

## **Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Chedgrave Parish Council held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs C Gould (Chair), J Sinfield, B Demain, J Lurkins, D Johnson, R Seel.

**Also Present:** H Goldson (Clerk), DCllr Jeremy Rowe, 5 Members of the Public (MOPs).

1. **Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations by councillors:** None.
2. **To consider apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr R Lyster (no reason given). CG RESOLVED to accept apologies. All in agreement.
3. **To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation:** There were 5 MOPs present, 3 of whom stated they were residents of Chedgrave Common wishing to discuss their objections to the council's Land Registry application for title to Chedgrave Common. There was a general discussion about the matter with the key objections relating to the maintenance of Common Loke and the potential for the council allow future development on Chedgrave Common. In relation to Common Loke, the MOPs were seeking assistance in maintaining the track. There was a discussion about this with the council noting that Common Loke is a footpath (FP5), not a vehicle track and that NCC is responsible for its maintenance as a public right of way. Both sets of residents stated that they believe vehicle access to their properties is given in their property deeds. It was noted that the scope of any power the council may have in relation to Common Loke would only extend from the gate at the entrance to Chedgrave Common as far as the houses on the Chedgrave Common, not the stretch from Hardley Road to the gate. In relation to possible development of the Common, the Chairman stated that there was no intention on the part of the council to instigate any development and any possible development would likely be opposed by the Broads Authority and Norfolk Wildlife Trust due to Chedgrave Common's status as a County Wildlife Site and its location within the Broads National Park. The discussion extended to the issue of encroachment onto Chedgrave Common by residents of Heathacre Barns which is of great concern to those MOPs present as well as the council. It was noted that without title to the land, the council may be rendered powerless to take any action against this or any future encroachment on Chedgrave Common. The discussion, including later interventions by the MOPs, concluded with MOPs stating that they did not object to the parish council obtaining title in principle, they did not wish the parish council to incur unnecessary additional legal costs in this matter and that they wished to negotiate with the parish council to address their concerns with a view to withdrawing their objections to the Land Registry application.
4. **To consider the on-going Land Registry application in relation to Chedgrave Common and agree next steps:** CG invited cllrs to give their views on how to proceed with the Land Registry application. All cllrs spoke in favour of continuing with the application with the principal motivation of maintaining Chedgrave Common as an open space for the enjoyment of all. Cllrs also commented that without title to Chedgrave Common, the council's powers in relation to existing and possible future encroachments could be limited. Further discussion mentioned the possibility of a meeting of interested parties to see if an accommodation could be achieved as well as the possibility of funding streams which could assist in the maintenance of Common Loke. CG RESOLVED to continue with the Land Registry application for title to Chedgrave Common on the basis of negotiation with the objectors. All in agreement. **Clerk to follow up.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.01 pm.

Signed:

Dated: