

WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 7 October 2024 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 Jono Smith, Cllr Jim Collins, Cllr Richard Steel

In attendance: Karen Rix (Clerk), District Cllr James Easter, Mike Onassis – Neighbourhood Watch

Members of the Public: 3

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence**
Cllr Peter Frost
2. **To receive or update any declarations of pecuniary interest**
None received
3. **To approve minutes of previous meeting held on 5 August 2024**
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 September 2024**
Item 16 – Cllr Frost to contact Colin Sutton regarding the next Community Speedwatch event – remains ongoing

All other actions completed
6. **To receive a presentation from Mike Onassis, Deputy Chair, Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch**
Mike explained how the Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been relaunched with new funding. New and better links have been forged between the police and communities. With permission the schemes database of coordinators and members is shared with the police allowing coordinators and members direct links to their local Police Beat Managers. The parish council can become an affiliated member of the scheme however it was hoped that more interest would be forthcoming from the local community. Cllr's agreed to consider the details of the scheme and thanked Mike for his presentation. Mike Onassis left the meeting after item 6.
7. **To receive questions or comments from members of the public.**
A member of the public (MOP) raised the issue of flooding near Wilderness Farm, Cllr's commented on how the culvert could be blocked and that the drain in the kerb was completely blocked preventing water draining away from the road. Cllr's advised it had been reported to NCC. Cllr's also advised the MOP to report the issue directly to NCC.

Signed Chair

8. To receive a report from County and District Councillors

- County Cllr Rowett was unable to attend. A report was circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting and can be found with these minutes.
- A report from District Cllr Easter was circulated prior to the meeting and can be found with these minutes.

Cllr Cole advised that a meeting had taken place at Chapel Close with Nathan Harris Flood Water Management Officer from South Norfolk Council. The ongoing issues with the blocked ditch and sewage overflow were discussed but no conclusion was reached. James Easter agreed to make contact with Nathan Harris to move the matter forward.

District Cllr Easter advised parish council to apply for the Winter Pressures Grant, however it was felt it could be used to better effect by using the village pub as a host location. Cllr Steel agreed to talk to the pub landlord about the application.

Action: Clerk to forward information email to Cllr Steel. Cllr Steel to provide information to pub landlord.

District Cllr Easter left the meeting after item 8.

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

- The Clerk advised that the bank mandate had been updated to include Cllr Smith as signatory on the parish council bank account.
- The Clerk advised that a reporting and policy review schedule had been drawn up and circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting for comment. It was agreed to defer adoption of this until the next meeting.

10. To review and agree Parish Council Standing Orders

Cllr's discussed the updated standing orders which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr's agreed that the maximum time for a parish council meeting should be amended to 2 hours. Cllr's also agreed that the maximum time any councillor was allowed to speak on a topic should be 5 minutes. Cllr Steel proposed adopting the standing orders, Cllr Rogers seconded.

11. FINANCE

11.1. To approve payments (C)

Payment Type/ Cheque No	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT
100275	Winfarthing Village Hall	Room hire Oct 23 – Sept 24	195.00	
100276	Norwich Diocese	Glebe land rent	10.00	
100277	K Rix	September Salary	170.08	
100278	K Rix	September PAYE	42.40	
		Total	417.48	

Payments were unanimously approved.

Signed Chair

11.2. Receipts (B)

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DETAILS	AMOUNT
30/08/24	SNC	Big Litter Pick Prize Draw	200.00
30/08/24	SNC	Big Litter Pick 2024	20.00
	SNC	Precept 2024-25 2nd instalment	2567.00
		Total	2787.00

11.3. To receive a report from the Responsible Finance Officer

DETAILS	CR	DR	BALANCE
Cash book balance brought forward: A	4038.25		
Receipts this month (listed above): B	2787.00		
Payments this month (listed above): C		417.48	
Cash book balance carried forward (A+B-C) Community Account Balance			6407.77

12. To comment on any planning applications

12.1. Application Number: 2023/3001 Finsbury Barn, Low Row, Winfarthing.

Cllr's felt this application was repeated misuse of retrospective planning.

12.2. Application Number: 2024/2322 Church Farm, The Street, Winfarthing

Cllr's had no further comment.

13. To receive and discuss updates concerning parish infrastructure

13.1. Outcome of Village Hall Committee discussion on SNC's EVCP grant

Cllr Rix advised that he and Cllr Steel attended the meeting. Cllr Rix reported that there was little appetite for pursuing the installation adding there were concerns about increased insurance costs and whether it would be used. Permission was not provided by the committee. Cllr's agreed no further action would be taken.

13.2. Village Hall Governance

The Clerk reported that the village hall committee had been provided with information regarding their responsibilities as trustees and how the parish council was custodian trustee only. The Clerk reported that committee members were reluctant to take on these responsibilities and advised Cllr's that the committee could not resign on mass as this would be classed as a serious event that would be investigated by the Charities Commission. The Clerk reported that a decision would need to be made on the future of the hall and that the parish council may need to consider becoming Sole Trustee and allowing the current committee to become the Working Committee. Cllr's Rogers and Cole agreed to explain this to the committee at the AGM.

