LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Little Dunham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 6th January 2022 in the Village Hut.

Present: Cllr Simon Fowler (Chair)
Cllr Jane Harding (Vice Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Parker
Cllr Linda Johnson
Cllr Nina Forsyth

Two Members of the public
Three representatives from Low Carbon re Solar Farm (see item 4)
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs Tracy Mylum and Paul Stebbings were approved. Apologies were also received from District & County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th November 2021.

Cllr Harding proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by Council.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation, including a short presentation regarding the proposed solar farm (see item 10c).

The representatives from Low Carbon gave a short presentation regarding the proposed 190 acre solar farm at Church Farm, Newton. The company are at the pre-application stage, in talks with Breckland, following which it will move to the community consultation stage seeking feedback from local residents. It was hoped the application would be submitted and a decision made by the Autumn of this year and, if approved, construction completed by the Summer of 2023.

In response to queries, the representatives confirmed the following:

- The public footpath would remain open at all times and not be moved.
- If approved, the site could not be expanded without further appropriate planning permission.
- The battery storage would be containerised and sited away from the boundary.
- There would be a single storey building near the entrance for the grid operator to connect to the sub-station.
- The cable to the sub-station would be buried underground.
- The land is leased for 40 years and then recovered.
- Trees and hedges would be planted for screening.
- Construction traffic would be routed from the A1065 and not pass through Little Dunham.
- Once construction is completed, there would be one van visiting the site per month.

- Any noise emanating from the site would be very localised and contained in the centre of the site.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Council was informed that the police had issued a notice to the dangerous dogs in the village that they must be on leads and muzzled at all times whilst out.

No other matters were raised by members of the public.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

In the absence of D & C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris there was no report.

6. To receive an update regarding action in respect of the high number of HGV vehicles using Necton/Station Road.

The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Stebbings had met with a Highways Technician and advised to consider a weight restriction on the road. The Chairman had spoken to the Head Teacher at Great Dunham School re road safety and expects a response by Easter. A member of the public informed Council that had been a weight restriction on the road many years ago and evidence of this will be obtained.

7. To receive an update on Highway & Footpath matters.

Cllr Forsyth has some potholes to investigate and report. The Chairman reported that all footpaths are in good order.

In respect of the soil heaped on the verges between Little and Great Dunham, a Highways Technician had visited the site and advised the householder to level and compact the earth and seed it at their earliest opportunity.

8. To consider continuation of the Highway and Trail cutting for 2022.

Council discussed some footpath improvements and these were agreed, with quotes being obtained for the next meeting. Council agreed to continue with the cutting contract in 2022.

9. To receive an update on the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

In the absence of Cllr Stebbings, Council noted the written report which will be displayed on the notice board.

10. To discuss planning issues.

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications for consideration.

b) Decisions to note.

Council noted that no decision had yet been made on the following application:

- 3PL/2021/1422/O – Land west of Necton Road – the erection of 4 no. dwellings and associated access.

Council noted that the following application had been refused:

- 3PL/2021/1459/F – Land south of 43 Necton Road – proposed new dwelling and associated garage.

c) To consider a proposed application for a 190 acre solar farm at Church Farm, Newton.

This item had been dealt with at item 4.

d) To receive an update regarding the 'Housing for Local People' Scheme.

The Chairman will speak to local landowners regarding suitable plots.

11. To receive a report regarding the Playing Field.

Cllr Parker circulated the proposed signage for the renamed Playing Field, in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed that Cllr Parker and Cllr Johnson will look at other options and bring designs/costings to the next meeting.

12. To receive a report regarding the Amenities (Conservation) area.

Cllr Parker reported that works are progressing.

13. To receive a report regarding the Village Hut.

Cllr Parker reported that the new windows had been installed and the patio laid. A cost saving had been made on the electrical works. Some further income had been received by the sale of tables (£75) and a kind donation from a resident of £20. The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the project for their hard work.

Cllr Johnson will obtain a quote to replace the glass in the Phone Box.

14. To receive a report regarding the Vattenfall's Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas Community Benefit Fund.

Council noted that community grants may be available to parish councils now the Wind Farms have been approved. The Chairman and Cllr Parker will attend a workshop in due course to learn more.

15. To discuss any correspondence for circulation.

Council noted the following and agreed no action was required:

- Public consultation on Regional Transport Strategy.

16. To note the meeting dates for 2022.

Council noted the 2022 meeting dates.

- Thursday 6th January
- Thursday 3rd March
- Thursday 5th May (Annual Meetings)
- Thursday 7th July
- Thursday 1st September
- Thursday 3rd November

17. Financial and Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2022.
Council noted the financial report (attached) and no queries were raised.

b) To review the following policies.
Cllr Fowler proposed that the following policies be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by Council.

- Financial Regulations
- Risk Assessment & Management Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Asset Register
- Information & Data Protection Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy

In respect of the Asset Register, the Clerk advised that insurance cover, in respect of the increased value of contents at the Village Hut, had been raised at no additional cost.

c) To authorise financial payments as detailed below.
Cllr Harding proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Forsyth and agreed by Council.

• Clerk Pay & Allowance (Dec/Jan)	£278.75
• Hedge Contractor	£TBC
• Donation to PCC	£200.00
• ICO – Data Protection Registration	£35.00 (DD)
Village Hut Project (paid)	
• M Parker (Kitchen Fixings)	£61.39
• Groundworks	£100.00
• Electrical Contractor	£530.15
• M Parker (Fixings)	£16.95
• B Turner (Fixings)	£16.19
• General Works	£250.00
• Sharp Sand – Patio	£145.00
• Replacement Windows	£1,000.00

18. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

The Queen's Jubilee celebrations will be added to the next agenda and, in the meantime, Council members will seek volunteers for a Committee to arrange the event – a Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June 2022.

The proposed Solar Farm will also remain on the agenda.

19. To note the next meeting of the parish council will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 3rd March 2022 in the Village Hut.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 8.36pm.

Signed: Date:

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

Financial Report - January 2022

BUDGET UPDATE	**Budget 21/22**	**To date**	**% Spend**
PAYMENTS			
Admin	1,155	838.15	73%
Salary	1,568	1,320.55	84%
Village Hall	175	325.17	186%
Playing Field	100	75.50	76%
Open Spaces	150	0.00	0%
Grass Cutting	1,566	1,565.60	100%
Donations*	200	700.00	350%
Defib	0	0.00	
TOTAL	**4,914**	**4,124.97**	**84%**
VAT		*509.32*	
RECEIPTS			**Received**
Precept	3,500	3,500.00	100%
Interest		0.30	
Elections		220.00	
Recycling	150	225.58	150%
Grants/Donations		0.00	
HMRC Refund		21.20	
TOTAL	**3,650**	**3,967.08**	
Surplus/Deficit	-1,264	-157.89	

*Payments include the £500 Grant for VE Day

BANK RECONCILIATION	
Balance at 01/04/2021	**7,017.77**
Less Expenditure	8,048.23
Plus Receipts	7,507.89
	6,477.43
Bank Balance at 09/12/2021	
Current Account	2,653.91
Savings Account	3,923.52
	6,577.43
less outstanding payment (chq)	100
	6,477.43
including:	
S106 - Play Area	895.85
Village Hut Water Reserves	2019.55
General Reserve	**3662.03**

Village Hut Water			
Income		**Expenditure**	
Donations	950.00	Anglian Water	1,769.80
S106 Grant - Water Supply	2,360.57	Fittings	1,482.06
Sale of Fixings	130.00	**TOTAL**	**3,251.86**
Fundraising	1,520.00		
TOTAL	**4,960.57**		
		Balance	**1,708.71**