

## FINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, duly convened on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Fincham Memorial Hall. Commenced at 7.00pm with Councillor John Delderfield in the Chair.

### Attending:

Cllr. John Delderfield  
Cllr. Christine Perry  
Cllr. Barbara Ponder  
Cllr. Joe Underhill

Cllr. Brian Long (County Councillor)

Clerk – Sarah Thorpe

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### 1. Attendance

Three members of the public were present.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Shaun Blackmur, Cllr. Alan Foreman, Cllr. Cathy O'Brien and Cllr. Sandra Squire (Borough Councillor).

### 3. Minutes of the last Parish Assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Draft minutes from the meeting had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. It was agreed by all present at that meeting that the minutes were an accurate account of the proceedings.

### 4. Report of the Chairman.

Cllr. Delderfield read out the following report:

During the course of the last year Parish Council membership has been unchanged. Since the last Annual Parish Assembly, the Parish Council have had 9 meetings, dealing with many issues, on behalf of Fincham residents.

The Parish Council are consulted as part of the Borough Council's planning application process, and the issues this year were;

Proposed construction of garage/annexe at Clear View, Chapel Lane.

Proposed garages at the Old Rectory, High Street.

Proposed rear single storey extension at The Kingfisher, High Street.

Proposed extension at Long Acre, Downham Road,

Proposed new dwelling at Peacocks, Lynn Road.

Last year I reported on the approval to build 4 properties on the former site of Bexwell Tractors in the High Street. Work has still not yet started, apart from some site clearance.

Also site preparation work to build 5 houses in Marham Road, adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, has recently been started.

The Speed Activating Messaging Sign (SAM2) has continued to be used, on alternate months, the results carefully monitored, and the traffic police kept informed when speed limits appear regularly excessive. Additionally Fincham residents may have seen that the Community Speedwatch team, working in conjunction with the police, has now been set up. Volunteers to join this new team would be most welcome, and should contact the Parish Clerk.

Finally, your Parish Councillors carry out various tasks, on Parish issues, not just attending Parish Council meetings, but volunteering to undertake the many duties associated with maintaining and running the village in the interests of the people of Fincham, for which I sincerely thank them all.

Fincham residents are most welcome at Parish Council meetings, and are asked to report any issues they are concerned about to the Parish Council.

### 5. Report of the Borough Councillor.

Cllr. Squire had provided the following report which was read out by the Clerk:

I'm sorry I can't be with you this evening, at what would have been my last meeting as your Borough Councillor.

It's been quite a quiet year for Fincham regarding planning, but the consultation is now open for the next Local Plan for the Borough. I would recommend having a look at it and commenting on it now as experiences with my other parishes show that once a site is

allocated in the plan, the likelihood of stopping any development on the site later on, is very slim. Fincham is considered a rural village and has an allocated site for at least 5 dwellings. As usual the Council has managed to set a balanced budget, with a slight increase in Council Tax to maintain services. You may have heard in the press this morning that the Council have agreed to an independent review of the council's business with NWES and loans to build the KLIC building. I was one the Councillors who called last night's special council meeting as I believe the Council should be answerable for how it spends public money.

The Alive Leisure Centres will soon be back under Borough Council control, which should hopefully improve the offer for outreach sports in the villages.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the residents of Fincham as their Borough Councillor for the past four years. You have always welcomed me as a Parish Council and I am grateful for that, thank you. I wish you all very best wishes for the future, whoever gets to be your Borough councillor in May will be very lucky and blessed indeed.

**6. Report of the County Councillor.**

Cllr. Long advised that it was a difficult time for Norfolk County Council. There was extreme pressure on the budget, especially from adult social care and children's services which were both led by demand.

Additional funding had been provided from Central Government to help improve the roads and some of this money had been spent in the local area.

Cllr. Long had served as the Vice-Chair of the Communities Committee who were responsible for the museums, libraries and fire service. He had recently attended the annual awards for the fire service and noted that awards had been given out to officers who had a total of 750 years' service.

He had also served as the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee who were responsible for approving planning applications for waste and mineral sites, along with schools and highways. New mineral sites were often controversial, and he was taking a keen interest in the potential new silica sand site at Shouldham/Marham which was generating local objections.

Cllr. Long also advised that he had an annual allocation of £6K to spend on Highways issues within his ward and that he had an underspend this year so if the PC had any issues it wished him to consider let him know.

A brief discussion took place on what this money could be used for.

**7. Open Forum.**

A resident complained about a noisy HGV travelling through the village in the early hours of the morning. It was agreed that this was a nuisance but not something that the PC could do anything about.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_