

NORTHWOLD AND WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 5th October 2023 at 7.30pm
Whittington Church

Present: Cllr Andrew Bennett (AB) [Vice Chair]
Cllr Aileen MacMullen (AM)
Cllr George Gillett (GG)
Cllr Gerald Rayner (GR)
Cllr Mavis Gillett (MG)
Cllr Nigel Nickles (NN)
Cllr Susan Parker-Smith (SP)

Attended: 6 members of the public
Cllr Tom Ryves (TR) [BCKLWN]
Penny Hubble (PH) [Clerk]

1 Welcome

AB opened the meeting at 07:30
Everyone was informed that the meeting was being audio recorded for minute taking purposes.

2 Apologies

Cllr Mark Winter (MW) [Chair]
Cllr Sheena Randell (SR)
Cllr Tim McMullun (TM)
Cllr Gerald Rayner (GN), leaving early at 20:00

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Matters arising from the previous meeting

- 4.1 Pauline Angus has completed all actions from the previous minutes.
- 4.2 MW circulated key points about Fendick Field to councillors via email.
- 4.3 SR passed on Allotment Charity details to resident in regard to Dog Field.
- 4.4 MW to pass Leaflet to SR for agreement at the next meeting.
- 4.5 Roles & Responsibilities to be agreed at the next meeting.

5 Approve Minutes of the previous meeting

Accepted as a true record
Proposed: GR, Seconded: NN, Vote: Unanimous

6 Correspondence

- 6.1 No Comment
 - 6.2 GG to take a look and report at the next meeting.
 - 6.3 Penny to contact TTSR, speak with Will and raise a complaint.
- Proposed: GR, Seconded: GG, Vote: Unanimous

7 Public Forum

19:40 Meeting Closed

- 7.1 Planning Application (10.3) Hovells Lane resident comments...

3 Planning Applications made.

Described as a huge development which is contrary to local plan.

Work started in 2019 but little progress since.

Non compliance noticed by planning enforcement.

In contrary to ecological assessments.

7.2 Planning Application (10.3) Hovells Lane resident comments...

Asked for Council to object when discussed.

7.3 Planning Application (10.3) Hovells Lane resident comments...

Reinforce sentiments of how lives are affected by planning application.

Dog nuisance noises at 2am-3am. 2 big guard dogs, intimidating.

Suspected 30 dogs on site already.

7.4 Multiple topic resident comments...

7.4.1 Raised bed at Northwold village sign.

Presented model of what is to go in front of Northwold village sign.

7.4.2 50 bulbs already planted.

7.4.3 Dogs not allowed on allotments for walking area.

Old cemetery bigger than spare allotment space.

7.4.4 Broken concrete post. Council to fix.

7.4.5 Vandalism at bowls club and broken windows.

7.5 Search for Dog walking area resident comments...

7.5.1 35 people spoken to about dog area on allotments

All happy to pay £10pa.

Funds can be used to fence the area.

As SR is not present the Council will discuss when they are.

19:55 Meeting Opened

8 Local Authority Reports

TR gave a verbal report.

9 Finances

9.1 PH explained the Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement

AB checked the bank statement with the bank reconciliation.

9.2 Payments were agreed, see paper A.

Proposed: NN, Seconded: AM, Vote: Unanimous

10 Planning

10.1 **23/01476/F** Continued siting of mobile home for residential, 101 Methwold Road

No Objections, No comments.

Proposed: AB, Seconded: SP, Vote: Unanimous

10.2 **23/01491/LB** Remove wall that interrupts Kitchen/scullery, 48 High Street

No Objections, No comments.

Proposed: NN, Seconded: AM, Vote: Unanimous

10.3 **23/01545/F** Conversion and extension of barn to create dwelling, 49 Hovells Lane

Object with comments.

10.3.1 Questions have been raised, in regard to the previous planning approval, as to whether work, has commenced, is in progress, or has been completed, or is compliant, and should be investigated.

10.3.2 Questions have been raised as to whether the current lighting arrangement is compliant with previously agreed ecological mitigation, and should be investigated.

10.3.3 Questions have been raised as to whether the planning proposal might be overbearing and might not in keeping with the location, and should be investigated.

10.3.4 Questions have been raised as to whether the proposed materials to be used are suitable for the location, and should be investigated.

10.3.5 Comments made to the Council by residents have raised ardent objections stating that the existing state, and proposals of the planning application, are upsetting, and should be considered.

10.3.6 As a result of comments the Council would like the loss of amenity and impact, that the proposals of the planning application make, to be considered.

10.3.7 A comment specifically mentioned the presence of bats in the barn, and should be investigated.

Proposed: AM, Seconded: MG, Vote: Unanimous

10.4 **23/01575/F** Alteration to footpath linking former coal yard and Methwold Road

No Objections, No comments.

Proposed: MG, Seconded: SP, Vote: Unanimous

10.5 **23/01298/F** Variation of Condition 1 of Application 22/00931/F

Object with comments.

10.5.1 Questions have been raised as to whether the proposed materials to be used are compliant with the conservation area, and should be investigated.

