

Meeting Minutes of Nordelph Parish Council

Monday 7th March 2022 at 6.30pm held at Nordelph Village Hall, High Street, Nordelph

Parish Councillors present: Danielle Gott (Chair), Pete Gray, Sarah-Jane Capsey and Bryony Russell-Smith
Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), Harry Humphrey, Chris Dawson (Norfolk County Council), Vivienne Spikings (Borough Council) and two members of the public

Apologies: Colin Rose (Borough Council)

MINUTES

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Presentation to ex-Councillor Balls

The Mayor of King's Lynn, Harry Humphrey, presented ex-Councillor Balls with his leaving gift and paid thanks to him for his forty years of voluntary service to the parish of Nordelph. Mr. Balls and Harry Humphrey left the meeting.

3 To consider and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were given as listed above and reasons for such approved.

4 To declare pecuniary interests & consider any requests for dispensations

Bryony Russell-Smith, as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, noted her conflict of interest in Item 12 on the Agenda and agreed that she would not take part in any voting should the occasion arise.

5 Open Forum for public participation (15 minutes only)

A member of public was present to express an interest in helping the parish council to replace the dilapidated/broken bridge at the Bedford Bank to open up the circular walk known as Footpath 7 (*or wide skies and open views*). It was resolved for the Clerk to make contact with the relevant landowners, Drainage Board and Norfolk County Council and endeavour to arrange a site meeting; ongoing. The member of public left the meeting.

6 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022

The Minutes had been previously circulated and these were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the last meeting.

7 Clerk to report any outstanding issues not on this month's Agenda, if necessary

- a) The parish council currently has three casual vacancies for parish councillors.
- b) The Clerk will arrange for a Facebook page for the parish council.
- c) Correspondence from Metcalfe Copeman & Pettefar is still awaited confirming management responsibilities for the recreational area/playing field behind the cemetery.
- d) The sapling trees have now been removed and the hedge cut back at the recreational area providing at least another six foot of playing field area; invoice awaited from Holly Landscapes.

8 Parish Matters

- a) It was noted that a resident of Silt Road has expressed an interest in volunteering to manage the SAM2 camera; ongoing.
- b) It was noted that a bench is being donated from the Well Creek Trust for the Staithe and will be installed in due course.
- c) The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the village hall on Thursday 14th April 2022 at 6.30pm.

9 Finance

- a) It was resolved with all in favour to approve the outstanding payments since last meeting as listed below. Councillor Gray and Councillor Gott to authorize after the meeting.

List of Payments since last meeting					
Supplier	Price	VAT	Total payment	Type of	Description of service/supply
Chairman's allowance	25.00	0.00	25.00	BACS	Part payment of Chairman annual allowance - total £100.00
Norfolk Parish Training Support	95.00	0.00	95.00	BACS	Annual subscription
Emneth Design	76.48	0.00	76.48	BACS	Annual website hosting fee
Kate Bennett	253.76	0.00	253.76	dd	Month 11 wages
Kate Bennett	98.12	0.00	98.12	BACS	Month 10 & 11 expenses - mileage, mobile, internet, 50% annual Microsoft 365 subs
	548.36	0.00	548.36		

- b) It was noted that *sse business energy* rates are expected to increase by at least 200% next year from 12.707p per kWh to 27.842p per kWh.
- c) The Current Account balance at 28th February 2022 was £4,333.48.
- d) Income received since last meeting; £132.60 from the Village Hall Committee for the spraying of weeds to the village hall car park area.
- e) It was resolved with all in favour to increase the Clerk's monthly hours from 16 to 20 as of 1st April 2022.
- f) It was resolved with all in favour to purchase three Purple Birch trees from Rachael's Outlet at Walton Highway at £115.00 + Vat each, to plant at the recreational area/playing field to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; County Councillor Dawson has offered to reimburse the parish council the full amount from his County fund.
- g) Councillors Gray and Capsey viewed the bank statements.

10 To consider any planning matters since last meeting

- a) Planning application 21/02301/F at 12 Silt Road for a new double garage has been *permitted*.
- b) Planning application 21.02322/F (amendment) at land between the Old Well and The Moorings, High street for the construction of a dwelling and garage has been *permitted*.

11 To discuss any cemetery/churchyard issues

- a) It was resolved to set a date at the next meeting to carry out a health and safety test to all of the headstones.

12 To discuss any Village Hall/Playing Field issues

- a) The Clerk outlined pertinent issues to the Parish Council as presented at a recent online seminar with Community Action Norfolk relating to *Charitable Trusts & Parish Councils*.
- b) Bryony Russell-Smith provided an update on the condition of the Community Garden.
- c) Further discussions took place regarding the £5,000.00 of designated parish funds that was transferred to the Village Hall Committee last year for damp and structural works at the village hall and the validity surrounding this transfer as works do not appear to have been completed yet and the Parish Council would like confirmation of how and when these designated funds are being spent; ongoing.

The issue of some cash takings from a Bingo evening last year being stolen from the Village Hall was discussed; the Parish Council was disappointed to learn that the Village Hall Committee had not yet reported this incident to the Police and would urge them to do so as a matter of priority.

13 To receive a report from the Borough Council

- a) Council tax for a band D property has increased by £4.50 per annum.
- b) Investments have been made in litter picking and fly tipping as well as £250,000 per annum for the next four years added to tackle climate change and support communities.
- c) The next Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting is 13th April 2022 at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

14 To receive a report from County Council

- a) A 2.99% rise in the County Council's share of council tax has been agreed.
- b) There is an increase in the 2022/23 net budget by £25 million.
- c) A review of the Council and how it operates, to bridge a £60m budget gap, is predicted for 2023/24.
- d) The County has funded two members of staff for the Norfolk Association of Local Councils to improve the link between the County Council and Norfolk's town and parish councils.

15 To note general correspondence since last meeting

- a) An email from the Clerk to Welney Parish Council was noted reference support for action relating to the flooding of the A1101 wash road.

16 To consider Agenda items for the next meeting

- 1) To co-opt three councillors
- 2) To provide details of the new volunteer to manage the SAM2 sign in the parish
- 3) To note any progress with the tidying up of the Community Garden behind the village hall
- 4) To note any progress with creating a Parish Council Facebook page
- 5) To receive an update from the Village Hall Committee regarding the £5,000 of designated funds transferred to their account from parish funds for damp and structural works at the village hall and confirmation that they have spent the same from their funds in line with the caveats given when the funds were transferred
- 6) To arrange a date to carry out a topple test at the cemetery

17 If required to consider excluding the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed (e.g. personnel issues, tenders for contracts, legal proceedings); no report.

18 To note the date of the next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 14th April 2022 at the Village Hall, High Street at 6.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed..... Date