

**WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 3 March 2025 at 7.30 pm at**  
**Winfarthing Village Hall, Hall Road, Winfarthing IP22 2EJ**

**Councillors Present:** Cllr Eric Cole (Chair), Cllr Lynne Rogers, Cllr David Rix, Cllr Peter Frost, Cllr Richard Steel, Cllr Jono Smith

**In attendance:** Karen Rix (Clerk), District Cllr James Easter, County Cllr Catherine Rowett (from item 7 until item 12.1 village hall governance)

**Members of the Public:** 4

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence**  
Apologies from Cllr Collins were noted.
2. **To receive or update any declarations of pecuniary interest**  
None received
3. **To approve minutes of previous meeting held on 3 February 2025**  
Minutes unanimously approved.
4. **To consider any matters arising from minutes (not covered by an agenda item)**  
No matters arising.
5. **To receive an update on actions from previous minutes February 2025**
  - **Item 8 - Clerk** to contact Jordan Bull at River Waveney Trust inviting him to an onsite meeting to discuss flooding events. Response was received from Jordan Bull offering dates for an onsite meeting. Cllrs agreed to arrange 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10 am.
  - **Item 11 - Clerk** to contact NCC Highways with a request to move the 30 MPH further past Goose Green. Response was received from the planning officer for the Hall Road development advising that the 30 MPH limit could not be relocated as suggested but may be considered if the village was developed further in that area. Cllr Frost to compile a further response itemising reasons for moving the limit and forward to clerk.

All other actions were completed

**Action: Councillor Frost to compile response to Gary Beaumont, SNC Planning offer regarding the relocation of the 30 MPH speed limit sign in Hall Road.**
6. **To receive questions or comments from members of the public.**

MOP from Hall Road raised concerns over speeding vehicles through the village particularly from a motorbike that regularly does laps at speed around Hall Road, Heath Road, Winfarthing straight and Short Green. MOP asked what the parish council's responsibilities were in this area. Cllr Frost explained that it was NCC Highways responsibility, but the parish council were able to hold community speed watch events that were then reported back to the police. MOP asked if Speed Awareness Monitoring (SAM) signs could be installed. Cllr Frost explained these had been considered, but were

Signed ..... Chair

very expensive and would require an increase in the precept which would considerably increase contributions from parishioners.

MOP from Hall Road raised concerns about the two proposed developments contributing to the flooding issues in the village and commented on how the attenuation pond included in the Mill Road development was too small. Cllrs advised that this had now been increased to match the pond on the Hall Road development.

MOP from Short Green raised concerns about the blocked culvert under the road outside his property. Water was only just running through due to the blockage approximately 3 ft into the pipe causing water to back up into the ditch and onto the road. Cllr Cole explained that he had submitted numerous requests to NCC Highways, but they had failed to respond. Cllr Cole added that he had met with Mr Jordan Bull from River Waveney Trust and together they have plans to slow down the runoff from the field. Cllr Cole also hoped to engage the support of County Cllr Rowett to resolve the issue. (see item 7)

**7. To receive a report from County and District Councillors**

- County Cllr Rowett's report was circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting and can be found with these minutes.

Cllr Cole asked County Cllr Rowett the following:

- What percentage of the council tax paid by parishioners goes towards the pension funds of Norfolk County Council employees?
  - To chase the complaints made to NCC Highways regarding the blocked culvert under the road in Short Green.
  - To chase NCC Highways regarding the very poor road surface between Winfarthing and Shelfanger.
  - To chase a request made to Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) regarding the bylaws on water courses i.e. building alongside
- District Cllr Easter provided a verbal report explaining that most of his time was currently given to the negotiations of the current plans for devolution and reorganisation of local Councils.

A request was made at the previous meeting to find out how much of the council tax paid by parishioners went towards the pensions of SNC employees, District Cllr Easter confirmed that 30,849 people received a pension from SNC, that 4.5% of all SNC revenue was spent on pensions and that the average pension was £4962/annum.

**8. To receive the Clerk's report and update on correspondence**

- The Clerk asked Cllr's Frost and Steel to arrange the next Financial Scrutineer meeting before the end of the financial year. This would be arranged outside of the parish council meeting with the Clerk.
- The Clerk reported that email correspondence would be dealt with under the agenda items set for the meeting.

Signed ..... Chair

## 9. FINANCE

### 9.1. To approve payments (C)

Payment Type/ Cheque No	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT
100292	K Rix	February Salary	177.96	
100293	HMRC	February PAYE	44.60	
100294	K Rix	Reimburse for Parishioner gift & website domain name	22.52	3.76
		<b>Total</b>	<b>245.08</b>	<b>3.76</b>

Payments were unanimously approved.

### 9.2. Receipts (B)

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DETAILS	AMOUNT
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### 9.3. To receive a report from the Responsible Finance Officer

DETAILS	CR	DR	BALANCE
Cash book balance brought forward: <b>A</b>	5219.95		
Receipts in February (listed above): <b>B</b>	0.00		
Payments in February (listed above): <b>C</b>		245.08	
Cash book balance carried forward ( <b>A+B-C</b> ) <b>Community Account Balance</b>			<b>4974.87</b>

BUDGET 01/04/24 TO 31/03/25				
INCOME DETAILS	BUDGET Ex VAT	CR TO DATE EX VAT	BALANCE	COMMENTS
Litter Pick	20.00	220.00	200.00	Additional income not budgeted
HMRC Refund	0	165.10	165.10	Additional income not budgeted
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>385.10</b>	<b>365.10</b>	
EXPENDITURE DETAILS	BUDGET Ex VAT	DR TO DATE Ex VAT		
Clerk Salary	3300.00	2759.06	540.94	
Clerk Expenses	50.00	97.75	-47.75	
Training	200.00	295.00	-95.00	
Insurance	225.00	241.00	-16.00	
Membership/Subscriptions	350.00	62.70	287.30	
Dog Bin Maintenance	310.00	270.00	40.00	
Defibrillator Maintenance	150.00	0	150.00	
Donations (S137)	50.00	50.00	0	
Rent (Glebe Land)	10.00	10.00	0	

Signed ..... Chair

Village Hall Hire	150.00	195.00	-45.00	
Internal Audit	200.00	60.00	140.00	
Microsoft Office 365	124.00	0	124.00	
Information Commissioners Office	35.00	35.00	0	
Christmas Decorations	0	61.70	-61.70	Additional expenditure not budgeted
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5154.00</b>	<b>4137.21</b>	<b>1016.79</b>	

#### 9.4. To consider and Appoint Internal Auditor

The Clerk advised that she had approached Mr Robin Goreham, the internal auditor from 2023-24, and he had provided a quotation for £65 to carry out the audit for financial year 2024-25. Cllr Rogers proposed the appointment which was seconded by Cllr Rix and unanimously agreed.

#### 10. To comment on any planning applications

No new applications had been received

##### 10.1. To discuss application nos: 2025/0004 - Mill Road and 2024/2476 - Hall Road

With reference to the proposed Mill Road development District Cllr Easter advised that:

- A number of revisions had been received by the planners
- The flood plain plans had recently been updated to reflect that flooding occurs 1 in 4 years not 1 in 100 years.
- The flood plain plans showed the proposed development is on the flood plain.
- The play area had now been relocated replacing one of the proposed houses.
- The attenuation pond had been increased in size and now matched the size of the attenuation pond proposed for the development west of Hall Road.

Cllr Rix commented on how the ditch identified on the plans on the north end of the proposed site was actually within the boundary of the Meeds bungalow next to the site. Cllr Cole advised that the property owner must provide access.

