



## **MINUTES OF LYNG ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM, ON WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL 2021 AT 7:30PM**

### **Introduction from the Chairman.**

In the absence of Cllr Meader, it was agreed that Cllr Orton would chair the meeting.

### **To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Meader.

### **To receive Chairman's report**

No report was available. Cllr Orton gave a brief update of Council business. It was confirmed that the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting would be 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via zoom. Residents were advised that this Parish meeting was an opportunity to for Local Organisations to keep the Council updated and residents to raise issues with the Parish Council.

### **To receive the District Councillors' report.**

No report was available.

### **To receive the County Councillors' report.**

No report was available

### **To receive reports from community organisations.**

Village Hall – The Manager of Lyng and District Community Hall gave an update on the lifting of restrictions at the Village Hall and confirmed that the Village Hall is a charity, there for use by the Community. They are currently fundraising for a storage unit. It was confirmed that they needed more volunteers to come forward to be able to provide more activities and to support current volunteers. The Hall was meeting all targets except in the provision of youth activities which is was hoped could be addressed. Residents were encouraged to check the Hill and Vale for details of activities.

The Parish Council are aware that there are gaps in provision which need to be filled for youth. It was hoped that as stakeholders started to work together, facilities would be improved. It was confirmed that there was a need for people who are prepared to get involved and to donate some time.

No one was present from the Multi Use Sports Area to provide an update.

An update was provided on the provision of trees as part of the Woodland Trust Scheme. As evidence of community support was needed there would be a survey, details to be published in the Hill and Vale with paper copies of the survey available in the shop. All comments welcomed. If the decision is made to go ahead with the planting, there would need to be an application from the Parish Council which may limit the remit as the Council would be responsible for the future maintenance and aftercare of the trees. The Woodland Trust has been contacted for further information and has packs available for planting October / November.

A brief update was given on the memorial for Bam Bam. As £2428 had been raised to date, there would need to be consideration how the money could best be used. The idea of a statue was well supported with any surplus funds being donated to charity. Once further information was received

about the types of statue available, all residents will be given an opportunity to comment via the Lyng Village Facebook page. It was confirmed that the discussion involved Bam Bam's owner. The just giving page was still open for donations. Residents suggested various options including a tree with a memorial plaque, a willow den in the shape of a deer or a statue made from an old tree.

A resident asked if there were any plans to enlarge the play area. It was confirmed that although there are no current plans, any further development would require grant funding. The Clerk gave a brief update and confirmed that repairs had been carried out the play area and the Council had approved the replacement of bark. Regular inspections were being carried out by Cllr Joyce and any concerns were reported back to Council.

It was acknowledged that the play area is well used and that there is opportunity to look into providing more facilities and expand the use of the play area. A skate park or BMX track was suggested. (Chat confirmed that a resident was happy to fundraise for a BMX track – It was confirmed that this has been previously considered and there is space on the field which would be suitable) It was suggested the Council look at providing equipment for teenagers, possibly gym style equipment. A representative from the Village Hall suggested that there was a need for volunteers / parents to come forward to support activities for the older children. It was hoped that a youth club could be set up with the right support. Any large scale projects would require grant funding and it was acknowledged that with grants, match funding was usually required.

(The online chat confirmed that a parent from just outside the village had already expressed an interest in helping with a youth club). Contact details were given for anyone wishing to help and it was confirmed that all skills were welcome.

Councillors were asked to display their titles at the meeting.

Concern was raised about vehicles driving across the playing field to access the Bowls Club. It was highlighted as a safety concern. It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to contact the Bowls club with regards to resolving the problem.

It was confirmed that the Chairman's report was not available due to a last minute personal matter preventing Cllr Meader from attending the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that nothing had been received regarding boundary issues with the neighbouring caravan park.

Clerk to put update on the website regarding an update on the weight restrictions for Lyng.

Councillors were asked what they believed their job role to be and what contribution they felt they were making as Councillor to the village. Cllr Orton confirmed that the Parish Council had limited powers and referred to the District / County Council as appropriate.

Cllr Joyce felt that her role was to try and make it easier for residents to contact the Council for queries and questions. Make the Council more accessible and ensuring that the village were involved in what was going on. She was carrying out play park inspections on a monthly basis.

Cllr Williams felt that Councillors all brought their own experience to the role, as there was a cross section of age, gender and experience. He was currently working on the provision of water at the allotments and has a background in planning.

It was confirmed that all Councillors have something to give, as much or as little depending on other responsibilities / commitments. The role is voluntary and Councillors do what they can.

Cllr Sullivan confirmed that as a new Councillor she had started her Councillor Induction training and had taken on banking responsibilities.

Cllr Jarvis confirmed that she believed the role of Councillor had already been explained.

The Clerk confirmed that the Council would be making a decision regarding the terms and conditions of keeping bees on the allotments at the next meeting. A decision on the number of hives had not yet been made.

A new resident to the village introduced the concept of a 'Library of things'. Like a traditional lending library but for items, to save them from going into landfill. The scheme would be good for people to engage with other people. It could be used for fundraising. Members of the scheme would pay an annual fee which would give them the opportunity to log onto the website and take away items for set period of time, either for free as a member or for a nominal charge. Donations could be made to the library so there would need to be a place to store the items and someone to facilitate the process. Details to be sent to the Clerk for further consideration.

There was the suggestion of a steam engine rally weekend to raise funds. Residents encouraged to make further enquiries and come back to the Parish Council.

Residents were encouraged to contact Anglian Water / Norfolk County Council/ Environment Agency with regards to blocked drains. The Parish Council were only responsible for drains on their own land. Although not directly responsible, they are taking steps to try and resolve flooding issues in the village. It was reported that if the issue was with the drains and gullies on the main road, then this would not be Anglian Water's responsibility.

The Clerk gave an update on the allotments and confirmed that there were 4 people on the waiting list. Asbestos has recently been removed from the site and steps are now being taken to ensure that the Council focuses on the future management of the allotment site.

The Council confirmed that there may still be an issue with the dog bin on the corner of Heath Road but a new larger bin has been ordered. Issues with lack of bin emptying will be chased with Breckland as it is their responsibility to empty.

There was the offer from a resident to improve the Parish Council website. It was agreed to consider this at the May meeting.

There was discussion regarding vehicular access onto the allotments. It was understood that there may be existing rights (as some of the allotment land was sold for housing to purchase playing field) The Council agreed that if they put a restriction on vehicles accessing the site, these existing rights were considered. As one resident had raised a complaint about damage to their hedge by a vehicle accessing the site, there may be a need to consider public liability.

The idea of an allotment association was raised. Further information to be circulated.

Cllr Jarvis was asked about her bees and declarations of interest. It was confirmed that whilst Cllr Jarvis has bees she does not sell the honey. She gave information regarding the keeping of bees and answered questions as raised. Cllr Jarvis confirmed that she had reservations about bees being kept on the allotments. It was accepted that every bee keeper would have a different opinion on the best ways to keep bees.

The idea of a club to look at the history of the village was suggested. If anyone has any old pictures they were encouraged to contact the Village Hall as they were trying to put together a montage of photos.

Questions were raised about personal and pecuniary interests. The Clerk confirmed that information had been published on the website and as previously confirmed, any concerns with regards to Councillors not operating under the Code of Conduct should be directed to Breckland District Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.00pm