

WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 4 November 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 Peter Frost, Cllr Jim Collins, Cllr Richard Steel

In attendance: Karen Rix (Clerk), County Cllr Catherine Rowett, District Cllr James Easter, Nick Griffiths – Interim Chair Village Hall Committee

Members of the Public: 2

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence**
Cllr Jono Smith
2. **To receive or update any declarations of pecuniary interest**
None received
3. **To approve minutes of previous meeting held on 7 October 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**
October 2024
 - Item 13.7 - **Clerk** responded to County Cllr Rowett regarding an onsite meeting to discuss the blocked footpaths. A meeting will be held on 22nd November 2024 with Cllr Rowett, Frances Salway (NCC Footpath Officer), Cllr Steel and Cllr Cole in attendance. Cllr Rowett will advise Clerk of the time and where to meet. Frances Salway to contact landowners.
 - Item 13.8 - **Clerk** had only received one quote to date but will look to other local parish councils to see who they use.**September 2024**
 - Item 16 - **Cllr Frost** to contact Colin Sutton to regarding the next speed watch event remains ongoing.

All other actions were completed or were an agenda item for discussion

6. **To receive questions or comments from members of the public.**
A member of the public (MOP) who supported the village litter pick thanked Cllr Steel for collecting their rubbish bag avoiding them having to carry it some distance.
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.

Signed Chair

Cllr Rogers advised County Cllr Rowett of the recent oil spill on the B1077 that stretched from Wilderness Farm to the Fighting Cocks pub, explaining that it took several hours after reporting the spill, for NCC Highways to send a specialist clean up team leaving parishioners to slow and advise motorists of the dangers.

Cllr Rogers asked why the 'My Norfolk' publication was now delivered in an envelope which was not environmentally friendly. County Cllr Rowett advised that the envelope could be recycled.

Cllr Collins asked County Cllr Rowett for her views on solar farms. County Cllr Rowett reported that the export of power benefited Norfolk, the land would not be sold for housing and farmers would benefit financially. County Cllr Rowett added that crops could be grown, and livestock grazed under them. A discussion ensued with parish Cllrs expressing strong concerns that agricultural land should be used to grow food and livestock and not be turned over to large solar farms.

- District Cllr Easter's report was circulated prior to the meeting and can be found with these minutes.

District Cllr Easter advised that a meeting had been arranged between the Assistant Director of SNC and the new Director of Saffron Housing to discuss the ongoing ditch access/sewage issues in Chapel Close.

Cllr Steel commented on the traffic chaos caused by the temporary traffic lights outside the new Aldi development in Diss. District Cllr Easter advised that permanent traffic lights would eventually be installed as part of this development. It was agreed that this would exacerbate the traffic issues on Victoria Road.

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

- The Clerk advised that two emails had been received from parishioners reporting faults to road signs. A broken chevron sign on the corner of the mile straight and the turning to Banham, and a signpost at the junction of Dog Lane and B1077 where the village name Shelfanger was spelt incorrectly. The Parishioners had been signposted to the NCC fault reporting webpage.
- The Clerk advised that the CIL reporting template had been received and as the parish council had not received any CIL funding this year a nil report would be submitted.
- The Clerk advised that submissions had been made to the NCC Highways Rangers including:
 - the trod in Hall Road overgrown with vegetation
 - broken pavement outside Westville, The Street
 - Unreadable road signs for Hall Road and The Street
 - Blocked culvert and gully in Short Green

Signed Chair

Date

9. FINANCE

9.1. To approve payments (C)

Payment Type/ Cheque No	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT
100279	K Rix	October Salary	238.00	
100280	HMRC	October PAYE	59.60	
		Total	297.60	

Payments were unanimously approved.

9.2. Receipts (B)

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DETAILS	AMOUNT
		Total	0.00

9.3. To receive a report from the Responsible Finance Officer

DETAILS	CR	DR	BALANCE
Cash book balance brought forward: A	6407.77		
Receipts this month (listed above): B	0.00		
Payments this month (listed above): C		297.60	
Cash book balance carried forward (A+B-C) Community Account Balance			6110.17

9.4. Spend Against Budget 01/04/24 to 31/03/25

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
Total Income	20.00	385.10	365.10	
EXPENDITURE DETAILS	BUDGET Ex VAT	DR TO DATE Ex VAT		
Clerk Salary	3300.00	1813.18	1486.82	
Clerk Expenses	50.00	78.09	-28.09	
Training	200.00	295.00	-95.00	
Insurance	225.00	241.00	-16.00	
Membership/Subscriptions	350.00	50.00	300.00	
Dog Bin Maintenance	310.00	270.00	40.00	
Defibrillator Maintenance	150.00	0	150.00	
Donations (\$137)	50.00	0	50.00	
Rent (Glebe Land)	10.00	10.00	0	
Village Hall Hire	150.00	195.00	-45.00	

