

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th November, 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Patrick Allen (Chair)
Alan Smith
Kevin Walker
Anne-Marie Coe
Louise Goodenough
James Priest
The Clerk
Seven parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Sarah Butikofer (District Councillor) and Michael Dalby (County Councillor).

Paul Godfrey had tendered his resignation as Chairman and as a member of the Parish Council due to health issues. Mr. Smith said he wished to raise a vote of thanks to Mr. Godfrey for his contribution and hard work over a number of years. This feeling was strongly endorsed by the Clerk who said he was personally grateful to the former Chairman for his support and efforts on behalf of the community. All members supported these comments.

2. Appointment of Chair

Mr. Allen was proposed by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Smith. There were no other nominations. All in favour.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

Mrs. Coe was proposed by Mrs. Goodenough and seconded by Mr. Priest. There were no other nominations. All in favour.

4. Declarations of Interest

Mr. Allen stated that he is a neighbour of the site owner who has submitted an appeal regarding a planning application – please refer to item 13 (c)

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.

Mrs. Goodenough said that she is a member of the Langham action group.

5. Public Participation

Thanks were expressed for the repainting of the telephone box. It was mentioned that there had been a number of favourable comments on the Facebook page.

6. Minutes of last meeting held on 5th September, 2023 – were approved by all members with the following adjustment – the local Police Beat Officer referred to in item 15 (b) is not P.C. Blakelock. His name is Blakeley. Proposed by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Goodenough.

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

- a) Mr. Smith reported that traffic speeding remains a very real problem in the village, especially in the 20 mph zones. A number of locations are being used with the highest speed of 80 mph being recorded in Binham Road. The Community Speed Watch group has had 56 sessions since August last year with all details being passed on to the police. On 14th September, there was a joint action day involving 80 groups from Norfolk and Suffolk. 400 vehicles were identified. The Langham team is made up of eight volunteers, two of whom live in Blakeney. One person has a serious arm injury and two others are not in the best of health. More volunteers are desperately needed and an appeal was made for new recruits to come forward.
- b) The Chairman reported that two grants had been applied for to assist with the purchase of a new defibrillator. It is estimated that the cost will be in the region of £2K.
- c) The group training event, primarily aimed at new members, had been held on 5th October and was considered to have been very useful. Thanks were expressed to Norfolk Parish Training and Support for delivering an excellent and informative session.
- d) Consultiv Utilities continues to try to find an alternative supplier for the village's twelve street lights. Drax appears determined to remove Langham Parish Council from its list of customers and it seems highly likely that future costs for this important facility will show a significant increase.

8. Finance

Income

5/9/23	BHIB (part refund of annual insurance premium)	£53.98
29/9/23	North Norfolk District Council (Precept – 6 months)	£5,149.00
3/10/23	North Norfolk District Council (Recycling)	£31.40
26/7/23	Drax (Refund following overcharge)	£149.44
4/9/23	PFA (transfer of interest from 5/6/23 to 3/9/23)	£27.00
6/9/23	PFA (transfer – balance of savings account)	£1,642.05
7/9/23	PFA (transfer – balance of current account)	£105.03

Expenditure

7/11/23	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – September)	£21.36
7/11/23	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – October)	£21.36
7/11/23	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – November)	£21.36
7/11/23	SCS Accounting Solutions (quarterly payroll)	£12.00
7/11/23	D. M. Bracey (play area training with LVRG)	£120.00
7/11/23	CGM Group (two visits on 9/8 and 20/9 – grass cutting)	£198.00
7/11/23	CGM Group (two visits on 4/10 and 18/10 – grass cutting)	£198.00
7/11/23	CGM Group (cutting playing field hedge)	£277.20
7/11/23	North Norfolk District Council (collection from dog and litter bins)	£258.96
7/11/23	Norfolk Parish Training and Support (on line induction training)	£44.00
7/11/23	Norfolk Parish Training and Support (whole Council training) **	£295.00
7/11/23	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for July, August and September)	£1,148.78
7/11/23	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£287.20
7/11/23	Anglian Water (playing field from 2/7/23 to 1/10/23)	£49.29
7/11/23	Community Action Norfolk (annual subscription)	£20.00
7/11/23	Local Lynx (donation)	£70.00
7/11/23	Grove Farm Partnership (playing field rent)	£10.00

** Fulmodeston Parish Council to be invoiced for half of this cost (i.e. £147.50)

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £6,873.51 credit, Business Saver- £11,849.36 credit (as at 4th November, 2023)

Parish precept information had been received from North Norfolk District Council with the deadline for returns being 31st January, 2024. The tax base for 2024/2025 has decreased from 211.92 in 2023/2024 to 207.10. If the Band D figure, on which calculations are based, was to remain at the same annual contribution of £48.60, a Precept of £10,065 would result, a reduction of £233 on the previous year. Full discussions will be held at the next meeting, following which decisions will need to be made on the annual budget and precept to be requested.

9. Update on planters in North Street

At a Parish Council meeting earlier in the year, members had decided by four votes to one to proceed with the placement of planters near Rippingall Yard on North Street. Unfortunately, no action had been taken regarding this matter. In view of the length of time elapsed since this decision was made, the Chairman proposed to apply to Highways, Norfolk County Council for planters to be installed. No-one was prepared to second this proposal. The situation on North Street has not improved and has basically been the same for the last two to three years with a number of safety issues. The Chairman is to speak to Steve White, Highways, to ask him to attend a future Parish Council meeting with a view to trying to establish some progress in this matter.

10. Internet Banking

At this moment in time, following the resignation of the previous Chairman, there are only two authorised signatories on the Bank account – Messrs Allen and Smith. It was agreed by all to make arrangements for Anne-Marie Coe and Louise Goodenough to be added to the authorised list. Once the mandate formalities have been completed, steps will be taken to put Internet Banking in place.

11. Langham Village Recreation Ground developments

Mrs. Goodenough said that some fun raising events were to be held, starting with a bingo night on 13th December. The swing seats are to be replaced and also one of the goals. The tractor has not yet been removed but will be in the near future. Some small items are to be purchased on personal credit cards and will be reimbursed at the next Parish Council meeting. The manhole covers are a hazard and obstruction. The LVRG would like to either lower them to ground level or, if no longer an active sewer, then have them filled in. Mrs. Coe is to investigate via her contacts at Anglian Water. Mrs. Goodenough is also to make contact with CGM.

Under a felling licence from the Forestry Commission dated July, 2018, it is a condition for 88 trees to be planted by 30th June, 2024 to replace those removed. It is hoped that these trees can be obtained, free of charge, from the Norfolk Council and/or North Norfolk District Council or some other agency. Volunteers are needed to plant the trees.

In January, 2022 a Public Space Protection Order was requested in respect of the Village Green. James Ashby, Environmental Protection Team Leader, North Norfolk District Council, has apologised for the lack of response and has agreed to pay a site visit, indicating that they try to group PSPOs in batches and the next group renewal is scheduled for April, 2024.

12. Parish Council meeting dates for 2024

The next meeting will be held on 9th January.

Further dates for 2024, which will be confirmed at the next meeting, are:-

5th March

14th May (to incorporate the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting)

2nd July

3rd September

19th November

(All dates are Tuesdays)

13. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

- a) PF/23/1694 – change of use of building to dwelling (Class C3) and associated land to garden to serve the dwelling; erection of a shed and means of enclosure with gated access between existing brick piers; associated operational development – Stable Court Barn, Langham Road, Holt Road, Langham – update (ongoing).

- b) Breach of condition 2 and 3 of permissive RV/22/2356 at The Langham, North Street, Langham (ongoing).
- c) Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Appeal under Section 78 – land on Langham Road, Langham – change of use of land to storage of caravans and boats, siting of 39 storage containers, siting of portable building for office use and erection of boundary fence. (A response is to be made, confirming previous opposition, to the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol).
- d) Anglian Water Stiffkey Project – installation of six floating water quality monitors – Catchment Management Team.
- e) Parish Council policy regarding consultation on planning applications. (The Clerk had obtained a policy template and Mr. Smith agreed to produce a draft for the next meeting).

Determinations

None

14. Correspondence

- 1) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for November, 2023.
- 2) Letter from Barclays Bank re KYC (Know Your Customer) information.
- 3) Details of new pay scales for staff with effect from 1/4/23
- 4) Visiting dates for the Wellness on Wheels Bus (WOW Bus)
- 5) Letter from Duncan Baker M.P. regarding a public meeting re speeding. (Mr. Smith mentioned that the Chairman of Hindringham Parish Council had said that he was disillusioned by this meeting as it involved a number of people giving often repeated waffle which, to date, had resulted in no positive action).
- 6) Advice from NCC re visit to the village from Streetscene Inspectors.

15. Reports from County and/or District Councillors

The reports are to be placed on the website.

County Council budget proposal

People can have their say on the county council's proposed council tax levels and budget proposals for next year.

Norfolk County Council is consulting the public, until 1 December 2023, on a 4.99 per cent overall rise to its share of council tax, plus savings of £26.5 million.

Councillor Andrew Jamieson, the council's deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "We are keen to hear people's views on our proposals to balance our budget while ensuring that vital services are protected.

"We are operating in increasingly challenging circumstances, having faced a period of reductions to funding we are now grappling with rising demand and increasing costs to deliver services."

The proposals out to consultation are:

- A general council tax rise of 2.99 per cent, plus a further two per cent of adult social care precept
- Savings proposals of £26.5 million

The £26.5 million of savings proposals make a “significant contribution” towards the council’s £46.2 million savings target:

- Adult social services, £14.2 million
- Children’s services, £4.8 million
- Community and environmental services, £5.5 million
- Strategy and transformation, £0.9 million
- Finance, £1.0 million

The remainder of savings proposals will be developed over the next few months once further information has been released from government. The council is waiting to hear whether more funding will be provided in the autumn statement in November, or the provisional local government finance settlement in December.

Cabinet will consider consultation findings in January 2024 and make its final recommendations to council. The full county council meeting will decide the budget and council tax level on 20 February 2024.

To take part in the consultation, see www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget

Cabinet reviews Health and Social Care Winter Plan

Plans to support the health and social care sector through the pressures expected this winter are being put to Norfolk County Council’s Cabinet.

The Integrated Winter Plan, which covers the increased demand on health and social care from seasonal illnesses and cold weather, lays out what pressures can be expected and how the Council will be supporting services through the winter months.

The County Council will be prioritising supporting people who have been ill through their recovery, helping them return home from hospital or intermediate care, and supporting people to live independent, healthy lives.

One returning measure that has made a big impact in the past is the County Council and Community Healthcare run Hospital Discharge hubs: dedicated teams identifying the care people need to have in place to safely leave hospital and putting that care in place. Thanks to the work of these hubs, across winter 2023/24.

The plan is supported by the wide-ranging investment that Norfolk County Council is already making in adult social care, including:

- £1.2m investment in staffing the Hospital Discharge hubs
- £1.14m for additional re-abling capacity
- £800,000 for incentive payments for home care providers to support people out of intermediate care
- Uplifting care provider rates by £30m in 2023/24, which will support sustainability over winter
- Investment of £200,000 in step-down Housing with Care Flats that supported people out of community hospitals last winter

Alongside the successes the council and its partners have had in providing health and social care this year, including reducing the county's social care holding lists – those waiting for full packages of support to be assigned - by circa 1,000 since last winter, these plans will ensure everyone in Norfolk can access the care they need over the coming months.

New Partnership will help people recover at home

People needing help when they leave hospital are set to benefit from a new community service, to help them recover at home.

The Norfolk and Waveney Community Support Service (NWCSS), will be led by Voluntary Norfolk, the British Red Cross and Age UK Norwich and is funded by Norfolk County Council, NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board and Suffolk County Council.

The service is aimed at helping people with everyday tasks, like shopping, walking the dog or making phone calls and supports people to live independently whilst they recover. It supports people leaving hospital and those with short-term needs in the community.

The service has evolved from six separate services into one consistent joined up service for the whole of Norfolk and Waveney. The support provided through the original services will continue but with a combined wealth of experience and skills to support the whole of Norfolk and Waveney. Funding for the service has also increased by 30%, from £471,000 to £621,000 per year.

The service is made up of a mixed pool of paid staff and volunteers. Anyone interesting in a voluntary role can contact volunteering@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk

County Councillor Michael Dalby

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Please find below my October report to the Parishes of the Priory Ward.

As Chairman of the Council I had the sad honor of paying tribute to two outstanding former District Councillors at the NNDC Full Council meeting of the 20th September 2023. Councillor Peter Terrington former Councillor for Priory ward, and Councillor John Lee – Former Leader and Chairman of the District Council.

I have announced my Charity for my year in office is the 'Sir Norman Lamb's Coalition of Young People'

The pressures our young people now face from a very early age are well documented. However, this area isn't nearly as well-resourced as it needs to be; we must provide the care and support needed to catch our young people and help them before clinical intervention is required. How many of us have faced periods in our life when its all felt 'too much?' imagine facing that as a child or teenager.

The situation has become even more exacerbated since Covid – with 1 in 4 teenagers having a mental health difficulty, an increase from 1 in 6 in 2021. Early intervention is key to prevent deterioration in a young person's mental wellbeing – with the voluntary and community sector perfectly placed to address these challenges.

By working with these organisations and providing them with shared resources and finance they are able to reach larger numbers of our young people in need.

Please help me to support this work and donate to my Charity this year. I will be having a Quiz and Curry Night in the New Year, and fingers crossed a Christmas Carol Service with representatives of the Charity over the first weekend of December details to follow.

Thank you.

Are you aware of the Council's – Invest North Norfolk initiative – if you run a business in North Norfolk its well worth a look, and contains lots of useful information and details on some grant schemes.

I know how important the Blakeney Surgery is to many of you and thought you would be interested to know that at last month's Full Council meeting a Motion to :

1. **Recognise the critical importance of Blakeney Surgery to the community.**
2. **Call on the Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board to provide local and equitable health care for those living in Blakeney and surrounding villages.**

Was passed unanimously by all those attending.

A paper discussing Council Tax Discounts and the Premiums Determination process for 24-25 will be debated at Council in November – this is the start of a long process of several papers that will be debated by Council over several months prior to the Full Meeting in February next year, when the Council Budget and Council Tax charges from the year are debated and decided.

There will also be a paper brought forward on the future of the 22 Emergency Phones along the North Norfolk Coast which we currently provide. They have received very little use in recent years with the advances in mobile phone technology and with forthcoming changes in infrastructure by BT their continuation needs to be properly considered.

As you will no doubt be aware there are many Parish Councils in Priory, so I may not always be able to make all your Parish Council meetings. However, if you have a specific item on the agenda, you would like me there to discuss please let me know and I will do my best to join you. Likewise, should an item arise during the meeting that you would like me to investigate or assist with please do not hesitate to contact me.

Planning and housing is often the subject of much debate and I am always happy to hear your views and considerations on applications. You know your villages better than anyone and your thoughts are important to me when representing you.

Sarah Butikofer

16. Any other matters (for information)

At a previous meeting, the subject of fly tipping was raised. The Clerk provided some statistics as follows:-

- a) In the year 2021/2022, Norfolk had 10,761 incidents (11,263 in 2020/2021)
- b) In 2021/2022, North Norfolk carried out 397 investigations of which 3 were given fixed penalty notices (0.75%) and 20 warnings were issued (5.0%). No action was taken against 374 offenders (94%). The corresponding figures for 2020/2021 were 473 investigations, no fixed penalty notices and 19 warnings. No action was taken against 96% of fly tippers.
- c) In the year 2021/2022, Breckland Council had 133 investigations, 39 fixed penalty notices and 42 warnings. (In 2020/2021, there were 60 investigations, 20 fixed penalty notices and 14 warnings).
- d) Excluding Breckland, the rest of Norfolk in the year 2021/2022 issued just 29 fixed penalty notices.

The Clerk is to invite Anna Clarke, Community Housing Enabler, North Norfolk District Council to the next meeting.

Mr. Smith said that dog fouling problems had eased following patrolling visits made by David Thompson, North Norfolk District Council. However, matters had got worse and it appeared that one large dog, (or more specifically the owner by failing to clear up), may be responsible for the worsening situation.

Mr. Walker is to liaise with Mrs. Goodenough with a view to arranging a meeting with LVRG and is also to give a report at the January meeting on the next SNAP meeting.

The possibility of some new pavements in the village was mentioned but the costs would need to be established together with whether there would be any financial assistance available from outside agencies. Mr. Priest agreed to be the point of contact with Steve Rutt, the webmaster and also with the village Facebook page.

17. Agenda items for next meeting

Specific duties of individual members.

18. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 9th January 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

DRAFT