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## Minutes of The Meeting of Loddon Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 7.00pm held remotely via 'GoTo Meeting'

**Present:** Cllr June Strickland, Chair (JS), Cllr Kay Mason-Billig, Vice-Chair (KB), Cllr Arthur Morris (AM), Cllr David Tarry (DT), Cllr Jane Hale (JH), Cllr Sophie Waggett (SW), Cllr Mervyn Pointer (MP), Cllr Alan Wildman (AW), Cllr Stephen Jones (SJ), Cllr Margaret Wallace (MW), Cllr Michael Martin (MM).

**In Attendance:** Emily Curtis (Parish Clerk), Georgina Hirst, (Responsible Finance Officer, RFO), District Councillor Jeremy Rowe, and nine members of the public.

**Absent:** None.

### 1. **Welcome**

Cllr KB welcomed everyone to the meeting as the Chairman was struggling to access the remote meeting. The Clerk and Cllr DT confirmed that they wished to record the meeting.

### 2. **Remote Meeting Protocol and Etiquette**

The Vice-Chairman informed the Council and the members of the public that microphones should be muted by all (including Cllrs if they are able) until they wished to contribute to the meeting. All attendees were asked to raise their hands if they wished to speak, and Parishioners were informed that they will be muted after the Public Forum.

### 3. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

### 4. **Councillor Co-Option**

South Norfolk Council (SNC) has informed the Council that the period for the vacancy has now elapsed and the Council is free to co-opt. The Council considered an application made by Michael Martin, and the Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Martin. The Declaration of Office was signed. **ACTION:** Clerk to organise induction and Cllr email address.

### 5. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr DT declared a pecuniary interest in items 12 and 13.  
Cllr SW declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 12 and 13.  
Cllr SJ declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 26.  
Cllr KB declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12.

### 6. **To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 10 February 2021**

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 were **APPROVED** as a correct record with no amendments.

### 7. **Matters Arising:**

#### 7.1 **CCTV Cages at Staithe**

TPI Security have installed the cages to protect the CCTV cameras from vandalism.

## **7.2 Gritting on George Lane**

County Cllr Barry Stone has communicated with Gary Overland at NCC Highways and the gritting cannot be amended to include the whole length of George Lane, but LPC can apply to have it added for the 2021/2022 route. **ACTION:** Clerk.

## **7.3 Church Plain Grit Bin**

The grit bin is within the former Church Plain Toilet Heras fencing, as the landowner was unable to move it. An agreement has been reached with the landowner for it to be removed and placed in the car park. **ACTION:** Clerk.

## **7.4 The Bowls Club Asset of Community Value Application**

Thanks to a supporting statement from the Chairman of Loddon Bowls Club, the completed Asset of Community Value application has been submitted to SNC.

## **7.5 Freedom of Loddon Plaque**

Thanks to the 2020 recipient Algar Taylor for allowing the Council to 'borrow' his plaque, to get replacement casts ordered. Two new plaques have been received, and as the quality and appearance are excellent, the Council will need to consider a budget for further replacement casts (Financial Report, Item 9.6).

## **7.6 Tree Plaques**

Thanks to Carol and Bernard Webb for installing the two replacement commemorative tree plaques in the village. The plaques have been attached to hard wood thanks to Cllrs AW and DT, and the new plaques should last for many years to come.

## **8. To receive reports from County and District Councillors in attendance and Public Forum:**

### **8.1. County Councillor Barry Stone**

Circulated a report to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

### **8.2. District Councillor Kay Mason-Billig**

Cllr KB informed the Council that the George Lane Roundabout Road Traffic Order was submitted this week. Once this six-week consultation period is over, the building work should commence, and trees have been felled in preparation. Anglian Water is scheduled to start work in April 2021.

SNC have a Multi-agency group looking at the flooding issues and will liaise with Parish Councils once the results are published. SNC are employing an Environmental Officer who will be focusing on enforcement of landowners' responsibilities to ditches and riparian rights.

The caravan temporarily parked at the Staithe Car Park has been relocated; thank you to parishioners for their patience while this family received support from SNC.

Covid-19 update for South Norfolk; Case rate 65% lower than last week. Infection rate is 21/1000 people. Numbers of Covid-19 patients at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital have halved over the last week. Norfolk was fifth highest performing area in the UK for delivering vaccinations. 100% of 70-99 age group in Norfolk have been vaccinated.

### **8.3. District Councillor Jeremy Rowe**

District Cllr Jeremy Rowe had circulated a report to Councillors prior to the meeting. ChetChat is offering to assist people of any age during lockdown and will receive referrals from the SNC Help Hub for local residents that need help with groceries and prescriptions etc whilst shielding or self-isolating. Over Easter, ChetChat will distribute one hundred Easter eggs, hot-cross buns, daffodils and cards. ChetChat can be contacted directly on 07867 050110. If you would like to speak to the SNC Help Hub team, their number is

01508 533933. His regular surgeries will resume when it is safe to hold them again. In the meantime, Jeremy can be contacted on 07733323581.

#### 8.4. Chairman's Report

The Clerk has completed one year with Loddon Parish Council. The Clerk will be on annual leave from the 16 March to 19 March 2021 and enquiries should be directed to the RFO during that time.

#### 8.5. Parish Councillors Reports

Cllr MW reported that she and Cllr JS recently attended a Loddon Town Estate Trust meeting. The charity can offer financial support to people who need welfare and educational assistance.

Cllr JH reported that she is now a Trustee on the Jubilee Hall Committee and recently attended the AGM.

#### 8.6. Public Forum

A member of public informed the Council that the triangle of land on Old Market Green has been purchased by a group of residents and a trust will be formed to maintain the land.

A member of the public informed the Council that the replacement Oak tree on the Halsbury Home development is yet to be planted. **ACTION:** Cllr KB.

A member of the public raised concerns that the tree warden did not appear to be carrying out his duties. **ACTION:** Clerk.

A member of the public was concerned that Young's window should not be used for the upcoming 100 Year War Memorial Anniversary. Cllr MW confirmed it was not.

### 9 Finance Report - RFO

#### 9.1. Accounts for Payment in Accordance with the Budget

The RFO presented the list of payments and it was **RESOLVED** to approve this list of payments. **ACTION:** RFO

Signatories, Cllr JS and Cllrs MP agreed to sign the BACS and cheque payments.

**ACTION:** RFO, Cllr MP, Cllr JS.

| Date     | Payment Method | Payee                             | Item   | Amount |
|----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------|
| 23/02/21 | CC             | Elite Hi Vis                      | Printed Hi Vis Vests                                   | 54.97  |
| 26/02/21 | CC             | Pclmedia Ltd                      | ID badge lanyards                                      | 10.24  |
| 02/03/21 | CC             | LogMeIn Tech UK Ltd               | GoTo Meeting   | 13.20  |
| 03/03/21 | CC             | SLCC Enterprises Ltd              | Arnold Baker 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition book             | 123.80 |
| 08/02/21 | BC             | Unity Trust Bank                  | Multipay Setup Fee                                     | 50.00  |
| 19/02/21 | DD             | Plusnet                           | Phone / broadband                                      | 40.80  |
| 01/03/21 | DD             | British Gas                       | Office Electricity                                     | 9.02   |
| 05/03/21 | DD             | British Gas                       | Staithe Electricity                                    | 161.54 |
| 06/03/21 | DD             | Saffron Housing                   | Garage Rent  | 52.00  |
| 08/03/21 | DD             | IntY Ltd                          | 2 x Office 365   | 22.56  |
| 10/03/21 | DD             | Adept IT Solutions                | IT Support   | 28.80  |
| 10/03/21 | 300005         | HM Revenue & Customs              | March tax / NI   | 526.55 |
| 10/03/21 | BACS           | Community Action Norfolk          | Play Area Inspection Training                          | 30.00  |
| 10/03/21 | BACS           | TPI Security                      | CCTV camera cages                                      | 145.00 |
| 10/03/21 | BACS           | Norfolk Parish Training & Support | Training:<br>Data Protection 20/01 Whole Council 03/02 | 533.00 |

|                       |               |  | Cllr Finance 18/02<br>RFO Year End 10/03 |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|------------------|
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Loddon Garden & DIY                    | Grounds maintenance                      | 31.10            |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Norfolk Pension Fund                   | Pensions March                           | 782.47           |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Staff                                  | Salaries                                 | 2,648.98         |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | E Curtis                               | Expenses                                 | 14.35            |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | G Hirst                                | Expenses                                 | 104.68           |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Cozens (UK) Ltd                        | Street Lighting Maintenance              | 36.00            |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Chris Knott                            | Cleaning – staithe toilets only          | 240.50           |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Adept IT Solutions                     | IT Support                               | 145.34           |
| 05/03/21              | CC            | Amazon Business UK                     | Stationery and 2 x Allotment Law books   | 55.54            |
| 11/02/21              | DD            | Everflow Water                         | Staithe toilets                          | 1,995.46         |
|                       | DD            | British Gas                            | Gas                                      |                  |
|                       | DD            | Southern Electric                      | Streetlights                             |                  |
| 11/03/21              | DD            | Everflow Water                         | Staithe toilets                          | 250.04           |
| 10/03/21              | 300007        | The Church in Loddon                   | Church Grant                             | 660.00           |
| 10/03/21              | 300008        | Signcast                               | FoL Plaque + mould                       | 132.00           |
|                       | BACS          | Norfolk County Council                 | Rent                                     |                  |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Norfolk Association of Local Councils  | 2021-22 subscription                     | 136.55           |
| 10/03/21              | BACS          | Eastern Rivers Community Gym at Loddon | Community Grant                          | 100.00           |
| <b>Total Payments</b> |               |  |  | <b>£9,134.49</b> |
| <b>2020/21</b>        | <b>Income</b> | <b>Received from</b>                   | <b>Item</b>                              | <b>Amount</b>    |
|                       | Nil           |  |  | £0               |

## 9.2. Bank Reconciliation as of the 28 February 2021

The balance of Loddon Parish Council's bank accounts as of the 28 February 2021 was £188,510.75.

## 9.3. Electricity and Gas Contract for the Library Annexe

British Gas has advised the Parish Council that Energy Broker Utility Alliance has gone into administration. The two contracts involved are: Library Annexe gas and Staithe Toilets electricity, and the contracts end in November / December 2022 respectively.

## 9.4. Business Rates

SNC are seeking further views on the issue of the Rateable value of the Library Annexe and how the situation has arisen. SNC will report to the Valuation Office the changes required. The availability of Small Business Relief on the Library Annexe is dependent on the specific legislation agreed on the rate relief for public toilets. This legislation has been delayed through parliament but is hoped to be passed this year.

SNC advise that the community hall at the Library Annexe is very likely to be eligible for the LRSG Covid-19 Grant. The deadline for applications is 31/03/2021. The grant can be backdated to 05/11/2020 and would provide £1,334 per month of lockdown (i.e.. Nov, Jan, Feb and March plus a lump sum yet to be confirmed). **ACTION:** RFO.

## 9.5. CCTV Proposal at George Lane Playing Field

The Playing Field Committee (PFC) have resolved to offer to install and administer the George Lane PF CCTV system on behalf of the Jubilee Hall, The LUFC and Loddon Parish Council, will each contribute (the cost of their respective camera and ¼ of the installation cost and hardware) and the PFC will own, insure and maintain the system. All organisations

involved have agreed to make a proportional contribution and the Secretary has strived to obtain three quotes which will be presented to the PFC for approval.

#### 9.6 Freedom of Loddon Plaques

The Council **RESOLVED** to establish an earmarked reserve for the Freedom of Loddon Award and at the 2020-21 financial year end allocate £600 to the new reserve to fund the purchase of 10 plaques and the 2021 ceremony, plus any contingency funds required. **ACTION:** Clerk to order a further ten plaques.

#### 9.7. Parish Council Support

Quotations have been received for 2021-22 Council support subscriptions;

- Norfolk Parish Training & Support - £500.00
- Norfolk Association of Local Councils - £136.55

The Council appreciated the different support from each organisation and **RESOLVED** to take advantage of the introductory offer and subscribe to both NPTS and Norfolk ALC. **ACTION:** RFO.

#### 9.8 Loddon Community Gym Grant Application

A grant application has been received for £93.77 to assist with purchasing cleaning equipment to comply with the Covid-19 cleaning requirements. The Council noted their contribution to the community and **RESOLVED** to offer £100. **ACTION:** RFO.

#### 9.9 Allotment Rates 2022-2023

The Council considered whether it was necessary to increase the prices for Loddon Allotments as demand is currently high. Loddon Allotment Tenancy Agreement states; "3. The Council may not later than two months prior to the date on which the rent hereunder falls due give written notice to the Tenant that a revised rent shall be payable after that date, the amount to be stated in the notice and thereupon the revised rent shall be payable for all subsequent years subject to any further revision". A mapping survey was completed on the Allotments in 2020 and it identified eleven of the plots were not being charged the agreed 2020 amounts. The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the rent on those eleven plots only in 2022-2023 and inform the tenants in line with the clause 3 in the agreement. **ACTION:** RFO.

#### 9.10 Staithe Public Conveniences: Replacements Taps and TMV Installation

The hot taps in the ladies and gents toilets are repeatedly sticking and wasting hot water. The Legionella Risk Assessment report recommends installing thermostatic mixing valves on all publicly accessed hot taps to limit temperature coming out of the taps to a safe level, 41oC. The plumber (B&F Domestic Services) who provides regular maintenance at the Staithe toilets recommends replacing all hot taps due to wear. Quotations to provide and fit five new taps, TMV's, pipe work and fittings plus labour.

- B&F Domestic Services Ltd quote (2 days labour incl.) - £868.05 inc VAT.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept this quote and replace the taps. **ACTION:** RFO.

#### 10. COVID-19 Lockdown

The Government has outlined the roadmap to leave the Pandemic restrictions as detailed in the 'Covid-19 Response - Spring 2021' document. Details are on the Parish Council website. If all tests are met, the Tennis Courts can reopen on the 29 March 2021 and the Parish Council office can reopen on the 12 April 2021. **ACTION:** Clerk  
Thanks to Cllr MP for continuing to replenish the hand sanitising stations weekly.

#### 11. Dog Fouling Issues in the Parish

Several pieces of correspondence have been received regarding dog fouling issues on parish lands, and in conjunction with comments on Facebook it is clear that the community consider that this is a problem that needs addressing. The Clerk has investigated the Green

Dog Walkers Scheme, which has proved successful in other parishes. The scheme encourages dog walkers to adopt the Green Dog principles. Green Dog Walkers® sign a pledge to:

- always clean up after their dog.
- dispose of the bag responsibly.
- carry extra dog waste bags.
- gladly give a bag to those without one; and
- be a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dogs.

The Council **RESOLVED** to investigate the Green Dog Walkers Scheme and Cllr KB offered a Members grant to help fund the scheme. **Action:** Clerk.

CCTV will also be installed on the George Lane Playing Field, and SNC have confirmed that they will prosecute people who fail to clear up after their dogs.

## 12. **Permissive Footpath Closure - Pyes Mill/Loddon Marina/Holy Trinity Church**

Several pieces of correspondence have been received from parishioners who have indicated their disappointment regarding the closure of the path. The landowner has provided a statement indicating why they have closed the footpath. The statement from the landowner will be attached to the Minutes as Appendix 1.

The landowner has also provided a letter from the Broads Authority dated 24 February 2021 detailing complaints that have been directed to the Marina landowner that have been investigated and not upheld.

Loddon Parish Council has been liaising with the landowner throughout the last twelve months and has been informed of the reoccurring issues outlined in the statement above. The Council is aware that the path is a valuable asset to the community, but also respects that the landowner owns the field and gives permission to walkers. The Parish Council asks that dog walkers are compliant with the landowner's requests and ensure that dogs are kept on leads for the benefit of all users of the path. The landowner has confirmed that a Permissive Path will be reinstated across the field once the dredging works have been completed and further signs installed.

## 13. **Staithe / Broads Working Party Update**

The Working Party have received the necessary documents and plan to meet again in April. SNC have replaced the barriers at Pyes Mill, completed the quay heading work. The work has been completed to a high standard, despite thefts and vandalism. SNC are planning to close the Staithe Car Park in order to reline the spaces. The tap that is provided for the moorings is leaking and will be reported to SNC. **ACTION:** RFO.

Thanks to Cllr AW and his wife for inspecting the Staithe Public Conveniences twice daily, to ensure the doors are locked overnight. The cleaning contractor is cleaning every other day at this time of year.

The Broads Authority (BA) Ranger has identified a boat without a toll and issued a ticket. Liveboards have been warned that when the suspension of section 61 ends at the end of this month they will have to move within 24 hours as before the lockdown. The Ranger has offered to join the next LPC meeting remotely to address confusions about boats over-staying and the BA system of prosecution.

Tree and bush removal from the banks of the Chet has been completed as far as the Loddon side of Pyes Mill. Unfortunately, the removal of trees alongside the field between Pyes Mill and Loddon Marina was not possible due to the floating equipment the BA have in place. The landowner has been approached and agreed to remove the trees and reprofile the riverbank at no charge.

Fishing is legal either from the bank or from any boat until the end of the fishing season in March.

## 14. **Public Open Space (POS) Working Party Update**

**Broadlands Meadow;** Thanks to Taylor Wimpey for clearing the brambles from the Beck. The Clerk has not received a reply from Taylor Wimpey in respect to the request for the Play Area fencing replacement, Risk Assessment for the steps and the additional signage.

**Kittens Lane Play Area Paths:** A report was received by a member of public that paths have become damaged by the recent rain and snow and the path surface dressing needs replacing. Thanks to Loddon Garden & DIY for addressing the immediate Health and Safety concerns. The Council is in contact with the Skate Park contractor to address the path issues.

**15. Allotment Working Party Update (WP)**

Cllr DT has resigned from the WP but has offered to honour any commitments he has previously made to the Council. **ACTION:** Clerk to amend Working Party membership.

**16. Christmas Lights Working Party Update**

Cllr AM informed the meeting that the householder/business Christmas lights have been moved to LPC's office. There is a meeting planned with Marcus Cozens to discuss the lighting proposal for the car parks for the 2021 display.

**17. The 100 Year Anniversary of Loddon War Memorial**

Cllr MW proposed that the Council should commemorate the 100th centenary of the building and dedication of Loddon War Memorial in May 1921.

- Sunday 24 May 2021 at 4.00pm – Outdoor Public Rededication Service at Loddon War Memorial by Rev David Owen and it is hoped the current Bishop of Norwich will also attend. The Loddon branch of the Royal British Legion will be invited to have a lone branch standard officially present. **ACTION:** Cllr MW.
- Chet Contact May 2021. Full page article from Cllr MW and Loddon History Group giving details of the war memorial, a copy of the Bishop of Norwich's comments, and details of the 23 May 2021 church service. **ACTION:** Cllr MW.
- Loddon Parish Council Website and Facebook Page. Cllr MW will compile text and photos for the Clerk to add to the website and Facebook page. **ACTION:** Clerk.
- A permanent Notice Board on Church Plain (very near the War Memorial). Content to include a photo of the original 1921 dedication/unveiling ceremony, information as to how it came into being but mentioning how the money to build it was raised, what it is made of, the significance of its design, who built it and how much it cost, the month it was built, and any other relevant information. It may also be prudent to mention that it is owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with thanks to Loddon History Group who have assisted Cllr MW.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept all of Cllr MW proposals.

**18. Asset of Community Value application for The Library and Library Annexe Office and Rear Hall**

An asset of community value is land or property of importance to a local community which is subject to additional protection from development under the Localism Act 2011.

The Council **RESOLVED** to apply to protect the Library for the community and the Annexe office and rear hall to ensure that it remains a community asset for the benefit of Loddon. **ACTION:** Clerk.

**19. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Chedgrave Parish Council has agreed to progress Neighbourhood Plan activities with the specific aim of reviewing and amending the Loddon & Chedgrave Terms of Reference document to reflect the fact that both councils are involved. Chedgrave Parish council has **RESOLVED** that the whole of Chedgrave parish boundary be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. GH will send a formal letter to South Norfolk Council informing them of the intention to start the Neighbourhood Plan and organise another meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. **ACTION:** RFO.

*Cllr SJ left the meeting due to IT issues.*

## 20. Planning

### 20.1 Planning Applications Received from South Norfolk Council:

- **2020/0350**, Approval of Condition Details, 23 Low Bungay Road Loddon Norfolk NR14 6JW, Discharge of Condition 3 of planning permission 2018/1373 – Materials. **PC Not Consulted.**
- **2021/0347**, Non-Material Amendment, 11 Elm Close Loddon NR14 6LG, Non-material amendment to permission 2020/0466 - for cladding to exterior of utility room to allow for insulation. **PC Not Consulted.**
- **2021/0415**, Householder PD Prior Notification, 23 Gunton Road Loddon Norfolk NR14 6DP, proposed single storey rear extension, extending 3m from the rear wall of the original dwelling. **PC Not Consulted.**

### 20.2 DECISIONS on planning applications by South Norfolk Council:

- **2020/2346**, Listed Building, 44 High Street Loddon NR14 6AH. Replacement windows and door to Loddon Plaice Fish and Chip shop, **Approval with Conditions.** Date of decision: 18 February 2021.
- **2020/2453**, Cowslip Farm Barn Green Road Hales Green Loddon Norfolk, Single storey extension to provide a sitting area, **Approval with Conditions**, Date of decision: 18 February 2021.
- **2021/0022**, Approval of Condition Details, Details for conditions 5, 6 and 7 of 2020/0132 - (5) Surface water drainage (6) Windows and doors, eaves, verge and dormer windows and (7) Noise Assessment, **Approval of details** – Approved. Date of decision: 19 February 2021.
- **2020/2331**, 53 High Bungay Road Loddon NR14 6JR, replace existing wooden section of boundary wall with brick and increase height to a maximum of 2.45m, paint to match dwelling (retrospective), **Approval with Conditions**, 1 February 2021.

20.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS received from Broads Authority: None.

20.4 DECISIONS on planning applications by Broads Authority: None.

## 21. Highways

### 21.1 Speed Awareness Message (Sam2)

A report was circulated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Council gave thanks to Bryon Spark for moving the Sam2 to its new location each month.

## 22. Governance

### 22.1 Training and Development Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the training and development policy. **ACTION:** Clerk.

### 22.2 Scheme of Delegation

Several members of the Council met to discuss the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation. The changes which were implemented, and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt this amended version of the Scheme of Delegation. **ACTION:** Clerk

## 23. Significant Correspondence

### 23.1 B-Line Loddon Land Survey



The Council agreed to defer this item to the next Agenda but agreed to consider the wildflower seed planting proposal in the Library front garden area, subject to the Library's comments. **ACTION:** Clerk contact Library and B-line.

**23.2 Planning Enforcement Remote Training from SNC (17 March 2021 at 5pm)**

Cllrs JH, SW, JS, KB and officers GH and EC will attend. **ACTION:** Clerk to reply to Stuart Pontin at SNC.

**23.3 Flooding at Loddon Mill**

An email was circulated from the one of the residents of Loddon Mill to the Environment Agency, regarding the flooding in December 2020 and proposed changes that could reduce the flooding issues. For information only, no action required.

**23.4 Return to Face-to-face Meetings**

Clerk circulated correspondence advising that the current Coronavirus Act expires soon and a return to physical meetings should reconvene from the 07 May 2021.

**23.5 Operation Forth Bridge/London Bridge**

SNC have sent guidance (mainly flag flying which does not relate to LPC) to prepare the Parish for when the protocol will need to be executed. **ACTION:** Clerk.

**23.6 Old Hockey Field – Report of a Horse on Field**

Several reports have been received regarding a horse that is being ridden around the Old Hockey Field. The Clerk has put a note on the gate and on Facebook to say that horses are not permitted on the field.

**23.7 Parking on George Lane/Bridge Street Junction**

Double yellow lines cannot be enforced as a 'waiting time' is legal. The police can no longer enforce parked vehicles on double yellow lines as it is the responsibility of SNC. The Council **RESOLVED** to invite the following people to have a meeting to discuss the issues; the owners of the takeaway shops, PC Banes, Gary Overland (NCC Highways) and Ali Pridmore (SNC). **ACTION:** Clerk, Cllr KB, Cllr JS.

**23.8 Water Leak on Mundham Road**

A parishioner has reported a water leak on Mundham Road. Unfortunately, the parishioner was unable to give the address of the property. **ACTION:** Cllr AM.

**23.9 Remembrance Sunday**

The Cllrs noted that Remembrance Sunday would be on November 14 2021.

**23.10 Parish Events**

SNC have asked the Parish Council to make them aware of any planned events to ensure that the event is safely executed during the Pandemic.

**23.11 Broadcaster Advert**

The Council **RESOLVED** that they did not wish to place an advert in the Broadcaster publication. **ACTION:** Clerk

**23.12 Free Adult Learning Courses**

Adult Learning Courses from Norfolk County Council will be advertised on the Parish Council website. **ACTION:** Clerk.

**24. Items for Future Agenda**

Cllr MW asked for 100-year War Memorial Anniversary to be added to the next Agenda. **ACTION:** Clerk.