A discussion took place on the suitability of the ditch running alongside The Ramblers and the school. County Cllr Rowett advised that NCC could choose to dig out the ditch and then charge the riparian owner for the work.

#### 11. To receive and discuss updates concerning parish infrastructure

##### 11.1. Village Hall Governance

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Community Action Norfolk (CAN) and received a detailed response quoting for two options for the Parish Council to amend the governance document and become Sole Trustee for the village hall. The Clerk agreed to forward the email to all Cllr's for them to reply with any questions by 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Questions would then be posed to CAN ready for the next parish council meeting.

**Action: Clerk to forward CAN email to Cllr's who are to respond with any questions by 17<sup>th</sup> March.**

Signed ..... Chair

### **11.2. Community Speed Watch**

Cllr Frost advised that he had still not received a response from Mr Sutton so is organising events to take place in the next two – three weeks. Discussions took place on expanding the team of volunteers, Cllr's Smith, Steel, Rix and the Clerk agreed to help if they were available.

### **11.3. Parish Footpaths**

Cllr Steel reported that he and Cllr Smith had rebuilt the bridge on FP17 and the stile on FP22. Cllr Steel advised he had been contacted by the landowner where FP11 is located as walkers were not following the correct path and using other areas of the field. Cllr Steel agreed to erect a sign. County Cllr Rowett will enquire if any way markers are available.

**Action: Cllr Steel to put up a way marker sign advising walkers to follow the correct path.**

County Cllr Rowett asked about a date to meet with Frances Salway and the property owners where FP11 is blocked. County Cllr Rowett advised that Frances Salway has some good options to resolve the problem. Diverting the FP was discussed but it was reiterated that this would be at the cost of the property owners. County Cllr Rowett to email Clerk with suitable dates.

### **11.4. VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

Cllr Frost advised that they were looking to hold the event on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in order to take advantage of the VE DAY grant from SNC, however the Winfarthing Anglo Saxon Project (WASP) had booked the village hall on this date. Cllr Frost asked the Clerk to contact the WASP to see if it was possible to change their booking for 3<sup>rd</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action: Clerk to ask the Saxon Project if they would consider swapping their village hall booking to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

### **11.5. SNC Big Litter Pick 2025**

The clerk advised Cllr's that SNC had announced the 2025 Big Litter Pick campaign. It was agreed to hold the next village litter pick to coincide with this on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## **12. To receive items for the next Agenda and confirm date of next meeting**

Finance Scrutiny Report

Parish Council representation on the Winfarthing Town Trust Charity

Next Meeting 7 April 2025

Meeting closed 21:28

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....

## Action List

### February 2025

- **Item 11 - Councillor Frost** to compile response to Gary Beaumont, SNC Planning offer regarding the relocation of the 30 MPH speed limit sign in Hall Road.

### March 2025

- **Item 11.1 - Clerk** to forward CAN email to Cllr's who are to respond with any questions by 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Item 11.3 - Cllr Steel** to put up a way marker sign advising walkers to follow the correct path.
- **Clerk** to ask the Saxon Project if they would consider swapping their village hall booking to 3rd or 17th May 2025.

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....

### Progress report

Since the start of January we've been engulfed by the emergency Council meeting and debates about devolution (see below). I need to get fixed up with some visit dates with Highways and push for progress on things that aren't going well yet. I'm following up issues with the new signage in Furze Green as well as existing issues in Fornsett. I'm looking forward to seeing the plans for the new speed limits in Bressingham.

I've had some answers from the buses team about some of the mysterious new bus stops. I've put in the January suggestions for things to improve our buses and I am planning to make a suggestion on that for our proposed amendments to the Cabinet's budget plans on the 18th February.

I've signed a letter to the government about protecting chalk streams, and I've been involved in campaigns in support of the climate and nature (CAN) bill which is vital to protecting our countryside and wildlife and also legally enshrining our commitments to climate action agreed internationally for the sake of the whole world. We need it to protect us from this government which seems intent on vandalism across our country in the name of the nonsense they call growth.

There's further bad news now in that the government is trying to prevent environmentalists from challenging destructive infrastructure plans by way of judicial review.

### Devolution

Just before Christmas, the government put out a plan for local government reorganisation and restructuring that has sent the entirety of Suffolk and Norfolk into a spin, along with many other parts of the UK. Proposals include elected mayors for large areas (in our case Norfolk and Suffolk together) and unitary authorities that combine the functions of District and County councils, and eliminate the layer of representation that is currently district councillors. Since these are the people closest to the actual places you live, and elected to serve small groups of villages rather than large areas, this seems like centralising power in large authorities, rather than devolution.

Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils decided to apply for the option of a fast-track restructure, which could include cancelling this year's May elections. Only the Green group voted against going for this hasty restructure programme and silencing the democratic voice. We also presented an amendment in favour of fairer voting systems for the new strategic authorities and mayors, which is essential if we are to get representatives who command the respect of a majority of the people. That was voted down, despite a number of speakers agreeing that it would help to restore confidence in our democratic procedures.

At the time of writing we are awaiting (every day) the minister's decision as to which councils are to proceed on the priority programme for reorganisation.

### Budget

The Council will meet on 18th February to vote on Cabinet's the proposals for how to deliver a balanced budget for next year within impossible constraints, where revenue doesn't match the demand for what we have to deliver, and the level of council tax rise permitted doesn't match inflation or the increased costs for social care workers that result from the rise in the minimum wage and national insurance.

### Road repairs

Norfolk has been allocated £56 million for highways maintenance. Please report potholes and decaying road conditions in Norfolk to the county council by completing their online form: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes). However, a new report shows that the Department for Transport is totally out of touch with the decay to rural roads. See the report [here](#).

Signed ..... Chair

### Lithium batteries

More than 1,800 potentially dangerous batteries and chargers were removed from sale thanks to a regional campaign by Trading Standards services from local authorities, led by NCC. They bought and tested 22 items, primarily from online marketplaces. All failed to provide the correct information as required by law, with 13 also failing on safety grounds, including risk of electric shock, fire and explosion. If you believe you've bought a sub-standard product, you can report it by contacting the Citizen's Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

### Info from Central Government

#### Bird Flu (avian influenza)

We're in a regional lockdown for poultry to prevent bird flu. People with small or large flocks of chickens that normally roam free need to keep them indoors. Guidance on how to prevent your chickens or ducks from getting it, and stop it spreading, is available [here](#).

#### UK Pandemic exercise planned

Local authorities will take part in the UK's [largest ever pandemic exercise](#) later this year. The 'national response exercise' is designed to test the country's ability to respond to a future major pandemic outbreak. It will involve local resilience forums working alongside all central government departments, devolved administrations, and – the government hopes – the 'most significant involvement ever' at a local level. It may be that parishes would like to have some input, and you might also want to think about having your own parish emergency plan for action (maybe for other emergencies as well as epidemics).

#### Environment Agency secures commitments from water sector

The Environment Agency (EA), working closely with Natural England, [says it has secured the largest ever commitment from water companies to clean up the environment and invest in new infrastructure since privatisation.](#)

The Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) is a large regulatory framework that outlines environmental obligations for water companies. The WINEP programme sets out over 24,000 actions water companies must take over the next five years to meet their legal requirements for the environment.

The EA says that this series of targeted interventions represents a £22.1bn investment in the environment and will lead to improvements in water infrastructure to secure future supply, habitats and biodiversity and drinking water quality. I see no evidence that we have any regulatory body that can actually do its job because the cuts to the environment agency mean it has no capacity, and we no longer get the hefty fines from the EU for failing on water quality. It's no accident that we had clean rivers and clean beaches while we were in the EU and since then have become a cess pit of filth.

Contact me [Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk). See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

3rd February 2025

Signed ..... Chair