

# WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.00 pm at  
Winfarthing Village Hall, Hall Road, Winfarthing IP22 2EJ

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

**In attendance:** Eric Cole (Chair), Karen Rix (Clerk), 12 members of the public (MOP)

### 1. Welcome by the Chairman

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. The Clerk read the minutes from the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record.

### 2. Annual report on parish council activities

The Chair read his report, a copy can be found with these minutes.

### 3. Questions form the public

- A MOP asked if the parish council was responsible for resolving the flooding issues in the village. The Chair explained where the main flooding issues were and that responsibility for some areas fell to the Internal Drainage Board (IDB), some fell to Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways Department and others fell to residents who had riparian ownership of the ditch/water course on their property. The Chair explained that the parish council had arranged meetings with the IDB and NCC Highways to try and resolve the issues. Following the meeting NCC Highways have agreed to look at previous surveys of the drains in the village and provide drawings. It was also clear from the meeting that there was no money left in the NCC budget to carry out remedial works. The Chair assured the MOP's that the parish council would continue to monitor the situation.
- A MOP asked if the road from Winfarthing to Diss was due to be resurfaced as the condition was deteriorating. The Chair explained it was due to be resurfaced, surveys had been completed, but there was no further information at this stage. MOP's were encouraged to report any road, planning or other local issues using the NCC and South Norfolk Council (SNC) online reporting websites. Links to these can be found on the parish council website. The more reports received, the quicker the issue is resolved.
- A MOP expressed their concern at the speed vehicles travelled from Banham and were joining Mile Road at the corner without stopping at the junction. Concern was also raised at the speed vehicles left Winfarthing village (heading towards Banham) as they were travelling far too fast for the corner. The MOP explained how this also caused problems when using their driveway and how there was an accident waiting to happen.
- Another MOP asked if the 30 MPH section could be extended. The Chair explained that the parish council had made this request before but it had been rejected. For a road to be 30 MPH there must be properties on both sides of the road.

- Another MOP asked if the speed watch could be carried out in that area. It was explained that the Community Speed Watch can only be carried out between the 30 MPH signs. MOP's were encouraged to report the issue to County Councillor Catherine Rowett.
- A MOP asked if the flashing 30MPH signs could be changed for ones that displayed the speed being travelled by the vehicle. It was explained that this had been considered before however there was a cost implication. The Chair agreed to investigate the cost of portable speed signs and discuss the options at a future parish council meeting.
- A MOP asked why the parish council's element of the Council Tax had increased by 20%. The Clerk explained the budgeting process and how previous year's budgets had not included all necessary expenditure. The Clerk explained how the parish council's costs had also been affected by the increased cost of living affecting everyone. The Clerk advised that in real terms the parish council element of the Council Tax for a Band D property had risen from £21.44 in 2023/24 to £25.80 in 2024/25; a rise £4.36 over the year.

#### **4. Closure of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 19:54

## WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2023-2024

Our year started with the council elections on May 4th 2023, after which we welcomed two new members to our council.

At our first meeting of the new council our clerk resigned ,along with one of our recently elected councillors. We then had to follow due process which allowed us to appoint a new member to the council.

Members of the council took over the clerks duties whilst we advertised for a new clerk, we were very fortunate to find our current clerk who started last July. It has been a baptism by fire as we were found not be compliant with one or two things in the audit that had been taking place prior to and over the time of the election. As a small council we are bound by the same rules as much bigger councils, however due much hard work by our new clerk and various members of the council we are now prepared for this years audit and we hope to pass with flying colours. We have raised various concerns with our County and District councillors when they attend our meetings

The defibrillator that hangs on the wall of the Fighting Cocks was used this year, there was some confusion as to access to it, as a result of this happening we set up a training session at the village hall for parishioners, those that attended learn how to access and operate the device and had instructions on CPR .

We continue to monitor , comment on and oppose the plans for the proposed line of pylons that will run through our village.

We now have a bus that comes to the village on a Monday, Wednesday and a Friday that goes from Chapel Close to Diss and back, this is very welcome however it would be nice if allowed more time in Diss for those who use it, we have spoken to the operators to see if they can extend the time available in Diss.

Once again we have had flooding in the village, councillors have met with Mr Adam Mayo of NCC highways we pointed out to him the culverts that seem to be blocked, the low bank near the lay-by in front of Holly Farm which allows water to overflow onto the road hopefully he will find some money to remedy the problems we pointed out to him, this also includes the long delayed resurfacing of the road out of the village towards Shelfanger which has recently again had temporary repairs to the potholes. We also had a meeting with representatives of the Internal Drainage Board and the Water Management Team at NCC once again pointing out where we believe the problems lie with the drainage system through the village, it remains to be seen if they will do anything to help alleviate where we believe the bottle necks are. We continue to encourage those parishioners who have watercourses through their property to maintain them so the flow of water is not impeded, as required by the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The sewage treatment plant in Chapel close continues to be an issue however there is light at the end of the tunnel , hopefully Saffron Housing will have removed the fence that is preventing some of the ditch being cleaned out then works can be carried out post harvest which should stop the problem.

We have made comments on any planning applications that come before us, there is two areas in the village that have been allocated for housing when any plans come before us we will consider them ,hopefully full consideration will be given to where any surface water will go, and there will be carefully thought out housing that is suitable and affordable for young people with children.

The churn of teachers at the school and lack of pupils gives us concern.

Councillors have been walking the footpaths, making repairs to styles , bridges and way markers and reporting to NCC highways if necessary.

The villages speed watch team have been in action the one in September reported seven motorists travelling over 43mph.

We now have our own equipment for litter picking, we have already carried out one litter pick the next one is scheduled for Sunday April the 21st ,it would be nice if a few more parish-ioners joint in, we meet at the village sign at 10am.

We have now launched our new website [www.winfarthingpc.info](http://www.winfarthingpc.info) all up to date informa-tion is on there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors for all their support and hard work in the last year.

I would especially like to thank as I am sure all of us councillors would, our clerk who has worked extremely hard since being appointed last July, as a council we are in a good place to carry our work forward largely do to you.

DRAFT