**25. Exclusion of Public and Press**

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press.

**26 Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The RFO reported that three quotes had been received and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the three-year quote from Loddon Garden & DIY at £6,110 per annum. **ACTION:** RFO to reply to quotes and add to contract spreadsheet.

**27. Personnel Working Party Update – ICC Role**

The Personnel Working Party informed the Council that the Information Centre Coordinator role has sadly been made redundant as 80% of the role could no longer be carried out. The Council sent a bouquet of flowers to Ms Fish to thank her for all her work over the last eight years. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Working Party recommendation for the redundancy calculation. **ACTION:** Clerk.

**28. Personnel Working Party Update – Administration and Allotment Officer**

The Personnel Working Party proposed that an Administration and Allotment Officer role is advertised with immediate effect at 12 hours a week. LPC does have adequate funds in their budget to accommodate this new role. The Council **RESOLVED** to advertise the new Administration and Allotment Officer role. **ACTION:** Clerk.

**29. Date of the Next Meeting**

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 7.00pm. (Agenda items to Clerk by 05 April 2021). Parish Council Meeting to follow immediately after the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 14 April 2021.

**The meeting ended at 21.47pm.**

## Item 12 – Statement from Permissive Path Landowner – 10 March 2021

### Permissive Foot Paths Crossing Land to the East of Loddon Marina.

A Permissive Path permitted path or concessionary path is a path (which could be for walkers, riders, cyclists, or any combination) whose use is allowed by the landowner. In recent years the poor conduct of an increasing number of individuals has meant that as Landowners we have had to reconsider public access to the Permissive Footpath and the privately owned field it transverses.

These include but are not limited to:

- Dog walkers ignoring signs and requests to keep dogs on leads
- Dog walkers failing and refusing to pick up the dog foul their dogs produce
- Dogs being encouraged to attack wildlife and livestock
- Individuals harassing livestock
- Individuals feeding livestock.
- Individuals leaving the route of the Permissive Footpath and using the private field as a public open space for various activities
- Litter being left all over the field including bags of dog faeces
- Items, including but not limited to, rubbish, litter, faeces and fencing being thrown into the river.
- Unauthorised fishing from the river banks in addition to associated rubbish which includes, but not limited to, fishing line and hooks
- Unauthorised barbecues, fires and one incident of camping
- Anti Social behaviour, including drug taking
- Items being thrown at boats moored in the adjoining Marina.
- Verbal threats of physical abuse and violence to Landowners and users of the Marina
- Gates being left open allowing cattle to escape into the Campsite and Bridge Street

The privately owned field in question is a SSSI and of significant importance to the local area and wildlife.

The privately owned field and Permissive Footpath in question is not a public open space, it is not common land nor is it owned by the community.

Over the next few months dredging and tree removal works will continue. These works have all the correct permissions in place. This will mean a lot of heavy equipment working on the field which could cause a significant risk to members of the public if they were to come into contact with it. This also has to be done sympathetically due to nesting birds etc. Therefore the field and Permissive Footpath will remain closed to public access for the duration.

Several accusations and comments have been levelled at both the Landowners and the Marina over these issues.

- There are no cattle in the field so there is no need to put dogs on leads or pick up the resulting dog faeces.
- It is common land and as such the rules do not have to be followed
- It is listed on OS maps and so is a Public Right of Way footpath
- We are in a National Park so the public have the right to roam
- It is an excuse by the Landowner to close the Permissive Footpath(s)
- People have a legal right to use the Permissive Footpath(s)

In Reply

- There are no cattle in the field due to these issues, most notably that dogs off leash and dog faeces can kill cattle, this is immaterial in any-case as a Landowner does not have to give justification for rules on privately owned land, regardless of whether a footpath is Permissive or not.

- It is not common land it is privately owned
- Permissive Paths, Rights of Way, Foot Paths, Bridal Ways, and Green Lanes are also listed on OS maps it does not mean they become footpaths for public use
- We are not in a National Park.
- Three years ago when SNC were refusing to rebuild a bridge to access the Permissive Path, meaning it would have been closed forever, the Landowner allowed a small area of land to be used to build a culvert and reroute the offsite public footpath thereby providing a connection, via the Permissive Footpath, to Loddon. If the Landowner had wanted the Permissive Footpath closed they would not have facilitated the works to the culvert to be undertaken
- No legal right exists for a Permissive Footpath to be made available for public use

Several other accusations have been levelled as part of this I would like to address:

- The Boat Yard and Campsite are muddy
- Scruffy boats are stored within the Boat Yard
- The Police were called due to a walker being asked to put a dog on a lead and pick up after their dog.
- People are staying on the camp site during lock down
- There are caravans and a motor home on the Campsite
- The Landowner wants paying in some way
- If the Landowner wants dog faeces picked up then the Landowner should supply bins
- If dogs and cattle are a problem, then cattle should not be put on the land.

In Reply:

- The Boat Yard and Campsite are muddy, we have had a lot of rain. In addition, and most notably, the National Lockdown imposed due to the current COVID situation has resulted in very limited income over the course of the year and has placed restrictions on employing or retaining staff. This is again immaterial and perfectly demonstrates the problems we have, ie. these areas are privately owned and members of the public, who do not have permission to enter, should not be wandering all over them.
- We are a Boat Yard! Owners who pay for storage have no obligation to keep boats clean or store a boat on hardstanding within a boat yard.
- This is partly true and the disgusting and abusive behaviour of a dog walker, it was pointed out to the gentleman in question that a dog which was not under the owners control could be shot by the Landowner of the property or land in question under certain circumstances. The wife of the gentleman admitted to the Police that he was aggressive. The Police have advised both individuals that they cannot access the land in any circumstances as the perceived right of access has been removed and if they access it again they will be arrested for criminal trespass. The Landowner decided not to press charges for the first offence. A post on Loddon Eye Notice Board by a member of the public who witnessed this is attached to the bottom of this document.
- During Lockdown One, one family were in residence on the camp site, this was due to their house being flooded and needing somewhere to stay, this was done with the full permission of the Police. During the current Lockdown we have had two people in residence, a caravan with a nurse who is working on a COVID ward and her partner who are registered as being homeless with SNC. A second couple in an RV who are in the process of rebuilding a house for themselves, the District Counsellor is well aware of this. A third caravan is owned by a former Loddon resident who has family in the area and uses it when he visits to see them, however due to COVID restrictions he has not been able to visit since last year, during Lockdown One he was a resident at the campsite due to travel restrictions. The third is our caravan which is intended for use in an emergency situation, such as a boat taking on water and someone needing accommodation. The forth in the storage area is in storage for its owner.
- The Landowner does not want and will not accept any payments from external bodies, this has been made very clear to LPC

- It is not the Landowners responsibility to provide bins, it is a legal requirement of the dog owner to pick up after their animal.
- The field is there for livestock and not for dogs! Furthermore the grazing of cattle on the field provides an important part in the ecological management and maintenance of the SSSI.

### Future Plans

The Landowner had several meetings with Councillors from LPC and SNC last year about the rerouting of the Permissive Footpath and this was an Agenda Item. This was for information purposes only as there are no legal requirements to do this. The intention is carry on with these plans to allow a Permissive Footpath to cross the field. The Permissive Footpath will be across the top of the field from the boat yard, and then along the east side of the field to the Pyes Mill bridge. A Permissive Footpath will be formed with dredged material and demarcated with either fencing or ditches to keep livestock and wildlife safe from members of the public using the Permissive Footpath. This future work will take time and a considerable amount of the Landowners money. Permissions will also have to be sought from the Planning Authority for certain aspects of these proposed future works. Again the Landowner would like to remind the reader that the works undertaken to date and which are to continue possess the required permissions. SNC are in the process of replacing the Pyes Mill bridge which is needed to provide safe access to the Permissive Footpath. The Landowner has declined the offer from SNC to replace the wooded walk way as the new route will be further to the east and a culvert will be installed by the Landowner at their own expense.

If and/or once open to the public, the following rules of use of Permissive Footpath need to be adhered to:

- Dogs will be required to be on leads and faeces picked up and removed
- People will be required to stick to the Permissive Footpath.

The Landowner will not enter into negotiation regarding access to the field. No deals or contracts will be entered into. The land owner reserves the right to close the permissive path at anytime. The Permissive Path will continue to be closed for short periods annually.

The Landowner does not want and will not accept any payments for the Permissive Footpath but has in the past asked LPC for help signposting the Public Footpath that crosses owned land and would duly ask for help in signs and help in making sure people stick to the path and keep dogs on leads.

