

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th May, 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Paul Godfrey (Chair)
Patrick Allen
Anne-Marie Coe
Alan Smith
Kevin Walker
The Clerk
Fifty parishioners

1. Election of Chairman

One nomination as follows: Mr. P. Godfrey (nominated by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Walker). All in favour.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

One nomination as follows: Mr. P. Allen (nominated by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Smith). All in favour.

3. Apologies for Absence

None

4. Declarations of Interest

Mr. Smith reminded the meeting that he is a resident in Rippingall Yard and continues to represent the concerns and views of the other householders in the cul-de-sac.

Mr. Allen ((item 8) reiterated that he is involved with the land off North Street (partly under his control).

5. Minutes of last meeting held on 7th March, 2023 – were approved by all members. (Proposed by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Walker).

6. Updated information and matters arising from the previous meeting:

- a) Mr. Smith reported that the Community Speed Watch team attempts to hold one session per week and, to date, there have been 33 sessions in total. There are still problems with speeding throughout the village with almost 80% on North Street exceeding the limit. More volunteers are needed with the time involved being one hour per week.
- b) An update on the new notice board has been requested from Mr. Schofield.

- c) The Parish Council opposed the removal of Condition 5 in respect of the Harper Hotel's unloading protocol in respect of deliveries but the District Council allowed it.
- d) Work on updating the Asset Register is to continue. The Internal Auditor has given some advice on how best to proceed.
- e) James Cooke will be attending to the refurbishment of the telephone box. A decision will need to be taken on the defibrillator to be bought.
- f) Sarah Price (Norfolk County Council) and Mr. Allen had a meeting regarding the hedge on Hollow Lane. She is of the view that the properties in the Cornfield are responsible for the upkeep as far as the middle of the road. Legal advice is being sought by NCC.
- g) The work on the white lines at the Cockthorpe Road junction has been completed.
- h) A meeting had been held with the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher of the School. (The Chairman, Mr. Allen and the Clerk were present). Various options were discussed regarding the traffic issues in North Street. No conclusion was reached but unless Highways offer an alternative solution then the planters may be the best and cheapest option.
- i) The dip in the road opposite the Parish Room has been reported to NCC, Highways.

7. Finance

a)

Income

28/4/23	North Norfolk District Council (Precept – 6 months)	£5,149.00
26/4/23	NNDC (goodwill payment following their Precept miscalculation)	£234.00

Expenditure

20/3/23	Drax (streetlights electricity – February) – direct debit	£57.15
19/4/23	Drax (streetlights electricity – March) – direct debit	£63.24
9/5/23	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – April)	£21.36
9/5/23	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – May)	£21.36
9/5/23	SCS Accounting Solutions (quarterly payroll)	£12.00
9/5/23	BHIB Ltd (annual insurance)	£448.94
9/5/23	K. Webb (pay for Jan, Feb and March + back pay)	£1,186.57
9/5/23	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£296.60

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £7,502.62 credit, Business Saver- £10,054.32 credit (as at 8th May, 2023)

- b) The Clerk confirmed details of the Annual Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2023 which had been circulated to members before the meeting. These showed income of £11,365 (£11,346), expenditure of £9,064 (£9,893) and Bank balances of £12,237 (£9,936). An Internal Audit had been carried out by Di Dann and the appropriate documentation will be forwarded to the External Auditors. All required information will be placed on the website.
- c) The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for 2022/2023, together with the Certificate of Exemption (form 2), were submitted for consideration. Mr. Smith proposed acceptance of this documentation which was seconded by Mr. Walker. All members were in favour. The above returns, together with required additional reports, will be placed on the website in addition to the notice of public rights which enables electors to examine the financial records.
- d) There is an option to renew the Parish Council's insurance policy for a period of three years which will give some protection against the possibility of future substantial increases. Mr. Allen proposed that this course of action should be followed which was seconded by Mr. Walker. All in favour.

8. Potential housing development to the west of North Street

A large number of residents had attended the meeting with the intention of giving their views. A range of opinions were expressed. A consultation had been carried out in March and this had produced a result, in principle, of 56 people against and 44 in favour. The potential project is at a very early stage with the planning consultants and Highways Department currently discussing a number of varying matters.

At this moment and until more definite proposals are put forward, the Parish Council is not in a position to form a view on the desirability of a project of this kind. It was generally felt that a further consultation should take place with every residence in the village receiving a form on which certain responses could be given to important questions.

9. Local Election update

Mrs. Sarah Butikofer had been elected as the District Councillor for Priory Ward.

10. Distinction between acting as councillors and private individuals and the training to address this and other matters

The Clerk said that these are complex matters. Norfolk Parish Training and Support have recently announced an extensive training schedule and it was felt appropriate for a face to face group session to be organised for the members. The Clerk will liaise with NPT&S to make appropriate arrangements.

11. Request to support the Campaign against a new town (CANT) in mid Norfolk

A request had been received from CANT (Campaign Against the New Town) in respect of a proposal to build 5,000 houses in a remote area of fertile agricultural land enveloping the villages of Bintree, Billingford and North Elmham. It is felt that, should this go ahead, the very nature of mid Norfolk would change forever. It would impact a wide area due to the immense infrastructure changes required, along with decades of construction and associated traffic. George Freeman M.P. has given his unequivocal support to the campaign and indicated that the support of all local Parish Councils should be enlisted, even if they are in neighbouring districts. All members were in favour of confirming the Parish Council's support for the campaign.

12. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

None

Determinations

- a) PF/22/2091 and LA/22/2092 – The Hall, 2 North Street, Langham – single storey extension and external alterations – approved.
- b) LA/23/0244 – The Old House, 21 North Street, Langham – erection of greenhouse – withdrawn.
- c) RV/22/2356 – removal of cobdition 5, subject to a number of specific conditions, re PF/14/0107 – The Langham, North Street, Langham.

13. Correspondence

- 1) Clerks and Councils magazine for May, 2023.
- 2) Community Snapshot from the Safer Neighbourhood Team,
- 3) Letter of thanks and update from the Priscilla Bacon Hospice.
- 4) King's Lynn Festival programme for 16th to 29th July, 2023.
- 5) Letter from Blakeney P.C. re application for closure of Blakeney Surgery.

14. Reports from County and/or District Councillors

None

15. Parishioners' Participation

- a) It was queried whether the guidance booklet for Parish Councillors was still available. The Clerk will investigate.
- b) It had previously been asked if the village could have more pavements to facilitate safer walking. Highways Department of NCC had indicated that this suggestion was not feasible at present due to the costs that would be involved.
- c) Friends of Langham were reminded that it is possible to obtain grants for play equipment.

16. Any other matters (for information)

- a) The Chairman said that a decision on the application to reinstate the Blue Bell as a Community Asset is due by 21st June, 2023.
- b) Mr. Smith requested Parish Council support to pass details of speeding motorcyclists to P.C. Blakeley. This proposed action was agreed by all.

17. Agenda items for next meeting

None

18. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 4th July 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

DRAFT