

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Paul Godfrey (Chair)
Patrick Allen
Anne-Marie Coe
Alison Newton
Tim Schofield
Alan Smith
Kevin Walker
The Clerk
Ten parishioners
Two representatives from Glavenhill (land promoter specialising in locally sensitive development proposals)

1. Apologies for Absence

Michael Dalby (County Councillor)
Richard Kershaw (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr. Smith (item 7) 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 5 h) of the minutes dated 10th January, 2023) reiterated that he is involved with the land off North Street (partly under his control).

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 10th January, 2023 – were approved by all members.
(Proposed by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Smith).

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

- a) Mr. Smith reported that the Community Speed Watch continues to have sessions with 26 having been held to date, 16 of these being on North Street. New volunteers are needed. Posters have been put up and adverts are to go in the Lynx, on the website and on the Facebook page.
 - b) Work is to be completed on the new notice board over the next few weeks.
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- c) Feedback is awaited in respect of the situation regarding the proposal to remove the Harper Hotel's Condition 5 and the provision of a loading bay.
 - d) Signs for Hollow Lane stating "children playing" and "slow down" are now in place.
 - e) Work on updating the Asset Register is to continue. Feedback is requested from members as this project needs to be fully completed before the Internal Audit takes place.
 - f) With regard to the review being carried out by Glavenhill of the land off North Street, a village consultation session has been held today which was very well attended. A mixture of views were apparent.
 - g) Mrs. Newton provided additional information on the defibrillator previously recommended. It was felt that the provision of a separate switch saved time and potentially lives. The equipment is recommended by the British Heart Foundation. The Chairman asked members to revisit the email he circulated on 12th January, 2023 so that further consideration could be given to this matter. Mr. Allen noted that he would contact James Cooke regarding the refurbishment of the telephone box and, with regard to the cost of £1,290, it was agreed that the Chairman would write to Michael

- Dalby to see if his County Councillor budget could fund some of the refurbishment.
- h) The Harper Hotel has taken over the running of the Blue Bell public house.
 - i) The Hollow Lane hedge still needs attention and it is considered that the property owners are responsible for their individual parts. The view was expressed that this matter needs to be resolved within the next few months.
 - j) The white lines at the Cockthorpe Road junction are hardly visible. Highways Department are still to take the necessary action.

5. Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

20/1/23	Drax (streetlights electricity – December) – direct debit	£63.24	
20/2/23	Drax (streetlights electricity – January) – direct debit		£63.24
20/2/23	K. Webb (quarterly computer allowance) - standing order		£20.00
7/3/23	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – February)		£21.36
7/3/23	Norfolk Parish Training & Support (annual subscription)		£105.32
7/3/23	Information Commissioner (annual GDPR registration)		£40.00
7/3/23	K. Webb (Clerk's expenses from 15/11/22 to 31/3/23)		£30.25

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £2,446.94 credit, Business Saver- £10,045.82 credit (as at 27th February, 2023)

6. Local Election and nomination process

The Local Elections are due to take place on Thursday, 4th May 2023 with the deadline for nominations being 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 4th April. Instructions for completing the papers have been circulated and it is recommended that candidates make an appointment with North Norfolk District Council so that a member of the elections team staff can check the nomination papers. Documentation can be submitted with effect from 9.00 am on Friday, 24th March 2023. A list of candidates will be provided after 4th April.

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7. Installation of planters

A meeting had been held with officers from Norfolk County Council, Highways Department who recommended that opinions of parishioners should be sought with regards to the installation of planters. As a result, information was placed on the notice boards in addition to the website and the Facebook page. All comments have now been read and it is apparent that there are more views against the project than those in favour. It was felt that the majority of those against were parents of children attending the school, with an equal split of for and against among the parishioners. The issue of road safety for all has been debated for the last two years and it is disappointing that the hotel owners have refused to cooperate regarding staff parking on North Street. Mr. Allen expressed concern with the danger that occurs when vehicles exit from Rippingall Yard. Planters are designed to address the safety issue but the main factor for parents taking part in the school run was the loss of parking spaces (probably four). The Chairman felt that, in the long run, the provision of a school car park is the way forward, located in the field off Wiveton Road. Mr. Allen proposed that an application should be made to Highways Department for the approval of siting planters. This was seconded by Mr. Walker. There were four members in favour and one against.

8. Grounds Maintenance for 2023

The grounds maintenance service provided by CGM in 2022 was regarded as less than satisfactory. As a result, a significant amount of the annual contract was not paid. The service provider was made fully aware that a higher standard is expected for 2023. To date, a contract for this year has not yet been issued although one has been requested. Attempts will be made to obtain quotations from other contractors although it has previously been difficult to locate alternative companies. The current annual activity is fourteen grass cuts, two quadruplay actions, two sprayings of the car park and one cutting of hedges (in September).

It was mentioned that the play equipment is filthy and new items are needed. Members of the Friends of Langham are to investigate the possibility of applying for grant funding.

9. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

- i) PF/22/2091 – The Hall, 2 North Street, Langham – single storey extension and external alterations. (Jamie Smith, NNDC, has not yet responded to questions regarding this application)
- ii) LA/23/0244 – The Old House, 21 North Street, Langham – erection of greenhouse

In respect of Condition 5 which states that no commercial delivery in association with activities connected with the use of the hotel and ancillary development is to be taken or dispatched from vehicles along North Street, the planners have requested more information regarding the suggestion for the creation of a possible loading bay.

Determination

- i) PF/22/1078 – Meadow Cottage, North Street, Langham – construction of two storey front extension, single storey rear extension and front porch – approved.

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10. Correspondence

- 1) Clerks and Councils magazine for March, 2023.
- 2) Request from Langham PCC for confirmation of the amount of their grant for the coming year.
- 3) Request for donation from Age UK Norfolk.
- 4) A number of comments from parishioners and non-parishioners regarding the parking situation in North Street.
- 5) Glavenhill consultation information re land to the west of North Street, Langham.

11. Reports from County and/or District Councillors

County Deals

Consultation is taking place until 20th March at www.Norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal on the in-principal county deal devolution agreement that Norfolk County Council signed with the Government last December.

Please do have a look into this deal and have your say in what is being proposed.

County Councillor Member Allowance

The Allowance for Highways and environment purposes has increase to £11,000.00 for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Cllr Michael Dalby
Wells Division
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12. Parishioners' Participation

- a) The road opposite the Parish Room has a deep dip in it which tends to fill with water after it has rained.
- b) The Stiffkey/Cockthorpe junction has not yet been attended to.

13. Any other matters (for information)

It was felt that there was a general lack of pavements in the village. Mr. Schofield is to draft a letter to the school with a view to arranging a meeting regarding the traffic issues in North Street.

14. Agenda items for next meeting

None

15. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 9th May 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

