

Northwold and Whittington Parish Council – Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 3rd February 2022
Held at Northwold Village Hall

PRESENT Chairman C. Anderson, Cllrs G. Gillett, M. Peake, H. Hogan, M. Winter, G. Raynor, A. MacMullen and A. Bennett. Mrs Samantha King (Clerk). There were no members of the public at the meeting.

1. THE CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS

Welcome everybody and welcome Andrew to the Northwold and Whittington Parish Council and I hope you find it interesting.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllrs R. Silvester (Vice Chair)

3. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – update on applications

There are still two vacancies outstanding.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING held on 6th December 2021

The minutes for the ordinary meeting held on 6th January 2022 was proposed by Cllr G. Raynor and seconded by Cllr M. Winter. All agreed. The minutes were signed by the Chairman. The final version will be made available on the website and notice boards.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

6. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

County Cllr M. Storey –Please check the Norfolk County Council and Borough Council websites regularly for details of grants which are available. County Hall are currently preparing their budget and the meeting will be on 21st February. Headline services haven't received too many cuts and the public consultation has been taken into consideration. There is a lot of work involved. Eastern Daily Press have been looking at accidents on the A134 at the crossroads especially now with the 12 dwellings and I will continue to ensure this stays relevant. The Parish Council have done a lot of work in the past to try and improve the junction. No news on Little London but please pass onto me any information you think is relevant. Chairman C. Anderson mentioned the issue with the Coal Yard and that he did an interview with Norfolk Radio following a death a couple of years ago. The developer paid for 50mph signs. Chairman C. Anderson to speak to new developer to put this suggestion forward.

District Cllr T. Ryves – Developers are not required to fund speed limit signs but worth a chat. Historically we have built up reserves but we don't know what will happen in the future. The County Council looking at a 2.99% increase and Borough Council £4.50. From the Council Tax around 7% goes to the Borough Council which is around £7 million. The Borough Council formally announced a grant of up to £250 for Queen's Jubilee celebrations for groups wanting to celebrate. Re-elections next year. I believe there is a place in the Norfolk countryside for higher quality housing. The Crown Pub is still on the market and having an active pub enhances a village. If someone is interested in buying it there is plenty of expertise available to assist.

7. **MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTERESTS and DISPENSATION REQUESTS** (for items on the agenda)
None.

8. **REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** (for information only)
Chairman C. Anderson wanted to clarify that in respect of item 14.4 regarding the accident on the A134 the only response received was sent to everyone on 11th November 2021. This was Tom McCabe's response to the initial letter but nothing further received.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- The Drax contract for street lighting is up for renewal on 13th March. This will be added to next month's agenda.
- Chairman C. Anderson has received a letter from two ladies in Northwold complaining that they cannot phone up for repeat prescriptions at Boughton Surgery. Chairman C. Anderson spoke to the GP Practice Manager who confirmed that people were blocking the phone lines. Possible suggestion is putting a box in the village which will be collected weekly. This could be too far to walk for some people. The Car Scheme have been picking up prescriptions and delivering them. Feltwell Surgery have a dedicated phone line for repeat prescriptions

10. **FINANCES**

10.1 Accept accounts to 3rd February 2022 and agree payments to be approved in accordance with list prepared by Responsible Finance Officer

This was proposed by Cllr G. Raynor and seconded by Cllr A. Bennett. This was agreed by everyone. The payment sheet was signed by the Chairman.

10.2 Internal Auditor – To agree on new Internal Auditor

This was proposed by Chairman C. Anderson and seconded by Cllr G. Gillett. This was agreed by everyone. Clerk to inform new Internal Auditor.

The following payments were authorised on 3rd February 2022							
Balance in current account January 2022					£25,553.97		
Plus the following receipts							
Total Income					£0.00		
Total after Income					£25,553.97		
Cheques/DD/BACS	Description					Total	
DD	Drax (formaly Havenpower)- street light energy (November)					£96.32	
DD	Drax (formaly Havenpower)- street light energy (November)					£4.68	
DD	Drax (formaly Havenpower)- street light energy (December)					£99.65	
DD	Drax (formaly Havenpower)- street light energy (December)					£4.90	
DD	Westcotec - Street light maintenance					£19.10	
BACS	Northwold Car Scheme					£574.43	
BACS	Mrs P Angus - Handover					£48.00	
DD	Anglian Water					£5.00	
BACS	Clerks salary, 7 hours overtime & mileage (Swaffham for TSB)					£484.16	
Total Cheques/BACS/DD Paid						£1,336.24	
Balance in Community Account February 2022					*	£24,217.73	
Bank Statement Balance as of 1/02/22						£25,447.97	
Outstanding payments to be made to date						£1,230.24	
Balance in community account (always match balance marked *)						£24,217.73	

11. PLANNING

Discuss and comment on any new planning applications received, note interim planning comments and published decisions.

21/02464/F Linden Cottage, 48 High Street – Dated 10th January 2022

Construction of cart lodge for vehicle storage including a home office on an existing concrete base.

Northwold and Whittington Parish Council object to this planning application on the following grounds;

1. The proposed building lies in a Conservation Area and in very close proximity to listed buildings. The size and scale of the proposed building and its materials, as well as being partially seen from High Street, will not preserve or enhance the Conservation Area and will compromise the adjacent listed buildings.
2. The application needs to specify the purpose of the proposed building.

21/02506/F Variation of Conditions 2, 6, 7, 10 and 14 of Planning Permission 21/00794/FM – Dated 12th January 2022

Demolition of existing piggery buildings and construction of industrial buildings to provide additional warehousing/storage of timber-based fuel and charcoal products, with associated processing (drying and saw/splitter) buildings, an office/amenity block, weighbridge, staff and visitor car parking, log storage lanes, and associated access, circulation, landscaping and drainage works. at The Piggeries, 49 Methwold Road Whittington, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE33 9TH.

Northwold and Whittington Parish Council has no objection to the above variation of conditions, but does have concerns regarding the additional traffic using Methwold Road, Whittington and the consequential road safety issues. Although the section of road in question has a 40mph speed limit on it, speeding is a significant problem. The Parish Council believes that further traffic calming measures should be put in place in order to increase safety.

12. LAND & PROJECTS

12.1 Inghams Lane footbridge and subsidence of river bank – this is being dealt with by The Bridges Team, there is no date yet for the works to be carried out.

Still outstanding. Clerk to chase.

12.2 Riverside (FP7) Footbridge, Northwold – handrail is missing and this has been reported to The Bridges Team on the 10th November and they have confirmed that the problem is being investigated

Still outstanding. Clerk to chase.

12.3 Bridge over the Ford in Common Drove – needs to be replaced and has been reported to The Bridges Team

Still outstanding – The Clerk will chase this up as people are beginning to use the lane and bridge and it is dangerous.

13. CONSULTATIONS: Discuss and resolve on response.

13.1 Neighbourhood Plan – update

Chairman C. Anderson to check with Cllr R. Silvester whether she has contacted individuals.

14. HIGHWAYS AND STREETLIGHTING

14.1 SAM2 Update – to report on latest data

SAM2 update received and circulated to all Councillors. Methwold Road requires new traffic calming measures as some drivers are doing over 90mph. The camera is now on School Lane for 2 weeks and this will then be turned around the other way. Cllr A. Bennett has completed form and asked for figures from the Camera Safety Team and Policing Team.

14.2 Whittington Village Signs –update on price of new signs

A brochure was passed around the Councillors to decide on which sign they require for Whittington. Clerk asked to contact Hockwold Clerk for prices and details of the signs they purchased recently for this village. Clerk also to contact Highways to ask if any grants available towards the cost of a sign.

14.3 Litterbin for the A134 layby – update

All Councillors agreed not to purchase a new bin due to high costs and people are throwing rubbish in the verges all along the A134. Clerk to contact Highways to ask for sign advising people to take litter home to be repaired.

14.4 Accident at the junction of A134 and Methwold Road – response from NCC Highways regarding the Coroner's report

Chairman C. Anderson provided an update under Item 8.

14.5 Update on Cross Lane signage, Westend No Entry sign and 50mph speed limit on Little London Lane

The signs are on order and Cllr Storey has sent his support to Highways for the 50mph speed limit on Little London Lane. Clerk to contact Highways to find out when they will be installed and if the installation is free of charge.

14.6 Any other issues requiring action

The notice board in Whittington is repairable and will be repaired by Cllr M. Peake who will also add a new padlock.

15. PARISH FACILITIES

15.1 Green Projects – planting trees and hedging between allotments

Trees to be planted from November to March. This allows time to contact different groups to see if they would like to sponsor a tree. Walnut, Silver Birch, Oak etc will vary on price from around £25 to £30 each. This depends on whether the Parish Council would like a mixture or just one kind of tree. They will also need netting for protection for a while. Volunteers will be needed to help plant and maintain them. One idea is to do a leaflet drop around the village.

15.2 Dog Fouling - Allotments

There are reports of dog owners using the allotments to exercise their dogs. A few additional signs are needed around the entrance. It will cost £25.00 for two signs. Chairman C. Anderson to approach a contact to fix them free of charge. All Councillors agreed.

15.3 Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd to 5th June 2022 – Discussions for ideas for celebrations

Cllr A. MacMullen had a meeting with various groups from the village. The WI will be doing cream teas in the village hall from 2:30pm to 4:30pm and asked if the Parish Council can donate £50 towards the cost. This will be paid back if a profit is made on the day. The Church will be having a Jubilee service at 2:30pm on the Sunday and a flower display from the Thursday to Sunday at the back of the Church. There will also be a memory corner back to the Queen's succession to the throne. There will be red/white/blue bunting around the village. Some residents would like a street party with all primary school children being presented with a commemoration mug. The price for each mug is around £5.00 to £10.00. The Sports and Social Club did not have their meeting yet to be able to confirm any arrangements. Can do silly races and 50's style dress. Interest has been added for the beacon. Cllr G. Raynor to find out costs of beacons.

15.4 Mill Drove - Hedges

Chairman C. Anderson has walked down Mill Drove and the first part is not overgrown up to the glamping site. The track is full of pot holes and the hedges are overgrown further down the road. It is difficult to establish owners of the land. Chairman C. Anderson to try and find out owners of the land. Clerk to contact Methwold Clerk to check if they have a map of the boundary of Northwold and Methwold.

15.5 Any other issues requiring action

There are still chaffer grubs on the sports field. The treatment worked for the first few weeks but now they are moving towards the social club. Chairman C. Anderson to contact Collier Turf.

16. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

16.1 To receive any updates or additional urgent work required.

The verge on School Lane near the allotments at the back has been cut.

17. CEMETERIES

17.1 Monthly safety review results.

There are lots of moles. There is also a white plastic planter being used as a headstone. There is a 'Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977' which confirms that memorials must be made of hard stone. Clerk to send letter to resident to ask them to remove this.

18. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

18.1 To receive any updates or maintenance work required

None.

18.2 Northwold tennis Court – Tree maintenance

Chairman C. Anderson has spoken to the Secretary and there is a large walnut tree which over hangs the tennis court and is leaving moss on the ground. The Secretary has asked for this to be cut back. Clerk to contact TTSR for a quotation.

19. Items for the next agenda.

Parking on High Street and Drax contract.

20. DATE of next two meetings.

3rd March 2022 and 7th April 2022.

With nothing more to discuss the meeting closed at 9.26pm

Signed _____ Date _____