

Wickmere Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Regent Street, Wickmere
On Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 8.00 pm

Present

Cllr Lesley Ash (Chair) Cllr Richard Hembling Cllr Phillida Hurn
Cllr Vanessa Tomczynska

Also in attendance:

Cllr John Toye (NNDC member for Erpingham Ward)
Cllr Saul Penfold (NCC member for North Walsham West and Erpingham division)
The Reverend Tony Lynn (Interim Team Minister)
Ros Calvert, Clerk to the Council (Locum)

- 1 **APOLOGIES** for absence were accepted from Cllr Tim Riches

- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INDIVIDUAL DISPENSATIONS** – none.

- 3 **MINUTES** - Minutes of the meeting 9th February 2022 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

- 4 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
Councillors Register of Interest were received by NNDC and published

- 5 **REPORTS**
District Council – Cllr John Toye reported on the Council’s activities to support Ukrainian and Russian refugees in the district. Preparations were being made for local accommodation; a complex process.
He also talked about the availability of grant support from the District Council for local projects and offered his support.

County Council – Cllr Saul Penfold updated the meeting on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and explained how it might work with the District Councils, schools etc. Rising costs and uncertainty were a cause for concern and there appeared to be an increase in tensions between local ethnic groups.
The council tax would rise by 2.99% for the next year.
An update on the NDR Plan B Environment Impact Scheme was due in June.

The Reverend Tony Lynn – gave a brief update on the local parochial affairs.
There would be a service on Easter Sunday at Wickmere to which everyone was welcome. He asked for articles for the parish magazine which may be available via the parish council website.

- 6 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to take comments from members of the public and Councillors with disclosable interests.
There were no comments

7 PLANNING

1. Planning Applications – no new applications

2. Ref ENF/21/0350 - Mobile Pig Units adjacent Matlaske Road

NNDC Planning had invited a planning application for the pig shelters for a temporary 2-year basis. The landowner had confirmed that there would be no additional offices, silos or external lighting. It was the landowner's decision as to whether they submit an application. If no application was forthcoming the pig shelters would need to be removed from the land within 56 days (i.e. Sept 2022). Highways had not raised any objections apart from ensuring the mud was cleared from the road.

Environmental Protection had confirmed that there was not a statutory nuisance at present in terms of odour.

3. Updates on the following planning matters were noted:

Planning Inspectorate – Appeal AP/22/0003 Re Application PF/20/2072 for Mr & Mrs Michael and Clare McNamara. Description: Erection of dwelling with attached double garage At: Park Farm Office, Wolterton Park, Wolterton, Norwich, NR11 7LX – no decision to date

8 HIGHWAYS

1 Dangerous Junction at Matlaske Road Junction.

Norfolk CC Highways - North 1 Area

NCC Highways had been asked when the island junction and road markings around the junction would be restored. There had been a green triangular sward but following recent agricultural activity it had become a dangerous quagmire in wet weather and a dangerously rutted hole when dry. The road markings had also been destroyed by recent agricultural activity. No remedial action had been reported to date. There was a staffing change over and David Williams, the new Highways Engineer North 1 Area responsible for this site would be taking up his post in April.

NCC Councillor Saul Penfold offered to pursue this matter.

2 Highway Verges Cutting Schedule for 2022

Class A and B roadside verges would continue to be cut twice a year (First cut starting mid-May, second cut starting mid-August). Class C and U roadside verges (all those in Wickmere) would reduce from two cuts to one, with cutting scheduled to commence mid-May in conjunction with the A and B roadside verge cutting. For highway safety purposes visibility splays on C and U class roads may be cut in mid-August.

The NCC Service Standard for preventative rural grass cutting was 'a continuous "single swathe" of one meter and visibility cut' typically in May/June followed by a second cut in August/September. This decision had been made (in line with PlantLife's guidance) as full verge cutting was not practical or cost efficient. Class C and U cuts would be undertaken in April/May for operational reasons. NCC had investigated the possibility of undertaking this cut in August/September, but it was not possible due to availability of contracted resources. It believes that it had achieved an equitable balance between maintaining the verges from a biodiversity perspective and road safety, and the changes introduced would enhance plant life on roadside verges.

3 **Rural Nature Reserves (NWT & NCC) and Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)** were managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

It was agreed to conserve the wild flowers including orchids on the Aldborough Road between Common Road and Church Road and to explore the options to facilitate this. Cllr Saul Penfold offered to help with sourcing funding streams. Cllr John Toye suggested that the local north Norfolk Felbeck Trust may be able to help.

9 **MINUTE BOOKS and FILING CABINET**

1. **It was agreed** that the old minute book (C1940 – 1980) would not be deposited with the Norfolk Record Office. The Chairman would take responsibility for its safe keeping for the time being.
2. **It was agreed to** purchase a secure filing cabinet which would be kept in the Village Hall (£67.38 + VAT)

10 **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR**

It was agreed to explore prices, grant funding, use of the phone box, and local volunteer support

11 **STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

It was agreed to adopt both documents as circulated. These were signed by the Chairman

12 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

It was agreed to purchase 3 gazebos and 30 chairs to facilitate an outdoor celebration at the Village Hall.

A tree had been planted at the church entrance to commemorate the jubilee

2. **It was agreed** to join the Norfolk Parishes Training and Support (£50 p.a)

13 **FINANCE**

1. Banking security and change of postal address had been updated.
2. The bank reconciliation was approved and signed. Balance £34,234
5. Receipt of £38.60 - expenses
6. The following retrospective banking transactions were noted and approved:
 - 07/02/2022 – British Gas DD - £14.14
 - 25/02/2022 - Anglian Water - £4.37
 - 14/03/2022 – British Gas DD - £21.08
7. The following payments were approved
 1. Information Commissioners Office - £35 p.a. by Direct Debit
 2. Norfolk PT & S - £50
 3. HMRC & R Calvert - Salary & Expenses - £841.19
 4. 2-Draw Filing Cabinet – £ 80.86
 5. Gorilla Gazebo – £470.96
 6. Furniture at Work - £971.28
 7. Anglian Water - £4.37 DD 25/03/2022

8. **It was agreed** to receive the financial report and adopt the 2022/23 budget

14 LATE CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS to be referred to next meeting

1. Reports from Councillors – none
2. NNDC Town & Parish Council Engagement Forum, which is being held next Monday 28th March at 2.00pm via Zoom. Lesley offered to attend.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Annual Parish Council Meeting would be held on Wed 11th May at 7.00pm
Ordinary meetings on the second Wednesday of the month as follows:

13th July 2022

14th September 2022

9th November 2022

11th January 2023

8th March 2023

15 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8:50 pm

Chairman:

Date: