meeting.

Publication Scheme. Mr Harris stated that he could not understand this. The clerk explained that it is something the Parish Council has to have to tell people what policies and information the Council has and where they can be found if the public want copies of them. Mr Harris asked if we are changing 10p per sheet, he was completely in the dark about this. Could the Chairman explain. Dr Bacon explained that if somebody wanted to have a copy of the Code of Conduct that is twenty pages long they can have it free on email or they can pay 10p per sheet plus postage to have it sent to them. Mr

Harris asked what documents the Council has. Dr Bacon replied minutes, Code of Conduct, anything. Mr Harris asked where are the minutes, this is one of the things that struck him, where are the original minutes of the Parish Council. The clerk keeps them in folders, the Chairman signs every page. Dr Bacon explained that these are the ones that are normally in the village hall on the table in front of the Council and when they are voted to sign, the Chairman signs each page. Mr Harris thought this should be considered at the 360.

Data Protection Policy. Ms Johnson asked if this was from NALC and does it cover GDPR? The clerk replied that it is. Mr Harris asked who is the person who is in charge of this, it says Council has appointed name and job title? The clerk explained that the Council as a whole is the Data Controller. Mr Harris stated that he could not accept this at the moment with name and job title in it, we ought to be more specific about it. That is what he means about reading this stuff otherwise if something goes wrong we get sued and now we know we are all responsible.

Dr Bacon asked to move forward are Councillors saying that they don't accept this one at the meeting but discuss it later and then adopt it. Ms Johnson said that they could go through them all.

Risk Management Policy. Mr Harris stated that this is the most important of all in many ways but he did find it remarkable it says lack of proper communications tolerable with no further action needed. The fact anybody who knows what has been going on with the website must find that surprising. Dr Bacon stated that we do not have a website. Mr Harris thought it was the village website. Dr Bacon explained that it is not the Parish Council website which is a separate issue which he was going to raise. Mr Harris stated that he could not accept anything that says whatever is on that website. Dr Bacon stated that he might agree with Mr Harris. Mr Harris asked why what is in the document as tolerable with no further action needed. Dr Bacon asked if the Risk Management Policy was being accepted now or delay for further discussion. Ms Johnson suggested delay. Mr Harris asked if it is tolerable or not. Dr Bacon stated that it was acceptable to him but he is only one person and he was waiting for the Parish Council as a whole to decide either accept it or delay for further discussion but there is not time to go into details now. Ms Johnson suggested delaying all of the documents, perhaps everyone could take one to work for that meeting. Dr Bacon stated that this is the last one, all the others have been delayed so delay this one as well. Mr Read stated that a serious discussion has got to go on to clear the air for all these things because some people have had the time some people have not and, as they read at a quick glance, thought they are absolute rubbish as far as he was concerned they don't mean nothing.

Dr Bacon stated that he wanted to bring up a couple of other points that need discussion and perhaps decide on at a future meeting. Firstly, whether the Parish Council is happy with the current website on which the Parish Council place their minutes or whether they think they should have the parish Council's own website which the clerk would run and publish the minutes. At present there have been some inadequacies about the existing website but it is not under the control of the Parish Council and not under the clerk's control. Dr Bacon thought it would be better if the Parish Council had their own Parish Council website and the parish clerk ran it. Ms Johnson thought this would be a good idea.

Mr Edwards (parishioner) stated that a few meetings ago he remember the clerk referencing something about a renewal for the website or domain name and the Parish Council ended up knowing it wasn't exactly what was wanted but they went ahead anyway because there was rush, a time constraint on what they were able to do. Mr Edwards asked what was being paid for. The clerk replied that it was for the annual renewal for the parish website. Mr Edwards asked why was the Parish Council dealing with a website that Dr Bacon says is not the Parish Council's? Dr Bacon replied that this is precisely the point, it is the parish website which the Parish Council has helped to financially support but the feeling is that it has not been adequate for the Parish Council's purposes and they would be better off having their own Parish Council website. Mr Edwards agreed but he thought it was more complex than Dr Bacon is giving credit for, a good website would archive the minutes going back quite some distance and then there would be costs. Mr Edwards thought if the Parish Council

was going to down the route of a website they might as well take advantage of the fact that they are going to do something a bit new and make it a little bit more in keeping with the times we live in. Mr Edwards believed, as mentioned earlier, how the young just don't seem to be represented by this Parish Council, if you want to engage with the young you will do it online as they live and die online, that is how they do it. If you want to get information out to the young, if you want input from the young, from all age groups but particularly young a website is the way to go but it has to be a good one. It cannot be a Mickey Mouse affair. It will require ongoing cost per month probably but do one just to get the minutes on, the one at the moment which he thought was the Council's website it still shows Mr Beckley as a Parish Councillor it is out of date.

Dr Bacon replied that this was his point the Parish Council does not have control over the website, they are reliant on a third party and he would propose that the Parish Council has their own website, as many other parishes do, strictly so that things like the minutes, policies, membership can be accurately portrayed to the public and they are not reliant on a third party to get things correct.

Mr Harris stated that one possible way, he thought it was not checked because there was all the mess about the election on the website which was very confusing. It had the wrong candidates. What is needed, in his view, is to check when something is sent to Mr Amos to check that he actually puts it on and Mr Harris said his suggestion would be not necessarily to throw the baby out with the bath water but be prepared to pay a sum of money to make sure that there is a competent person putting the stuff on because that is where people go to look, other Councils, he had spent quite a lot of time looking at it. To make sure that what the clerk send actually ends up on the website because it is very frustrating if you... Mr Harris stated that he has learnt to look at the website and he found it has been consistently misleading. Mr Harris proposed that the Parish Council pays someone a decent sum of money to do the website, and actually check that what is sent ends up on the site, not particularly difficult. Dr Bacon stated that no payment making decision can be made like this without them being agenda items. Mr Harris said he would withdraw the proposal but as an idea we have to recognise which Dr Bacon had not done that the present position is unacceptable. Mr Harris stated Dr Bacon said it was tolerable. Secondly is that then a potential solution because people look at the parish website that is what Google takes you to is to pay someone, Mr Snelling is an IT guy, to just make sure that it is kept up to date, it is not rocket science almost every council in this country does that and thirdly we should check that when we send something that it ends up on the site.

Dr Bacon stated that he raised this issue not to make a decision on the spot or detailed discussion but to say that the current situation is not satisfactory and it needs to be looked at and it may be that our own Parish Council website is the answer and Dr Bacon thought it was something for future discussion and a decision could not be made at the time because as it is a financial issue and not an agenda item. This issue will be discussed at a future meeting and decide then if the existing website should be improved or whether they should be a parish council website.

Mr Jordan remarked that this point was raised from November time, it was minuted, that the parish Council was unhappy with how it was but the parish Council did not want the village to be without a website in the short-term and that was when the 360 meeting was likely to be imminent and it was something that was going to be discussed and Mr Jordan volunteered to assist with the website. Mr Jordan went on to say that it was also mentioned about engaging with the younger people of the village with Facebook etc.

Cllr Price stated that Catfield is one of the very few of his parishes that does not have its own website, most have their own Facebook, Instagram and everything else to help involve the younger people in the parish because they are the future. Cllr Price recommended that this should be considered seriously at a future meeting.

Dr Bacon stated that the other matter he wanted to bring up was that he believed both National and Norfolk Associations recommendations are that clerks should have separate computer facilities or in

else separate their own computer from their Parish Council work and Dr Bacon thought this needs some consideration and looking into but not for discussion now. The clerk stated that one solution is that she had purchased some external hard drives to transfer all the data onto so nothing is held on her personal laptop. Dr Bacon stated that this could be an answer but up until now it has been a case that there has been a mix between personal and Parish Council business on computers which is not good practice. Dr Bacon stated that the clerk can come up with recommendations how that can be solved. Ms Johnson stated that it is not good practice in any industry, she should not be using her computer for Parish Council stuff but she does as it is the only way she can do it but she thought that the clerk had two parish councils she looks after. The clerk replied that one suggestion to her by the Training Officer was that she had separate laptops but that would be having three laptops which is not necessary and the other solution was the external hard drives. Ms Johnson stated that by being a clerk for two Catfield Parish Council does benefit because she is able to reuse some of the work that she does for one council for the other so there is a fine line to make it advantageous for everyone.

Action Point: clerk to recommend computer procedure

12. Review future face-to-face meetings. The clerk had circulated an email regarding the High Court decision on Zoom meetings. Dr Bacon stated that the decision was that meetings must take place at a single specified geographical location, attending a meeting at such location means physically going to it and being present at such a meeting involved physical presence at that location. Dr Bacon explained that this is the long-awaited legal opinion on whether or not parish councils can continue having Zoom meetings or have hybrid, where there is a meeting that some people attend by Zoom and apparently the law says that is not the case, future meetings must be in something like the village hall in person.

The clerk had previously circulated a report about different options for going forward and the option really is the Parish Council can only go forward by having a physical meeting, Zooms and hybrids are out of the question.

Mr Read said that the sooner we get back to proper meetings the better, Dr Bacon agreed. Ms Johnson thought it will change in the future when it goes to a higher order. Dr Bacon stated that the parish Council needs to decide is what happens with the next meeting which would normally be scheduled for the beginning of June. Dr Bacon was unsure if this could happen, whether the village hall would be open or whether a different venue would be needed, or whether we can accommodate everybody involved plus any members of the public who want to attend because the venue has to house any members of the public who want to attend as well.

The clerk stated that until after 21st June it is not possible to have more than six people together inside.

Dr Bacon stated that one option would be to delay a meeting until after 21st June, he believed that some Parish Councils are not having their June meeting and going straight to July. Ms Johnson stated that this was suggested last meeting that possibly the training could be held in June and not have a Parish Council meeting. Ms Johnson stated that having said that Lea Road was coming up but is that planning permission request going to be going in within the next four to six weeks? Dr Bacon replied that if it does then that would be eligible for the Parish Council to discuss at the July meeting, if it went in even in four weeks' time the Parish Council would have something like twenty-eight days to put their opinion in, also that the District Council do allow some leeway for the Parish Councils to fit in with having a discussion on the subject. Dr Bacon did not think it would be a case that this would get missed.

Mr Read asked what was wrong, if the Parish Council could not go in until after 21st June, with having an extraordinary meeting dated after 21st June so we still get one in June and we can carry on then and still have July and we are not missing things. Dr Bacon replied that it would not need to be an extraordinary meeting, it just means that it would be delayed. Mr Read said yes a standard meeting, why miss it because there is a hell of a lot to discuss and as we have found out tonight hopefully face-

to-face we might get through some of it quicker. If this is put off until July we are having two month's worth of meetings to try and get into one and then we get into the point of everybody is going to sit there and say it is nearly midnight. Let's have an extra meeting in June after 21st.

Dr Bacon replied that there could be a meeting after 21st June for the June meeting followed a week or two later by the July meeting on the normal date, July 7th. One could be held on Wednesday 23rd June, the clerk replied that she could not make that date as she has training. Mr Read said it not necessarily have to be a Wednesday. Dr Bacon agreed saying there could be one in late June and still have the normal one on 7th July.

Mrs Gardiner stated that as far as the village hall in concerned there can be more than six as long as they conformed to social distancing, to which of course there could be a council meeting but you would not have the public because they would need to space the councillors but if the Parish Council wanted to have a meeting she thought it would be possible as long as there is two metre spacing. The clerk replied that the public have to be allowed in to a Parish Council meeting but not into the 360 meeting. Mrs Gardiner stated that the 360 business meeting could be done then and not lose the June meeting.

Dr Bacon stated that the possibilities are that there is a 360 in June in place of the Parish Council meeting or that there is a Parish Council meeting after 21st June. Mr Read said to go for both and get them sorted out. Dr Bacon asked if the 360 could be held before 21st June, in early June, the Parish Council meeting after 21st June and then the regular pattern back on 7th July. This was agreed.

Dr Bacon asked Ms Johnson if she was happy to sort out a 360 for early June, she agreed. Dr Bacon asked Ms Johnson to liaise with the clerk and the village about dates and times. Mr Read said that one thing on the 360 meeting he thought it has been agreed in the past it was going to be an independent chairman, he hoped that would be taken into consideration. Dr Bacon stated that Ms Johnson was going to arrange an independent person to facilitate the meeting.

Mr Harris stated that he thought it had been agreed to have Gabbie before. Ms Johnson agreed. Gabbie is the Training Officer.

The 22nd June was set for the next meeting. Mr Harris stated that he was a little confused, what was the proposal? 360 in June and then what. Dr Bacon replied that the 360 would be in early June depending on when Gabbie can fit it in as well, the normal June meeting on Tuesday 22nd June and then back to the normal routine on 7th July. This was agreed.

13. Planning

13.1 Briefing Note from NNDC regarding Affordable Housing – Lea Road. This had been circulated. Response from Flagship, also circulated. Dr Bacon explained that Flagship have a target date for submitting the application four to six weeks ahead from 30th April which would take it into early June but they are saying they could offer a virtual meeting before then and it says that Flagship are focused on solving the housing crisis in the east of England and the Catfield scheme is stepped towards achieving that goal with one hundred percent affordable housing and should representative of the Parish Council wish to meet to discuss the details let them have dates, times and attendees.

Dr Bacon went on to explain that NNDC housing officer, concerned with social housing, says that NNDC very much supports the proposal of the Lea Road site for one hundred percent affordable housing. This site is allocated site for Catfield documented as CAT01 in the current NNDC Local Plan and Catfield is designated as a service village and therefore small-scale housing is appropriate.

Mr Harris said he spent some time thinking about this and he had actually met with one or two of the Lea Road people. Mr Harris said that he has no interest in this at all but he thought that the Lea Road residents have been badly treated on this, they have been overridden. The letter which the Parish

Council wrote basically said to Flagship they said it was a positive meeting, black is white, that is what it said. Mr Harris thought the Parish Council has a duty to listen to them and it is relevant that Richard went canvassing down there with our MP, Duncan Baker, and they got a lot of flack and they said they would take it onboard and they would do something about it. Mr Harris went on to say that this was passed in 2009, twelve years ago, twelve years these people have had to live with this. The circumstances have changed considerably since 2009 in the following respects; 1. The traffic in the village has grown tremendously, there have been issues in New Road, the Traymaster lorries back into Lea Road and Mr Harris was not sure people had looked at the growth in traffic and the growth in New Road in particular and that requires to be looked at. Certainly, the traffic has grown considerably. The second point is that what has changed remarkably in the last ten years, twelve years is the awareness of water issues and ecological issues in Catfield and Mr Harris said he was not sure that it is noteworthy that Flagship have not even answered on the water issues, they have not answered nor has NNDC and he was not sure that people are up to date with where we are on this for a start there was the Catfield public enquiry in 2016 which emphasised the great importance of ground water and how it feeds the three fens round this place so this village is now recognised which it was not in 2009 to be really sensitive on ecological issues and one of the few legal duties the Parish Council has is to take into account that. It is interesting in the letter that caused the Code of Conduct complaint incidentally because when Mr Harris asked why we had not sent the letter, when we did send the letter it was very interesting what the response was of NNDC they then spent more time looking at the Sands thing and they have actually put, what he hopes will be and he hopes they would come back and say yes they will, quite severe constraints on Sands saying we need to make sure there is no pollution to the ground water. Mr Harris said that the Parish Council has asked to see that plan. The second issue that has changed, as Mr Snelling has pointed out, and if he was given a chance he would be able to go through it, the flood issues in this county are now top priority for the EA, their best people are now looking at those issues and there are issues relating to our position as a dry island which Mr Harris sees nothing from Flagship to indicate that they have considered that. There is also nothing on sustainable SUDS drainage systems there is nothing on that they just said they are going to have a pond. There are other planning aspects which give the residents of Lea Road good grounds and the Parish Council, if they chose to understand the issues, for opposing this because if you go into this what has happened in 2009 they agreed to this. We all agree that that there should be more social housing or there should be more housing in Catfield, that is not the issue, it has to be got off the table anybody who claims that is just not right. The issue is what has been done in Lea Road and Cllr Price and Duncan Baker have picked that up and they are well respected in the village for actually listening. Mr Harris thought the Parish Council should continue as we said to our friends to have a meeting, a public meeting as soon as the hall is open, we should use of the dates that you have in the book and have a public meeting. We should take up Cllr Price's suggestion of last time of, if he could get Lord Dannatt who is in charge of flooding, if he can't then Duncan Baker can chair it. Which is a good suggestion by Cllr Price last time because there is a great deal that Mr Harris thought can be made of this issue because of the ten year gap and how circumstances have changed. Mr Harris has looked at some of Scott's stuff and he thought he has sufficient there for this to be taken forward so he hoped, and he thought it would be interesting to hear from Cllr Grove-Jones. Mr Harris said that he hoped it was not just our County Councillors who are actually taking this seriously, but our District Councillors would actually listen to the things that Mrs Snelling has said and review the evidence which they are getting together to see if it really does make sense to do this, if it did it should have been done in 2009 because what really is going on here is they are trying to push this through before the new Plan takes place which is at the end of this year, that is what is actually happening, the fact that it doesn't make any sense and that the buildings should go elsewhere doesn't seem to both anybody. Mr Harris said that it bothers him because he thought we are seeing the residents of Lea Road ridden over in a way which he thought was not very democratic or fair. Mr Harris proposed that the Parish Council should go ahead, one, tell Flagship that we are going to have a public meeting on this irrespective of if the planning goes in or not, it would be chaired by, if we can get Lord Dannatt, if not Duncan Baker or some other worthy figure like that, Baker is a very considerable person. Then we should have that debate in public and by then Mr Harris hoped that the resident would have got together their evidence, he would also hope that Cllr Grove-Jones would commit that NNDC will make some of this

stuff available, it should be that they cooperate on this rather than just say you are going to have these houses sorry because we agreed in 2009. Mr Harris stated that he would look to our District Councillors to actually help us on this, to see fair play because he did not think what has gone on so far is fair play at all. Mr Harris thought in the meantime the Parish Council should write back to Flagship and say thank you very much we note this, we are going to go ahead with a public meeting, we hope you will come along. In the meantime, because if you read their letter carefully, it isn't that they didn't look at it they say. We should say do send us all the stuff you have got on the water, tell us about your SUDS proposal rather than just saying it is a big pond. Do tell us about the flooding issues, how you have analysed this because Mr Harris believes that Mr Snelling and otherwise when we look at this in a new light we may find that it is not quite as straight forward as people assume. A very good case could be made because this is the wrong development, it is not to say there should be no development it is just this is the wrong development.

Cllr Grove-Jones asked, because she was not present at the last meeting, what Cllr Price had to say. Cllr Price replied that Duncan Baker and he did visit Lea Road and spoke to residents and looked carefully at the site, they also considered the access to Lea Road and there are often frequently, today, three HGVs delivering across the road which involves blocking the road adjoining Lea Road, having to reverse many times go up the kerb with men guiding the HGV and totally blocking the traffic which is most unsuitable for a road which currently just has eleven dwellings and this proposal is to increase that by eighteen. As Norfolk County representative on the Coastal Flooding Committee which covers Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, they are very concerned and work with all the other agencies about the flood levels and having spent twelve years serving on the Broads IDB this is another crucial factor. You cannot divorce the two and finally in the field in Lea Road, at the end of Lea Road there are significant numbers of bats and the pre-application there is absolutely no mention of any bats survey being undertaken so basically the poor people of Lea Road who bought bungalows for their retirement and latter years in a quiet cul-de-sac are now going to be sacrificed for the purposes of progress and more importantly inappropriate and undiscussed progress because the application is totally unsuitable for that road, there are many other places. People he has talked to in Catfield have said about parts of the industrial estate which he had campaigned particularly when he was Deputy Leader of North Norfolk, to have investment and development but was told there are insufficient electrical supplies so no companies wanted to come there. There are parts of that been mentioned to Cllr Price by many of the parish members in Catfield to say part of that could be used for housing so there are other locations that can fulfil the needs of North Norfolk filling their housing commitments without having to sacrifice the quality of life and risk flooding for the people of Lea Road. Cllr Price said that he was sure Mr Snelling would be able to provide far better and Mr Harris has provided adequate information.

Dr Bacon stated that rather than going into the technical details the Parish Council needs to make a decision about what they are going to do from this point onwards. We have had the technical details before and we will hear them again if we have a meeting but a decision needs to be made.

Mr Snelling stated that he had got some legal stuff available.

Mr Harris stated that he had talked to Mr Snelling and he had looked at his stuff and he thought that circumstances have changed on the water and all we are asking, and he would ask Cllr Grove-Jones, we need to see fair play. Cllr Grove-Jones replied that everybody seems to think that she is totally against Lea Road but she is not. She can see where everybody is coming from in Lea Road, she can see that they are very unhappy about the development at the end, she could see the fact that Mr and Mrs Harris discussed in her house about the Mushroom Farm that site is just lying there unused, it's absolutely prime for some sort of development for housing, some of it would have to be left for light industrial commercial. Cllr Grove-Jones stated that they had talked about that, why there is the feeling that she is totally against the residents of Lea Road she does not know.

Mr Harris replied that he did not know personally but certainly Lea Road think she is against them, Mr Harris stated that he had no interest in this other than he believed in two things. One, he is interested

in seeing fair play and he did not think they have had fair play, he thought they had been overridden which is why Cllr Price and Duncan Baker picked this up when they went round. The second thing is Mr Harris feels embarrassed for the Parish Council, it has not done their job for these guys because they have not even taken part in the consultations with North Norfolk, we need to, and he hoped we would get Cllr Grove-Jones' support on this, actually start getting a better and more effective communication with North Norfolk, we need to develop our own local plan and in that. Cllr Grove-Jones agreed that the Parish Council needs to have a Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council has not been in the past proactive and so therefore they did not come up with the Section 18, we have Section 19 coming up, it is unfortunate that this has come to a head at an election time and this has been discussed over a period of months. Cllr Grove-Jones said that she was very sorry that the Lea Road residents and Mr Snelling and his mother feel that she is totally against them, she is not.

Mr Snelling (parishioner) said that he had not actually ever spoken to Cllr Grove-Jones and he had only heard a few mentions of her name in probably the last year. If he knew her back in 2009 when she was active, he would have come to her sooner. Cllr Grove-Jones replied that she was not a District Councillor in 2009.

Dr Bacon stated that rather than discussing the fine details the Parish Council needs to make a decision about what is going to happen next.

Mr Snelling addressed Cllr Grove-Jones saying that what happened is when the allocation of the site was picked the biodiversity area what was tested was actually smaller than the proposed developed area so he spoke to the Independent Examiner and he said he agreed about bats, that particular section was not included in that test so the bats were not even included. The site never should have been picked from stage one. Cllr Grove-Jones replied that she was not saying Mr Snelling was wrong, she was saying that it was picked whenever it was and that even people within the planning department are saying it is not necessarily the right site but it is in the Local Plan so we have to either say that we support it or we don't. The only thing that is going for it, as far as she is concerned is that it is affordable housing.

