

# Clerk's report

January 2021

## Mattishall Parish Council



Photos: Top – shop and butchers on Church Plain after the snow. Bottom from left to right – snowman on the village green standing in front of the war memorial, homemade sign “This is not a dog toilet” on Parkers Road, view of All Saints’ church in the snow.

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The items below relate to actions/resolutions from the 4 January meeting:

Item 6.3: Cllr Fowler spoken on behalf of the Parish Council at the planning committee meeting on 25 January, where planning application 3PL/2020/0462/F for the land south of Dereham road was approved by 9 votes to 1.

Item 7: Residents provided many photos and examples of flooding in the village. These have been collated and sent to Lead Local Flood Authority, Cllr Bill Borrett, Cllr Ian Martin, George Freeman MP and Anglian Water asking for their support in resolving these issues. Cllr Ben Handford and I met with representatives from the Lead Local Flood Authority on various sites across the village, talking with some of the residents impacted. We did not manage to visit all locations in the parish and are due to meet with them again soon.

Items requiring explanation on the 1 February agenda

The councillors have expressed a desire to reduce the meeting length times, ensuring that no meeting exceeds 2.5 hours. To aid with that, the usual order of the agenda has been amended, with legal requirements and community focused items at the beginning of the meeting. The meeting will finish within the 2.5-hour timing and any items not covered can be included in the following meeting.

Item 4: The minutes from the meeting on 7 December 2020 state that Mattishall Volunteer Hub had made an incorrect delivery, when this was not the case.

Item 6.2: As part of the year end process the council need to appoint an internal auditor. It is suggested that the council appoint the same internal auditor as last year who would be able to complete an online audit should lockdown require it.

Item 8: We are working with the Lead Local Flood Authority to understand the action that can be taken to resolve the flooding issues highlighted by residents. Once their report becomes available council will be able to discuss.

Item 9: The Parish Council have been offered a donation of £100 to purchase signage reminding dog owners to clear up after their dogs on the footpath on the fields between Welgate and Greg Close. Councillors have come up with some different options to be discussed and agreed upon at the meeting.

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Item 10.4: Hopkins Homes have been granted planning permission to build 50 homes on land south of Dereham Road. This site could give the opportunity for the Parish Council to gain some additional open space for the village. The next steps are for the council to agree the requirements of the whole parish and ensure they maximize any benefits.

Item 10.5: Many District Councils have produced supplementary planning documents which are used alongside policies and Local Plans to build upon and provide more detailed guidance. Breckland District Council have not introduced these documents.

Item 11: The Neighbourhood Planning: Delivery & Monitoring Group – Terms of Reference were approved in April 2017. The current team have drafted an updated document for the council to consider.

Item 12: The play area policy was agreed in 2018 and is due for review in February 2021. Minor amendments have been proposed.

Item 13: There are no applicants for the position of handyperson and the councillors wish to agree a pay range to be included in future advertisements.

## Additional items for information

Play area and outdoor gym – the path into the play area, from Dereham Road, has been dug up to repair a collapsed drain. Please take extra care when arriving and leaving the area as the ground is currently unlevel. The outdoor gym is currently shut due to the latest government COVID restrictions and is not being inspected on a weekly basis. Please do not enter the area.

Dog fouling – this has increased significantly over the last few weeks with a number of reports being next to dog bins! Please clear up after your dog. Thank you to all those dog owners who always do and even those who clear up after others.

Burgh Lane cemetery –we are waiting for the details of the repairs needed on the corner after it was hit by a lorry in November. Once these details have been received the council will discuss these and agree a way forward.

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All Saints' Churchyard Wall – the wall on the corner of Church Plain and Dereham Road has begun to flake. The builders have protected it from the weather and will come back to repair it once the weather improves. Also reliant on the weather is the moving of the gate, that lead on to Dereham Road, which will be set back into the churchyard in the coming months.

Handyperson vacancy – we are still looking to fill this position. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let me know.

Parking issues – Cllr Smith has contacted the Evangelical Church to request the use their car park for the public. It is hoped that this will ease the parking issues along the stretch of road between Welgate and Back Lane.

Allotments – 19 plot holders have renewed their tenancy agreement, while 2 have not yet responded.