**MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

**BLO NORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 16th November 2021 AT 7 p.m. at Village Hall**

1. Attendances and Apologies

David Mills, Shirley Grainger, Colin Lloyd Hannele Tanskanen, Colin Lloyd

Marion Chapman-Allen attended

2 Members of the public

1. Approval of Minutes of 17th August 2021 meeting
2. Any declarations of interest

Matters Arising

1. Michael Bristow

Michael sadly passed away recently, he was formerly in the Navy and had lived in Blo Norton for many years. He was a long standing Parish Councillor.

1. 1 Million Trees for Norfolk any update

**CL** had had a meeting with Greg Pearson from Breckland who will assist along with Joolz from iFarm with applications going forward. Outlined some different paths. Hoping to obtain a 1,000 trees. There could be a cost of 30% of the total. Clerk noted they could also apply via Steve Askew. **MCA** also noted there are various sources. 420 tree packs are totally free and delivery would be quick, they come from Woodland Trust. Can be done on a rolling programme and under current conditions keen to encourage more than one pack. Still have to find manpower to put them in the ground, may do it over a rolling period, say over 3 years. **DM** queried whether there was guidance as to what trees are planted where. Good time of year to plant currently, could do some in autumn and next lot in spring. Tend to provide 2 year old trees. Come with protectors. Fortunate to have several groups in the community who might help with planting. IFarm has been offered 600 sweet chestnut saplings and they are planting 1000 willow saplings. This will assist with flooding on their site.

1. John Dyer Charity and meeting with Kenninghall PC

Clerk and Chairman had a meeting with Chairman of Kenninghall PC and Trustee. Waiting to hear from Kenninghall PC re details of the balance which available, it is a 1/3rd and 2/3rd split with Blo Norton receiving 1/3rd for villagers to request funds mainly used for students and educational needs.

1. Meeting dates for 2022/bi monthly

**DM** unsure of what might happen in the future. Thoughts were we all communicate outside the meetings but if we do have bi monthly meetings then decisions are made in public and details are minuted. Agreed to change to bi-monthly from the New Year and see what happens. Next meeting to be 18th January 2022. Clerk will circulate dates for the remainder of the year.

1. Flooding at top of Selfs Lane

**DM** – this was a serious flood and The Street was completely flooded. Water was not running properly under the Street and into the ditch in Self’s Lane. Highways were contacted and advised that heir contractors have it on their books to be done. **DM s**poke to them again yesterday and was advised that it should be done by Christmas.

Church Lane flooding, some progress has been made. New residents happy to help and have cleared all the ditches. Highways have come and met on site and had a helpful meeting. The problem is that the water comes down the lane and floods as it has nowhere to go. Highways attended with water jetting system, but there is no blockage. This hasn’t solved the problem and it remains an on going issue. CC will not be investing in new culverts. Potentially it could be landowners responsibility.

1. Quiet Lanes

The Parish Council discussed the issue of Quiet Lane signs following a question from a parishioner on two missing signs.  It seems that NCC do not have funding to replace them.  One of our parish councillors contacted the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England ) who originally campaigned for quiet lanes but it seems that they do not have funds to replace the signs either  and they have indicated that should the Quiet Lanes prove beneficial then parishes would adopt them and use their own funds to replace the signs when required.

It was generally  felt that since the signs are placed outside the 30mph limit they have not proved effective in traffic calming.  They give the impression that it is safer to walk or cycle down the lanes but in fact car drivers are not aware of them so they are ineffective

1. Parish Council Vacancy

To put an advert in Garboldisham newsletter. **MCA** has sent details to the Clerk of someone who might be interested. The Clerk will make contact.and if necessary the post will be advertised in the “News”

1. **Financial**

**Agreement on next years Precept to remain as last year and to be sent to BDC by 21.01.2022**

**Completion of Form B was made at the meeting.**

Approval was given for

Clerk Salary £192.00 due 6th January 2022

HMRC £48.00 due 6th January 2022

Memorial Wreath £17.00

Payment to Village Hall £3,000 (last made in September 2020)

**Receipts**

Breckland DC Precept £2835.00 (Sept 21)

Balance of Barclays £15,059.55

**Any Other Business**

The Clerk will contact Clare or Vera to query the village hall heating system.

Joolz from iFarm attended and updated the PC on a number of matters.

Save the White Horse via iFarm Benefit Society. Property occupied by tenant until end of August 2021. Surveyors report and valuation report sought. Entered into negotiation. £245k + VAT. Unable to do share issue. Agreed sale price, take on tenancy of pub and have 12 months to fund raise and deal with share issues. Tenancy will cost £25k + VAT for year and is deposit on purchase price but must complete within 12 months. Can contribute via community shares or fund raise. Have held one community day and raised £8000 and 2 more are planned. Planning to do food offering but will be down to volunteers. Intention is to employ a chef. Have access to mobile catering and can trade from that immediately. Hoping to instal a micro brewery on the premises. Should add significant value to houses in the village. Outbuildings to be used for brewery and possibly Airbnb. They are planning that the White Horse be self sufficient with ground heat pump and solar panels.

Volunteer days next Saturday at iFarm to build disability access garden and raised bed. Received £10k from BDC for water management, clearing ditches, saving rain water, reed bed filtration and filter run off from fields. Restoring existing ponds. Creating new pond and other projects.

In terms of village hall had Monday morning meet up for coffee and cake. Liaising with village hall Committee for other meetings at the hall. Liaising with Juliette the artist for another project and may hold some game nights/digital training in the village hall.

Applying for £10k for lottery fund specially for community climate action plan. Asking the Parish Council for their support. Working with BDC aligning community action plan – Suffolk CC net zero carbon by 2030. As a community need to consider what this might look like over the next 10 years. Sustainability for example with the pub, might be installing heat pump or installing solar panels.

It was agreed that as a Parish Council we would support this.

A representative from IFarm has been invited to  attend the Blo Norton History Group AGM on 13 December where they will be discussing planning for the bi-centenary of the Enclosure Act and the centenary of the houses at Fairfields.  A joint event is planned for late Summer/early Autumn 2022.

IFarm feel there is a requirement to assess the need for affordable rented housing in the community.

1. **Planning**

No applications received,

Meeting closed at 20.20

Next meeting is 18th January 2022