Dr Bacon reiterated that it is not necessary to go into the fine details, we need to make progress at this meeting, not go into the technical details of the site. That is for later meetings, what we need to do is to decide what is going to happen from here. Dr Bacon stated that Mr Harris has made a suggestion about a public meeting, if that is going to be where we go from here then we need to sort out the details of that and pass that proposal. Mr Harris replied that the Parish Council needs to go ahead with the proposal of a public meeting and try to get the Chairman, Dannatt or Baker, and then we should respond to the letter. Mr Harris is happy to draft a letter saying show us all you have got on the water, because they have nothing at the moment, this is his proposal that they show us that. Mr Harris's second point is he would ask Cllr Grove-Jones that she, we know this is the wrong development, we are not anti-development, this is the wrong development and it is twelve years they have had to do this. Mr Harris would like to see Cllr Grove-Jones commit to seeing fair play and co-operation out of North Norfolk on this because there are going to be technical issues which Mr Snelling can produce and Mr Harris has looked at it and he has some experience in these water issues, there is some good stuff. Clearly, we have to look at that in the public meeting but therefore Mr Harris thought that the Parish Council should respond by saying to Flagship we are going ahead but show us what you have got and Mr Harris would hope that Cllr Grove-Jones..... Cllr Grove-Jones replied that it is not just her decision, she has said previously, and she does not know what she is so looked at as the bad guy in Lea Road because she had only ever spoken really apart from going up and down and talking and chatting to people in a very pleasant way with Mr Snelling and his wife. She does not know show this has gone through that she is the bad guy; it does not matter.

Debbie Wheeler-Osman (parishioner) asked to make a couple of points; this has been going since 2009 they have put up a lot of objections about it then, she was under the impression that at that point in time when it was all stopped that dealt with and finished but now it is all raised again. Also, somebody

mentioned that this was issued ten years ago and anybody who moved into this area in Lea Road would be fully aware that there was probably planning houses going up that end. Mrs Wheeler-Osman said she had spoken to both her neighbours who moved in the last two years and neither of that had any awareness of that development possibly happening which she thought was unfair, one set of neighbours have been there less than a year, so it was a real shock to them. Also, the social housing is a bug issue as there is no path or walkways to the schools, all the schools would have to have paths to take the children to school which surely social housing would mean young families, it is not the site to have that type of property.

Mrs Bailey (parishioner) said that on the schools matter, she did not know if there were enough places at the school for all the children that would be living at the end of the road, there could be eighty people, that is a lot of people and if there are thirty-eight adults all the rest are children so they can't all go to Catfield school because it is not big enough, they are not all going to be children that go to High School so we have not got the amenities for all the people that are going in there.

Dr Bacon asked again to leave the fine details and make some progress, there is no point going over the fine details about the site, the Parish Council needs to make a decision based on Mr Harris's proposals that a letter is sent in response to Flagship and that a public meeting is sorted out. Ms Johnson agreed with that. Dr Bacon asked to put these two proposals to a vote. This was unanimously agreed.

Action Point: Mr Harris to draft a letter for the clerk to send. Mr Harris and Cllr Price will find a chair for the public meeting.

Cllr Price said that once there is a date he could work on helping to find a chair. With regard to children and schooling the first HGV delivering and blocking the road entrance into Lea Road was there at around 8am and probably took until 8.30 to complete its manoeuvring, so if children are having to be bussed out that would cause a major problem but the most important thing and the most pleasing thing tonight is to hear that the Parish Council fulfilling its role and that it is listening to its community and he commended the Parish Council for that because openness and listening are the most important things that we have as whatever councillor or MP that is our role.

Mr Harris said that the poor friends in Lea Road have got a lot of work to do, he had seen enough so that there is potentially gold in the hills but we need to have cooperation from North Norfolk to open up the old planning files to show when for example Traymaster was approved what were the restrictions on traffic at that time, we need their cooperation on that which has not been forthcoming so far. He would like that Cllr-Grove-Jones to listen to this, this is an election issue the two candidates out saying this their number one issue so there is real interest in this village. Mr Harris went on to he is indifferent to it, this is not his own affair but he thought that we, as a Council mis-performed over the ten years since 2009 and we ought to look at ourselves and say how come that has happened, that is why he said the dynamism is why he criticised the Chairman earlier. Secondly, Mr Harris would like to hear that Cllr Grove-Jones and her colleague Cllr Millership are going to try and listen to this building body of concern in the village and actually try and judge the thing on its merits, there is new evidence, a lot has changed since 2009 particularly on the water. Anybody who wants to look at that, look at the planning on the previous the Sands, there is a habitat directive assessment was done on that because of the comments made, in part by the Parish Council. Water is now a key issue and so is ecology in this place circumstances have changed since 2009 so it is not just that the residents of Lea Road are upset by, we ought to be looking at those changed circumstances too and particularly North Norfolk because the risk is this is going to go to appeal.

