

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

Thursday 5th May 2022
Held at Northwold Village Hall

PRESENT: Chairman C. Anderson, Vice Chairman R. Silvester, Cllrs G. Gillett, M. Peake, A. MacMullen, M. Winter, G. Raynor, A. Bennett, Mrs Samantha King (Clerk). District Cllr T. Ryves and County Cllr M. Storey. There were no members of the public at the meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting

1. WELCOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Welcome everybody to the annual parish meeting.

2. TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr H. Hogan

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was read out by the Chairman and is on the website.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

I will continue to monitor the situation on the A134 and bring this up with Highways. I have a member's allowance up to £10,000 for any small highway's schemes. If there is anything in particular, please email me. There are many grants still out there since COVID and full details are on the website. Several Jubilee celebrations are planned in and around Norwich. Full details are on the website. There is a full council meeting next Tuesday and most items are still ongoing.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

On the planning side there is a meeting on Monday regarding Jenson's Way which is of particular interest due to safety issues on this road. Hopefully Highways will be at the meeting. There is a Lidl store agreed in Downham Market but from a planning point of view this was not handled very well or fair and may impact small businesses in the area. In Methwold a new shop will be opened by the Rumbles crew in late June and it will be nice to have a shop.

6. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- A WI report was read out and is available on the website.
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – There has been no public meetings but it is still active. There will be a campaign to encourage more residents to join. Cllr A. MacMullen is the co-ordinator who has a good relationship with the Police.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by G. Raynor to re-elect C. Anderson as Chairman. This was seconded by A. MacMullen. All agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance was signed by the Chairman.

8. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by C. Anderson to elect M. Winter as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by R. Silvester. All agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance was signed by the Vice Chairman.

9. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING held on 3rd March 2022

The minutes for the ordinary meeting held on 3rd March 2022 was proposed by R. Silvester and seconded by Cllr A. MacMullen. All agreed. The minutes were signed by the Chairman. The final version will be made available on the website and notice boards.

10. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (for information only)

- (15.2) Chairman C. Anderson has put up the signs.
- (15.8) The two trees have been dealt with and the walnut tree was felled today. Chairman C. Anderson will speak to TTSR to check if we can sell the trunk. A replacement tree will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Regarding the brazier. Northwold only expressed an interest and did not confirm this will be purchased. There are a number of issues with purchasing and lighting the brazier:
 - It is expensive.
 - Would it be used again?
 - Safety issues. A risk assessment and security would be required.
 - The placement. No high ground.
 - It was proposed by Chairman C. Anderson to have no brazier. This was seconded by Cllr M. Peake. All agreed.

11. MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS (for items on the agenda)

None.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- Mill Drove – An email regarding people leaving their dog waste and not picking it up. It was agreed by everyone that most dog walkers down Mill Drove mainly come from Methwold. Clerk to contact Clerk at Methwold sending original complaint and ask if they can consider installing a dog bin.
- An email was received by a resident of Whittington regarding the speeding traffic and lack of play equipment at the park. Clerk to contact Highways regarding this matter. The SAM2 sign will be placed on this road to gather data. Cllr A. Bennett will email the Planning Department prior to the meeting on Monday regarding the issues. The lack of play equipment will be added to the next agenda.
- CIL Report – This was circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman signed the form. The Clerk will return the form and add it to the website.

14. FINANCES

14.1 Accept accounts to 5TH May 2022 and agree payments to be approved in accordance with list prepared by Responsible Finance Officer

This was agreed by everyone. The payment sheets for March and April were signed by the Chairman.

14.2 Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

This was agreed by everyone. The statement was signed by the Chairman.

14.3 Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22

This was agreed by everyone. The statement was signed by the Chairman.

14.4 Confirmation of the Dates for the Period of the Exercise of Public Rights

The dates were agreed by everyone.

Northwold & Whittington Payments April 2022							
The following payments were authorised on 5th May 2022							
Balance in current account April 2022						£18,233.17	
Plus the following receipts							
HMRC VAT Refund						£ 3,690.54	
Precept from King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council						£ 21,000.00	
Mr R Fendick - Chalk Pit Rent						£61.20	
Total Income						£24,751.74	
Total after Income						£42,984.91	
Cheques/DD/BACS		Description				Total	
BACS		Iceni Services - Chafer grub repellent				£240.00	
BACS		King's Lynn & West Norfolk - Bin collection				£156.02	
BACS		Ailene MacMullen - Queen's Jubilee mugs				£48.56	
DD		Westcotec - Street light maintenance				£19.10	
DD		Drax - Northwold Street Light Energy				£203.20	
DD		Drax - Whittington Street Light Energy				£24.00	
DD		Anglian Water				£5.00	
BACS		Clerks Wage				£386.14	
BACS		Serena Barnes - Internal Auditor				£50.00	
Total Cheques/bacs/dd paid						£1,132.02	
Balance in Community Account May 2022 *						£41,852.89	
Bank Statement Balance as of May 2022						£42,752.71	
(Includes Constables Charity £29,882)							
Outstanding payments to be made to date						£899.82	
Balance in community account (always match balance marked *)						£41,852.89	

15. PLANNING

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

22/00281/F – The Old Bell, 2 Whittington Hill, Whittington, PE33 9TE – dated 14th March 2022

Proposed conversion of outbuilding to form a single dwelling. Comments provided.

21/02459/LB – Linden Cottage, 48 High Street, Northwold, IP26 5LA – dated 29th March 2022

Application for listed building consent for internal works. Comments provided.

22/00133/F 36 West End, Northwold - dated 3rd February 2022

Retrospective continued use of building as kennels for dog training and occasional dog breeding at 36 West End, Northwold, IP26 5LE. Application permitted.

21/02353/F 36 West End Road, Northwold – dated 24th February 2022

Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling. Application permitted.

22/00035/TREECA Hall Farm, 90 West End Northwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 5LG

Trees in Conservation area: Group of Lime Trees - Reduce the height by 4.5 meters and the sides by 2 meters and crown thin by 20%. Tree Application - No objection

21/00203/OM The Poplars, Thetford Road, Northwold

development of former coal yard/natural stone business. Application permitted

22/00036/TPO Whittington Lodge, 19 Church Lane, Whittington

2/TPO/00420: T1 Corsican Pine - Dismantle due to roots damaging driveway. TPO Work Approved

16. LAND & PROJECTS

16.1 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.

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

Still outstanding.

17. CONSULTATIONS: Discuss and resolve on response.

17.1 Neighbourhood Plan – update

No update.

18. HIGHWAYS AND STREETLIGHTING

18.1 SAM2 Update – to report on latest data

SAM2 update received and circulated to all Councillors.

18.2 Whittington Village Signs –update on price of new signs

Cllr A. Bennett had a successful meeting with the owner of the Charcoal Factory and will be happy to contribute towards the new Whittington sign. Highways have agreed where this can be installed. The verges have been measured and Glasdon are in the process of providing a quotation. It was cost £500 per pair for installation.

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

West End is still outstanding but is on order.

18.4 Speeding and traffic calming measures on the B1112 – Methwold Road, Whittington

Speeding is still an issue. The Police have dropped off but when they were more visible there was a noticeable improvement. The local residents are not impressed and the Police were called on Tuesday evening. They are not sure what they can do to help the situation. The new signs will hopefully help which will display the 40mph speed limit.

18.5 To decide if planting hedgerow along A134

An email was received from a resident regarding planting a hedgerow along the A134. It was agreed that although this is a nice idea the Parish Council cannot justify spending money and this is Highways land. There are grants available for Farmers to plant hedgerows.

18.6 Any other issues requiring attention

Didlington Bridge was discussed.

19. PARISH FACILITIES

19.1 Green Projects – planting trees and hedging between allotments

An email was received from Cllr P. Cunis who will be helping with grants. There are meetings in July and August where grants will be discussed.

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

There are 77 children who will be presented with celebration mugs on the morning of the carnival. They will be presented by District Cllr T. Ryves. On the Thursday evening there is a live band at the Sports and Social Club. The WI are organising tea and cake on Thursday afternoon. On Sunday afternoon there is an open mike at the Sports and Social Club. There is a Church service on Sunday.

19.3 Mill Drove - Hedges

Chairman C. Anderson has spoken to the land owners each side and they will look at the issue.

19.4 Drax contract up for renewal

The Clerk has submitted a complaint regarding the high electricity charges. There should not have been standing charge. Awaiting revised bills.

19.5 Sports Field

An organic application has been made and the field is starting to look better. Hopefully when the football season starts in August the pitch will be in a reasonable condition. A roller will be used to level the ground and re-seed.

19.6 Any other issues requiring action

Northwold and Whittington in Bloom needs to be a standing item on the agenda. The planters are in place around the War Memorial. Kings Lynn are offering free plants and we will hopefully be able to get some. There are 16 volunteers. The school is getting involved and doing pots around the War Memorial. The lawn will be cut shortly. Later in the year we will start on the Village Hall.

20. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

20.1 To receive any updates or additional urgent work required.

The footpath at number 6 has not been cut. Clerk to contact Highways.

21. CEMETERIES

21.1 Monthly safety review results.

The old cemetery wall is covered in ivy and needs removing. Cllr A. MacMullen will remove the ivy. The white pot plant has been removed.

22. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

22.1 To receive any updates or maintenance work required

None.

22.2 Lease Renewal

The lease is up for renewal in March. Happy to renew lease but should the rental be increased as it has been £275 a year for some time. There is a committee of 21 individuals but a lot are volunteers. The Sports and Social Club maintain the interior out of their profits. It was agreed by everyone to keep the rent at £275.

23. Items for the next agenda

Footpaths in Whittington. Play equipment in Whittington.

Chairman to look at roles and responsibilities.

24. DATE of next two meetings.

9th June (2nd June is a bank holiday) & 7th July

With nothing more to discuss the meeting closed at 20.59pm

Signed _____ Date _____