



Parish Council Meeting minutes

For 17th June 2024,

7.00pm, St. Mary's Church, Rushall

PRESENT: Cllrs. Andrew Goodman (Chair), Les Bragg, David Leyersman, Stephen Adlam, Sam Johnson, Jim Kerr, Pam Reekie

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann Baker (Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: none

11. **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES** - Cllr. R. Theobald, Matt Hill (RFO), Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson, Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson, Co. Cllr. C. Rowett - accepted
12. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED** – none
13. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** -
Co. Cllr. C. Rowett - report is attached to the Minute file – the report had been circulated to all Councillors
Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson - report contained in the minute file – the report had been circulated to all Councillors
Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson - report contained in the minute file - the report had been circulated to all Councillors

The meeting resumed at 7. 07pm

14. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 13TH MAY 2024**
The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to approve them, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. D. