

Meeting Minutes of Nordelph Parish Council

Thursday 12th January 2023 at 6.30pm held at Nordelph Village Hall, High Street, Nordelph

Parish Councillors present: Councillor Capsey (Chairman), Councillor Lyus, Councillor Thomas, Councillor Venn and Councillor Gray also present Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), Borough Councillor Colin Rose, County Councillor Chris Dawson and four members of the public

Apologies: Borough Councillor Spikings

MINUTES

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 To consider and approve apologies for absence

- a) Apologies were received as above and the reasons for such approved.
- b) Due to an absence from meetings for six consecutive months Councillor Russell-Smith is automatically disqualified as a councillor¹. Clerk to arrange for the advertising of another vacancy on the Parish Council.

3 To declare pecuniary interests & consider any requests for dispensations

No pecuniary interests were given and no requests for dispensations had been requested prior to the meeting.

4 Open Forum for public participation (15 minutes only)

Two residents present reported their concerns over the speeding traffic along Birchfield Road and requested further signage / road markings to reinforce the 30mph limit here. Clerk and Councillor Thomas to progress with the residents and Norfolk County Council.

A resident present expressed her interest in the casual vacancy currently on the Parish Council. Members welcomed her interest and will discuss further at Item 16a) of this month's Agenda.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2022

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the last meeting as a true record and these were signed by the Chairman.

6 Clerk to report on any outstanding issues not on this month's Agenda

It was noted that Local Elections will be held on Thursday 4th May 2023.

7 To receive a report from the Borough Council

- a) The 2023/24 Budget is being prepared.
- b) The Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Committee has been renamed the Police Priority Sifting Panel and is due to next meet on 17th January 2023.
- c) Anti-social behaviour is currently the main issue (no longer speeding).
- d) Funding applications to the Community Infrastructure Levy fund are open again until 1st February 2023².

8 To receive a report from the County Council

- a) We are still awaiting costs associated with stopping up one public right of way and creating a new one from David Mills, the Public Rights of Way Officer. Once this information has been received, and assuming that funding will be possible via the Bridges Team at Norfolk County Council and other partnerships, a discussion with the Environment Agency can ensue (as controllers of the waterway).

¹ Local Government Act 1972 s 85(1) and (2)

² Clerk has submitted a further application for a bus shelter for Silt Road

- b) The 2023/24 Budget is being prepared with a suspected increase of 4.99%, Adult & Child Services seeing the biggest increase in costs. Highways issues have increased by 28% on last year but are still operating on the same budget.
- c) Councillor Thomas reported a request from a resident to reinstate cats' eyes / white lines along sections of the A1122 from Wisbech to Downham Market. Councillor Thomas to progress with the resident and the Clerk.

9 Parish Matters

- a) It was resolved with all in favour to appoint a new contractor for the grass cutting in the Parish for Spring / Summer 2023, initially for a one-year period only; Clerk to progress and draft an agreement / contract for both parties to sign.
- b) It was resolved to reignite the conversation with Norfolk County Council Highways into the feasibility of repairing the damaged / missing railings along the riverbank; Clerk to progress.
- c) Recent stats from the SAM2 camera were circulated with the highest speed being recorded at 70mph along Silt Road. The distance the radar was measuring down the road has been reduced to try and bring it in as close as possible to the 40mph limit in order to give a truer reading on speeds throughout the 40mph limit itself and not necessarily beyond. It was noted that the unit has been damaged, potentially by passing farm machinery. Thanks to Peter for continuing to operate the SAM2 camera for the Parish.
- d) It was resolved with all in favour to change the meeting days for Parish Council Meetings to Tuesday evenings (where possible) throughout 2023; Clerk to progress.
- e) It was resolved to agree to a meeting with Liz Truss MP per an email request in December.

10 Finance

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

List of Payments since last meeting						
Supplier	Price	VAT	Total payment	Type of	Description of service/supply	Reference
Andrew Harrison	25.00	0.00	25.00	TRF	Installation of dog waste bin / Birchfield Road (paid)	41
sse	15.56	3.11	18.67	dd	November energy for street lighting	42
Kate Bennett	312.80	0.00	312.80	dd	Month 8 (November) wages	43
Kate Bennett	312.80	0.00	312.80	dd	Month 9 (December) wages	44
Clerk expenses	62.72	0.00	62.72	TRF	December 2022 & January 2023 mileage, broadband, mobile, electricity etc.	45
John E Wright & Co. Ltd.	31.95	6.39	38.34	TRF	Black ink cartridge	46
	760.83	9.50	770.33			

- b) The Current Account balance as at 12th January 2023: £5,725.23.
- c) Income received since last meeting: £0.00.
- d) 2023 2024 budget figures were considered and approved and it was resolved to increase the Parish Precept for 2023/24 to £10,500.00 in order to adequately cover the increased costs for grass cutting in the cemetery and at the playing field / litter bin emptying / dog waste bin emptying / street lighting / an increase in the national living wage / insurance costs / defibrillator maintenance etc.

- b) Councillor Thomas and Councillor Gray viewed the bank statements.

11 To consider any planning matters since last meeting; no report.

12 To discuss any cemetery/churchyard issues

- a) The Clerk will arrange for a tree survey of the cemetery / playing field in April 2023.

13 To consider any Village Hall / Playing Field issues

- a) Damp works are nearly complete. A new floor has been fitted to the bar area and a new kitchen is being fitted.
- b) It was noted that Councillor Lyus is no longer a member of the Village Hall Committee.

14 To note any correspondence or report any issues relating to the Police

- a) The next Police Priority Sifting Panel meeting is on 17th January 2023.
- b) It was noted that a resident of the Parish has been riding his quad bike along Birchfield Road without displaying a number plate.
- c) Hare coursing in the village had recently been reported.

15 To consider Agenda items for the next meeting

- To co-opt Claire Lyus onto the Parish Council
- To provide an update from Norfolk County Council Highways regarding repairs to the railings along the riverbank
- To provide a progress report on the diversion order for Footpath 7 and for the provision of a culvert over the drainage ditch
- Public Right of Way / Coronation Avenue / Popham's Eau (Councillor Gray)
- To discuss Fly Posters on the bridge / upkeep of the grass verge surrounding the village sign on the A1122
- Invite any residents interested in the casual vacancy on the Parish Council / co-opt a new Member

16 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 discussed³

Members discussed the resident present at the meeting interested in the vacancy on the Parish Council and it was resolved with all in favour to appoint Claire Lyus as a new Member onto the Parish Council at the next meeting.

17 To note the date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 20th February 2023 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed..... Date

³ Personnel issues, tenders for contracts, legal proceedings