Proposed: NN, Seconded: GG, Vote: Unanimous

10.6 **23/01099/F** Retrospective Application: Demolition of old extension, 61 West End

Comments only.

10.6.1 Questions have been raised as to whether materials used are compliant with the conservation area.

10.6.2 The Council does not object or support the retrospective application.

Proposed: NN, Seconded: SP, Vote: Unanimous

11 Highways

11.1 SAM2 Update

GR gave a verbal report which had been emailed to councillors. See paper B.

11.2 List of maintenance for Highways

11.2.1 A134 Whittington Hill, Church footpath at base of wall.

11.2.2 Trees, Church Lane, Whittington.

11.2.3 Little London Road, between Northwold & Little London, north side hedge over pavement. Northwold lodge?

11.2.4 Hovells Lane, potholes.

11.2.5 Hovells Lane, opposite layby, signs covered overgrowth, dog bin covered brambles.

11.2.6 Northwold to Little London, 30mph sign covered by overgrowth.

- 11.2.7 Old Methwold Road, Whittington, area near bollards, footpath adjoining A134, drainage overgrown needs clearing.
- 11.2.8 AB to determine location of overgrown river to enable reporting.
- 11.3 Street Lighting
 - Street Lights have asset numbers to help assist with fault reporting.
- 11.4 Any other issues requiring action
 - The bridge is being replaced.

12 Parish Facilities

- 12.1 Northwold Play Area
 - AB to produce report for next meeting.
 - PH to source playground inspection company and meet AB on site.
- 12.2 Northwold & Whittington in Bloom
 - The Council was presented a model of a raised bed.
 - The Council agreed to the installation of the raised bed in front of the village sign and to be planted as required.
 - Proposed: GG, Seconded: SP, Vote: Unanimous.
- 12.3 D Day 80 - 6th June 2024
 - The Council agreed to accept the proposal of AM to volunteer to head the working group.
 - AM & PH to create terms of reference for the working group.
 - Proposed: NN, Seconded: MG, Vote: Unanimous.
- 12.4 Dog Field
 - Moved to next meeting as SR not present.
- 12.5 Whittington Notice Board
 - AB investigating relocation and will report at the next meeting.
 - MG & GG have keys to Northwold Noticeboard.
 - AB to inspect both noticeboards and report at the next meeting.
- 12.6 Whittington Park
 - Fencing mesh going up any time. No further issues.
- 12.7 Whittington Defibrillator
 - AB gave a verbal report.
- 12.8 Whittington Grit Bin
 - One source to replace grit bin at cost of £216.56 in vat + £12.50 delivery.
 - AB to provide source of the quote to PH so Council can order.
 - Proposed: NN, Seconded: SP, Vote: Unanimous.
- 12.9 Defibrillators (Northwold & Whittington) – ID numbers scratched off.
 - New stickers delivered and AB in process to fit,

13 Grounds & Village Maintenance

- 13.1 TTSR Contact & Tasks
 - A review of the contract should be undertaken at the next renewal.
 - AB to chase the present need of a cut.
- 13.2 Overhanging trees and hedges around the village
 - MW, AB, SP – to create a standard template letter requesting the performance of maintenance by residents to be sent to residents.
 - MW, AB, SP – to perform village walks and report on required maintenance.
 - Proposed: AB, Seconded: SP, Vote: Unanimous.
- 13.3 Footpath from School Lane to Fendick's Field
 - (a) Ownership - No body knows.
 - PH to perform land search.

- Proposed: AB, Seconded: NN, Vote: Unanimous.
- (b) Chopped off branches on path.
MW has been looking into this.
Understanding of ownership may provide a path to remedy.

14 Reports

14.1 Cemeteries (Northwold & Whittington)

Old Cemetery

14.1.1 TTSR has not maintained old cemetery since beginning of growing season. Should be cut 4 times a year. Clerk to speak with TTSR and find out reason and instruct action.

14.1.2 Clerk to investigate TTSR contract in regard to herbicide to paths.

New Cemetery

14.1.3 New cemetery is overrun by moles. Clerk to seek 3 quotes for pest control for council to consider.

14.1.4 Clerk to forward complaint about solar lights on graves to GG.

Whittington Cemetery

14.1.5 Whittington Cemetery path up to entrance overgrown.

14.1.6 Clerk to investigate TTSR contract in regard to herbicide to paths.

14.1.7 Drain in centre needs attention. AB to action before funeral.

TTSR cannot come on 20/10/2023.

Proposed: AB, Seconded: MG, Vote: Unanimous.

14.2 Sports & Social Club

All ok and nothing to report – GG.

15 Items for the next agenda and dates for the next two meetings

15.1 D-Day 80th - 6th June 2024.

15.2 Designation of councillor responsibilities.

15.3 Commonwealth war graves & list of people buried in old cemetery.

15.4 Setting up of new working groups.

15.5 Leaflet for residents.

15.6 Dog walking area.

15.7 River weed clearance.

15.8 2nd November in Northwold Village Hall

7th December in Northwold Village Hall

21:57 Meeting closed.

Signed by the presiding Chair of the meeting where the Council declared that these minutes are a true record.

(Please initial every page of the ratified minutes.)

Date:

Name:

Signed: