

# WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 7.00 pm at  
Winfarthing Village Hall, Hall Road, Winfarthing IP22 2EJ**

**In attendance:** Eric Cole (Chair), Karen Rix (Clerk), District Councillor James Easter, 8 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 2 April 2024. 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**

- District Cllr Easter congratulated all members of the parish council for their continuous hard work and commitment to improving the parish.
- An MOP asked about the commemorative tree on the corner of Chapel Close and Hall Road as it appeared to be dying. The clerk advised that the tree had what looked to be a Tree Survey tag attached to the trunk so would look into who was responsible for maintaining the tree and report back to a parish council meeting.

**4. Closure of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 19:26

## **WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2024-2025**

We have considered planning applications including one for 20 properties on Mill Road and one for 21 properties on Hall Road . We held a well-attended open meeting to discuss the Hall Road development where parishioners were able to comment, we used these comments to enhance our report to the planning department at South Norfolk District Council (SNDC). We as a council welcome these developments as we need affordable housing in the village to encourage young families into the village. We also continue to monitor, comment on, where appropriate, the plans for the proposed line of pylons that will run through the parish.

Unfortunately, our school remains under subscribed for pupils, however it is now part of an academy with two other schools. The school has excellent facilities with an off-road carpark, a playing field, and good teachers. The academy now has a minibus which will be used to enhance the children's education by moving pupils about within the schools so they can experience bigger classes and enjoy educational visits out.

Whilst there has not been any flooding during the reporting year, we have continued to engage with the Lead Local Flood Authority ( LLFA), the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and Riparian owners to improve the flow of water through the village hopefully to prevent the flooding that occurs outside the school and elsewhere. Councillors have recently met with Dr Jordan Bull of the river Waveney Trust who is going to draw up some plans that may help prevent the area flooding in future, if implemented.

We have had two village litter picks in the last year.

The speed watch continues to operate however more volunteers are needed so that we can increase the number of occasions that it takes place.

Council members have carried out maintenance on various styles and bridges on some of our public footpaths. The county council Public Right of Way (PROW) team have replaced some bridges and at last footpath 1 is now clear of obstruction. Councillors and the parishioners involved with the long-standing issue with footpath 11 which has been blocked for many years have recently met with Norfolk County Councils PROW officer Francis Salway. At the moment it appears that highways legislation prevents a common-sense solution that has been suggested.

Councillors are currently trying to sort out the ownership of the area in Chapel Close that was designated as the village green when Saffron housing built the new houses a few years ago. We will have to decide whether we actually want to take ownership of this area along with the public open space that will come

with the development of 21 houses adjacent to Chapel Close that has recently been given outline planning permission.

Councillors have also been trying to sort out who owns the village Hall and the land it stands on, also the Parish Councils involvement in the running of the village Hall as currently it is not registered to the council or the village hall committee at the land registry.

We continue to engage with our County and District councillors with the hope that eventually we will get some positive help with questions we have raised with them for example, getting the road surface between Winfarthing and Shelfanger re surfaced, which we were told a year or two ago was imminent, it still is in a very poor state. We were told that some of the culverts in the village were going to be cleared this has not happened.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their support and especially our Clerk Karen for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

DRAFT