14. Industrial Estate. Mr Harris stated that he wrote a paper on this, it is the same thing and again he was looking at Cllr Grove-Jones. The Parish Council has not got a productive relationship on planning with North Norfolk at the moment, we are making no progress. We have got nowhere, we got the suggested outline planning should be put in and they were rejected. Mr Harris stated in his view there is such a lot of tittle tattle going on that it would be helpful if Steve Blatch could come, who

knows our village and he knows its problems as well, and at first hand heard some of this stuff and actually responded because the risk, as he said, we will prepare a Neighbour Plan, we need to and we need to listen to our constituents. In the meantime we need to talk to Steve Blatch, he can help us produce this, we want a constructive relationship with North Norfolk, we are not anti-housing That message should not go out but we want to talk to people who can respond. When the working party met with Ashwell we supported him and said the great advantage of dealing with him is North Norfolk is local therefore people are not standoffish so if we ask to see Steve Blatch her actually might make the date available. Mr Harris said that this would be his point, he would say we ought to repeat our request though Cllr Grove-Jones and Cllr Millership, who is not here, that we want a constructive relationship, at the moment it is not and we need, if it would be helpful to have Steve Blatch to talk to us.

Cllr Grove-Jones replied that Mr Harris has had meetings with her about the site, she could not disagree with him, it is right for development If not the whole site but a proportion of it for housing. In fact, a pre-application was made by the person who owned the site and it wasn't taken through. Cllr Grove-Jones said she did not know where the impression was given that she is not open to the thoughts of the village and she agreed that the Industrial site has been empty for thirty years, it needs to be looked at again. She agreed that the site at the end of Lea Road is not the most sensible in view of the fact that houses could be built on the Industrial Site but she is not against the parish and she could not work out whether somebody had been going round and putting forward ideas that she is against the parish because she is not. She thought there are very valid concerns and points and she is perfectly happy to work with the Parish Council.

Mr Harris said that this was the view in Lea Road, they feel that, the comments about what to do, 'move' 'is well known in Lea Road. Cllr Grove-Jones replied that it is because it is the most obvious thing if you are totally unhappy with what is going on around you and she thought it had been taken slightly out of kilter if you are totally unhappy with what is going around you and you can't cope with it then if there is no other option then you move. That is the obvious answer and the lady who said people have moved in within the last two years and they did not know about the development at the end that is up to their surveyors, the people that they bought from should have found out what was going on at the end of the road. Cllr Grove-Jones said she was absolutely dismayed at the way she had been presented not only last meeting for not turning up and being presented by certain people as if she just missed everything and this one that she is not concerned, she is. Cllr Grove-Jones stated she is the District Councillor and she is here.

Mr Harris said two points would help, one is if we could see Steve Blatch, if Cllr Grove-Jones could persuade him to come and talk to us because the risk this is becoming quite a big issue in Catfield so could Steve Blatch make some time with Mark Ashwell or whom so ever to come and talk to us. Cllr Grove-Jones replied that she could ask and put forward the request and say it is a very big concern of Catfield that he comes and talks to you, whether he will or not she did not know.

Mr Harris went on to say that his second point is that Cllr Grove-Jones should see fair play and that North Norfolk planning doesn't just write a letter saying this is the position for sure. It actually opens up its files to our friends in Lea Road so they can properly investigate what the planning restrictions were when the New Road access were all done. Cllr Grove-Jones agreed she did not know what went on in 2009, she did not joint the committee, the one who would know is Cllr Price because he was District Councillor then and he should know what was going on then, he has been District Councillor since 2007.

Mr Hill stated that the Parish Council discussed a couple of meetings ago the entrance to the Industrial estate coming off the A149 immediately on the left and there had been some discussion about the condition of the buildings the individual who is in charge of that area is very keen to re-develop and improve and that was one of the reasons that we would like a meeting with North Norfolk to try and forward that and secondly Mr Hill understood there is some sort of development regarding the scaffolding company. Mr Hill stated he was not aware of what had gone on there and asked Cllr Grove-

Jones to expand on that. Cllr Grove-Jones replied that scaffolding company had been given enforcement notice to leave the site, she noticed that they have not done so far but they are supposed to exit the site and unfortunately with these things people, if they are on a site, they will take as long as they can so that they don't have to exit immediately but they are under and enforcement notice to exit the site. Mr Hill asked why that was. Cllr Grove-Jones only knew that they did not have permission to have a scaffolding site there.

Dr Bacon asked for things to be moved forward and make progress. There is no further progress to report with the Industrial estate.

Action Point Cllr Grove-Jones will contact Steve Blatch to get a meeting.

Mr Hill asked what is the Parish Council asking for a meeting for, is it to discuss re-developing as we come in off the A149, or is to discuss some other aspect. Dr Bacon thought if it was possible to get a meeting with Steve Blatch it would be discussing anything to do with the Industrial Estate, he is the man in full knowledge of that site and it would be worthwhile to discuss anything we want to do with the Industrial estate.

Mr Harris said that the reason he suggested a meeting, he wrote a paper to everyone, was because all the time when you talk about these issues, Monk and all the rest you hear Steve Blatch doesn't want that, Steve Blatch is against it, there are Chinese whispers about this which Blatch's name is usually attached to. The best way with Chinese whispers is to have a meet with the guy and talk about what development issues there are in Catfield, the Monk issue, the road in from the A149, all of these issues and to hear from the horse's mouth where they are coming from and also for him to get the fact that there is growing unrest in Catfield and it is not going to go on like it has the last ten years and we want his help in producing a Neighbourhood Plan, we need his people to help us because we are not anti-development or anti-housing. Cllr Grove-Jones said that the Neighbourhood Plan is for the Parish Council to develop with Mark Ashwell. Mr Harris stated that what he was saying is the Parish Council needs to have Blatch, they have talked to Ashwell but then Chinese whispers behind the scenes means it is off so we need to get it from the horse's mouth, that is what was agreed.

15. Recreation Grounds. The clerk reported that she had requested a ROSPA inspection for the playground. Mr Read said that he had been going through some of the historic records of meetings, there was one 2011/2012 dogs were banned on the football field, he had not come across anything to say they are allowed back and basically it is a pampered dog walk and there are people on there using it to play and not everybody is conscious of clearing up the mess from their dogs. Is the ban still in place?

Dr Bacon replied that the decision was reversed it is minuted but he could not remember when it happened, it was instigated by Richard Banester's wife who started discussion that led to that decision being reversed. Mr Read stated that he had been through the minute since 2010 and had not come across it to the present day that it had been changed. Dr Bacon said he could recall the decision and the fact that it was reversed and that dogs were to be allowed on there but obviously on the assumption that the owners clean up after them which may or may not be happening. Mr Read said that obviously the Chairman had different minutes from him so perhaps he could email him the dates, Dr Bacon replied that he had the same minutes but he had no idea what date it was but it was rescinded.

16. All Saints Church. The volunteers are working on the churchyard.

17. Poors Trust. There is some work in hand on trees being inspected and tree work being done for safety on the Staithe and some work should be happening soon regarding churned up loke across Catfield Common.

18. Highway Matters. Lots of the roads in Catfield have been tarred and gritted. Mr Read stated that the brambles he asked about which were a danger for pedestrians and also motorists, the reply

was that they could cut down part of them because the wildlife, birds, bees, butterflyed whatever any wildlife it is a home to them. Mr Read stated that he appreciates that is a home to them. Dr Bacon has just said that they are doing tree work on the Poors land for safety reasons, the brambles are for safety reasons as well what is the difference? Dr Bacon replied that he was not disagreeing with Mr Read. Mr Read then asked why Dr Bacon was allowing tree work to go ahead in the nesting season. Dr Bacon replied that it was on the advice of a tree surgeon and a tree surveyor for safety reasons. Mr Read asked if it was not safety reasons that somebody nearly got ran over on the road because the brambles had not been cut back. Dr Bacon reiterated that he was not disagreeing with Mr Read, he was unsure why Mr Read assumed he was disagreeing with him. Mr Read asked what was the difference between one safety aspect and another so why have the brambles not been cut down? Dr Bacon replied that it is not in his control to cut the brambles down, the relevant Highway Officer, Justin Le-May, and his email had been circulated in reply, as far as Dr Bacon knew the Highway Officer was intending to cut them down but after the nesting season. Dr Bacon said he was not disagreeing with Mr Read, why did he assume he was? Mr Read replied that he did not say Dr Bacon was disagreeing he was saying what was the difference between safety of a tree and safety of people, he knew the tree could fall down onto a person and that is people safety, best they get their finger out and cut them down before somebody gets run over. Cllr Price suggested that if Mr Read too a photograph and send it to him he would take it up with the Highway Officer.

19. Footpaths & Staitnes. The footpaths are being well used more than ever in the past since Covid, lots more people out walking.

20. Schools. Nothing further.

21. Any Other Business. Nothing to discuss.

22. Date of Next Meeting. Dr Bacon stated that there are three dates fixed, hopefully the 360 meeting, 22nd June and 7th July. Hopefully there will be a date for a public meeting about the Lea Road development.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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Chairman

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Date