Signed Chair

Internal Audit	200.00	60.00	140.00	
Microsoft Office 365	124.00	0	124.00	
Information Commissioners Office	35.00	0	35.00	
Total Expenditure	5154.00	3012.27	2141.73	

10. Schedule for reporting and policy review.

This was agreed with the amendment of the Clerk appraisal to take place in January.

11. To comment on any planning applications

2024/2821

Applicant: Thomas Phillips

Location: West Acre Mill Road Winfarthing Norfolk IP22 2DZ

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Application Type: Householder

Cllrs had no comments.

12. To receive and discuss updates concerning parish infrastructure

12.1. Village Hall Governance

The clerk reported that an email had been received from the village hall committee asking the parish council to consider changing their trustee status from Custodian Trustee to Sole Trustee.

Nick Griffiths reported that he was acting as interim chair of the village hall committee. He advised that he had spoken with a former secretary of the committee who recalled that the process of changing trustee status had taken place in a previous year and a letter had been sent to the Charities Commission. Nick added that unfortunately documentation to support this action was currently missing, but they were making enquiries of previous secretaries.

12.2. Community Speed Watch

Cllr Frost agreed to contact Colin Sutton as soon as possible.

12.3. Parish Footpaths

Discussed under item 5.

12.4. Village flooding

Cllr Collins suggested approaching Adrian Ramsey, MP for Waveney Valley, to seek his support with ongoing flooding issues and the lack of maintenance by NCC highways of the village drainage infrastructure. Cllr's asked the Clerk to contact Mr Ramsey and invite him to a meeting with Cllr's to discuss the issues.

Action: Clerk to contact Adrian Ramsey MP for Waveney Valley inviting him to a meeting with Cllr's to get to know the village and discuss the flooding and drainage issues.

Signed Chair

Date

12.5. Village Christmas tree

Cllr's Rix and Steel proposed the idea of erecting a Christmas tree of lights on the glebe land near the village sign. Cllr Frost proposed and Cllr Cole seconded. Cllr's Rix and Steel were asked to pursue the idea and report back at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr's Rix and Steel to investigate the possibility of erecting a Christmas tree of lights on the glebe land near the village sign.

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

No additional items proposed

Next Meeting 2 December 2024

Meeting closed 21.28

Action List

November 2024

- Item 12.5 - **Clerk** to contact Adrian Ramsey MP for Waveney Valley inviting him to a meeting with Cllr's to get to know the village and discuss the flooding and drainage issues.
- Item 12.6 - **Cllr's Rix and Steel** to investigate the possibility of erecting a Christmas tree of lights on the glebe land near the village sign.

September 2024

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

Signed Chair

Date

Work in Progress

A whole host of highways stuff is suddenly coming to fruition: In Forncett, the village gates have finally arrived, we're having the lorry signs in Tabernacle Lane moved to better locations and more signs installed at the further end, and the water problem caused by the natural spring in Spring Lane is about to be solved (we hope). In several places we're having the damaged edges of the roads mended (but major work on Upgate Street won't begin till after Bunwell Street is open again, which may be some time!). I've got requests in for inspection of collapsed culverts in various places. I'm getting some extra road safety funding for school flashing signs in Burston. The damaged equipment on the Turnpike in Bunwell is to be replaced in the near future. We're making better progress towards the long-awaited signs for the hamlet of Furze Green, to be jointly funded by myself and Councillor Wilby of East Depwade. I'm looking to schedule a site visit to Bressingham and Fersfield to negotiate the exact locations for the new speed limit provisions that need to be submitted for new traffic regulation orders.

New buses

One of the most exciting developments is the new bus service running between Diss, Long Stratton and Norwich. The Simonds bus number 82 (formerly 2) operates six days a week and runs roughly every hour and right into the late evening, providing a really superb service for residents in Dickleburgh and Tivetshall to go North to Norwich (an evening out in Norwich for £2 each way!) or to head to Diss for the railway station or the town centre. The last bus back from Norwich is at 10.15 pm (or 5 minutes earlier on Saturdays). During the middle of the day on weekdays these buses also continue to and from Norwich railway station.

Disappointingly the timetables for the 84 service to Pulham (formerly 584) and the Bressingham circular bus haven't improved.

Energy infrastructure and energy saving:

Following my useful session with the officer in charge of the Norfolk County Council energy plan, I'm keeping pressure on to get sensible provision for clean energy and energy storage with good benefits for local communities, while pushing the government to commit to mandating rooftop solar on new build housing (alongside other zero carbon, low running cost provisions like insulation and solar gain). We won't make sufficient progress on these things unless incentives to export power to the grid are restored, and adequate grid connections and substations are available for Norfolk communities and businesses. That's the main focus of the Norfolk energy plan, but I'm pushing for it to consider equally urgent issues such as demand-reduction, including insulation, low-energy travel and zero carbon heating. I'm following with interest the proposals for solar farms on land around Long Stratton and elsewhere: there are real benefits for farmers and for residents in having these installations on our fields, 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're not smelly, noisy, nor polluting to our rivers. I'd favour a positive response to these solar farms, especially if they're combined with rewilding, wildflowers, traditional hedges, sustainable agriculture, footpaths, regenerative farming. I've submitted a question for the Cabinet meeting on this topic.

Info from Norfolk County Council

Special Educational Needs: On 24th October the National Audit Office issued a [report](#) calling for urgent reforms in support for children with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND). The report highlights the significant deficits to local authority schools grants and outlined the risk of councils going bankrupt if the government does not address the financial pressures. Some uplift in funding has now been provided in the Autumn budget (see below).

Winter on the roads and at home: Do check which roads are on the council's gritting routes at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting . On the same map you can find the locations of around 2000 grit bins in the county that are filled by the County Council and which people can use on public

Signed Chair

pavements, cycle paths and roads to help everyone get around safely. Please let me know if any of your grit bins have not been filled. You need to check that they are included on the list, especially if you recently bought one.

Council Budget: The county council has drawn up initial proposals to bridge a £44.7 million budget gap. There will be public consultation on the budget over the autumn.

NHS consultation

Norfolk and Waveney ICS are encouraging people to take part in the national consultation about how to improve the NHS. Links to the survey are available [here](#).

Info from Central Government

Support for horticulture and poultry businesses

The government has [announced a package of measures](#) to provide support to farmers and growers in the UK's horticulture, poultry and sheep sectors. These include:

Confirmation about the 2025 Seasonal Worker visa route: 43,000 Seasonal Worker visas available for horticulture and 2,000 for poultry next year.

Introducing legislation in early November to protect poultry farmers from the impact of avian influenza by changing the rules on 'free range' labelling. The proposed legislative changes will mean that eggs can be labelled as free range during mandatory housing measures. They have also launched [a consultation](#) on similar measures for free-range poultry.

The Government's budget

Loads of things here affect what we can achieve at County Council and how residents and businesses will be affected locally. Too much to fit into this report! Some highlights include:

£1bn for 2025 to extend the Household Support Fund to local authorities. Norfolk's share is administered by the County Council.

£1bn uplift in funding (equivalent to 6% real growth) for SEND reform and improving outcomes.

The Core schools budget grant will increase by an additional £2.3 billion next year (a rise in per-pupil funding that is much needed). There is also funding for school building repairs.

For early years and families, £30 million in the rollout of free breakfast clubs in schools next year and £69 million to continue delivery of a network of Family Hubs.

£500m for Project Gigabit and the Shared Rural Network to deliver faster connectivity in rural areas.

Contact me on

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

Catherine Rowett

31st October 2024

Signed Chair

November District Councillor report

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

AD Plant

Nothing new to add and the result of the inquiry is due anytime.

Pylons

No new information has been forth coming, the best updates can be found on the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk website from Rosie Pearson.

Solar Farms

New applications are expected as the new government has given the green light to this type of renewable energy. Large, long term fees are being offered to farmers to lease their land to companies who want to install them. Apart from the one at Palgrave there is a proposal for one in the Gissing area to be connected to the power lines from Norwich to Tilbury. No details have been forth coming and no application has been made to SNC yet. We anticipate a lot more applications to come especially once the Norwich to Tilbury grid line is approved.

Compliance

There is now a new team at SNC to deal with all matters relating to compliance and enforcement.

Chapel Close

Nothing new to add, despite constantly asking for a meeting with Saffron nothing has materialised.

ALDI

Work continues to build the new Aldi on the feather factory site, traffic lights are being installed, which are causing big issues with the traffic. It is anticipated that the new store will open in March 2025 once the contract at the current site expires.

Signed Chair