Action: Cllr's Rogers and Cole to raise the change in village hall governance with committee members at their AGM.

13.3. Date of Next Litter Pick

Date for next letter pick was agreed as 03/11/2024

13.4. Projects for Parish Partnership Scheme

Signed Chair

No projects were put forward, no further action to be taken.

13.5. All Saints Primary School

A report had been received from the Headteacher and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr's agreed it was a very positive update.

13.6. Community Speed watch

No update as Cllr Frost was absent.

13.7. Parish Footpaths

County Cllr Rowett had emailed having followed up on blocked footpaths FP1 and FP10. County Cllr Rowett advised that she had some possible solutions and requested an onsite meeting with Cllr Cole as Chair and Cllr Steel as Footpath Officer. Affected landowners could also be included. Cllr's felt this meeting should be facilitated by NCC Footpath Officer.

Action: Clerk to respond to County Cllr Rowett advising Cllr's were happy to attend an onsite meeting but that it should be facilitated by the NCC Footpath Officer.

Cllr Steel reported that he and Cllr Smith would repair the broken bridge on FP12. The stile on FP10 had also been rebuilt.

13.8. Grass Cutting Specification

Cllr's agreed that the Clerk should obtain 3 quotes for potential grass cutting in Chapel Close in readiness for preparing the 2025-26 budget. The specification would include 14 fortnightly cuts between April – October.

Action: Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for grass cutting

14. To receive items for the next Agenda and confirm date of next meeting

Reporting and policy review schedule

Next Meeting 4 November 2024

Meeting closed 22.25

Action List

October 2024

- Item 8 - **Clerk** to forward information email to Cllr Steel. **Cllr Steel** to provide information to pub landlord.
- Item 13.2 - **Cllr's Rogers and Cole** to raise the change in village hall governance with committee members at their AGM.
- Item 13.7 - **Clerk** to respond to County Cllr Rowett advising Cllr's were happy to attend an onsite meeting but that it should be facilitated by the NCC Footpath Officer.
- Item 13.8 - **Clerk** to obtain 3 quotes for grass cutting

September 2024

- Item 16 - **Cllr Frost** to contact Colin Sutton to regarding the next event.

Signed Chair

Work in Progress

I am currently chasing various Highways problems: the village gates which have never arrived for Fornsett, the misplaced lorry signs for Tabernacle Lane, the request for a vehicle-activated sign in Burston, speeding and road condition problems on Upgate Street. I met up with Adam Mayo in early September to look at some of the places that are particularly problematic. I'm making slow progress trying to get the long-awaited signs for the hamlet of Furze Green, to be jointly funded by myself and Councillor Wilby of East Depwade.

I'm checking in with the officer who is in charge of the Norfolk County Council energy plan, to see what we can do about the future plans for onshoring power from new wind-farms off the Norfolk coast. I've set up an appointment for myself and Jamie Osborn from the Green Group to have an informal chat to learn more (and feed into) how we can deliver the grid upgrades needed in a future-proof way without destroying everything in the process, and to ensure that demand reduction is on the agenda and not just increasing supply. There are currently a lot of proposals for solar panels on patches of farmland in and around our area. I am following these with interest, because there are a number of real benefits for farmers and for residents in having these installations in preference to development of the land for housing or intensive farming: they can make a farm profitable while practising sustainable agriculture, give a reliable income alongside smaller scale and more varied cultivation, provide wildlife corridors and help with regeneration of the land. They are also not smelly, noisy, nor polluting to our rivers. I would therefore encourage a positive response to these solar farms, especially if they are combined with rewilding, wild flowers, traditional hedges, sustainable agriculture, regenerative farming.

Planning permission has been awarded for an expansion of the substation at Dunston, and other substations and battery facilities are being proposed along with the solar farms, along the route of the pylons and in other parts of Norfolk. Some of this is fine, but we need to keep alert. I submitted my pylons response back in August, but I see that the latest report from the Norwich to Tilbury team indicates that they are carrying on as if no one had said anything, and expect to make nothing more than the smallest route adjustments in the event of finding archaeology or other obstacles.

County Council:

The big news in September was the fact that the Government has turned down the proposed devolution deal that the Council had drafted under the Conservative government. This will now not happen in time for the May County Council elections, but the government has indicated that it is interested in starting negotiations towards a devolution arrangement on its preferred terms. Almost the whole of the County Council meeting on 24th September was devoted to discussion of this matter, with somewhat similar motions on the topic submitted by the Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem groups. The outcome was the passing of a wholly vacuous motion from the Conservative group. We also discussed a motion from the Green group on the ways in which the council is supporting fossil fuels and arms sales to dodgy regimes by virtue of the investment decisions of Barclays Bank, and a motion calling on the government not to scrap the winter fuel payments.

Signed Chair

Date

Infrastructure & Development committee met on 11th September with a 500 page dossier of really impactful papers. The climate action plan in particular affects everything from economic development to transport, energy, housing, digital connections and farming. We also examined the Council's economic strategy, the local transport plan, performance of highways contracts and the county tree policy.

Info from Norfolk police and crime commissioner, Sarah Taylor

The new Norfolk police and crime commissioner has been holding surgeries to consult about Norfolk's policing and crime priorities over the period from 2025 to 2029.

She is proposing ten core priorities: Focus on Prevention, Restoring Trust and Confidence in Policing across Norfolk, Improving Road Safety, Tackling Extremism and Community Tensions, Making Norfolk Streets Safer, Effective Criminal Justice System, Support for Victims, Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Improving Rural Response, Tackling organised Crime and Criminal Exploitation.

You can share your views by taking the short online survey at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NorfolkPCP2025/>

Closing date Friday 1 November 2024.

Info from Norfolk County Council

House fires caused by e-bike and e-scooter batteries charging at night

It's important to buy lithium-ion batteries only from reputable and safe retailers, to ensure they meet UK safety standards and aren't a fire risk.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service and Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team are investigating a house fire in Bowthorpe which is believed to have been started by a battery purchased from an online retailer, which was charging indoors. This is just one of an epidemic of such house fires across the UK with devastating consequences, deaths, serious burns and massive losses of property and housing.

[Find out more about how to stay safe with lithium batteries.](#)

[Read more about the Lithium-ion battery safety bill.](#)

Railways consultation

The Norfolk Rail Prospectus aims to establish vision for rail in Norfolk. It sets out what we need to deliver a good service for passengers, support Norfolk's tourism industry, and work for people and employers in Norfolk. The last Prospectus was adopted in 2013. Rail travel has now returned to a post-covid normal and we have more certainty about the future direction of rail, given the Williams Rail Review, and commitments in the government's manifesto.

The consultation covers priorities for Norfolk's stations and lines, and for large cross-country infrastructure projects such as improvements at the Ely junction and East-West Rail. To respond to the consultation, go to: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/environment-transport-and-development/norfolk-rail-prospectus-consultation-2024/>

Subsidised trees: two Norfolk schemes

The One Million Trees for Norfolk subsidised tree scheme is now open for individuals, parish councils, community groups, businesses, schools, and landowners to apply for tree packs (and tree protection) at a reduced price. This year, a limited number of single Norfolk Oak trees, grown at Gressenhall Community tree nursery, are available as well as the usual tree packs. Apply [here](#).

The Busseys Community Grant offers funding for tree-planting projects. Community groups can apply for up to £2,500 to plant trees that will benefit their local area. Open to any organisation in Norfolk with suitable land and requisite permissions for planting. More info [here](#).

Contact me on

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk for Council-related business. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

2nd October 2024

October District Councillor report

Not too much has happened since your last Parish Council Meeting.

Chapel Close

No up date, I am continually pushing for a meeting with Saffron who appear to be reluctant to meet. Eric will no doubt inform you that an attempt by someone to dig out the offending ditch, a small trench has been dug but nowhere near adequate to allow water to flow without clogging up. Bear in mind leaves are starting to fall. I understand that to date Eric has not received a report from Saffron about pipe layout in the close.

Diss Swimming pool

Unfortunately the building work has fallen behind following unexpected extra work after the flooring in the changing room area was found to have rotted and needs replacing. Initially this extra work would have put the project back about 13 weeks but the contractor has been working longer hours and weekends. This has brought the project almost back on target, the delay now seems to be 5 weeks. The anticipated opening date is now mid January 2025.

John Grosse showrooms redevelopment

The site will shortly be demolished to make way for the new development, planning is going ahead and a sneak preview of what has been envisaged looks good. There will access to and from the Mere area, rooms available to rent e.g, Mind, good gym facilities and rooms for councillors to use to meet constituents and a Council drop in centre (similar to the service currently in the Octagon). Nothing has been said about the use of the Octagon once the new building is in use.

Full Council meeting

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th October, the agenda is small with nothing of great significance, e.g. new complaints policy.

Winter Warm Homes Grant

I have circulated an email received from SNC regarding grants of up to £500 towards initiatives to assist residents to get through cold spells. E.g Community café etc. No doubt the clerk has circulated it to interested parties.

EV points and solar panels on Village Halls

I believe that Winfarthing has applied for funding to have a vehicle charging point added to the Village Hall. One charging point with 2 sockets up to £10,000 for the installation and associated electrical infrastructure work.

As you have applied for an EVCP you can also apply for a grant of up to £10,000 for solar PV. The idea behind these grants is to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles whilst using the services of the hall and reduce electricity cost of the hall through the provision of solar PV.

Norfolk Re-cycling Centres

Signed Chair

As of 18th November 2024 we will have to book an appointment time to take anything to be recycled. No doubt Catherine will be able give us the background to this inconvenience.

DRAFT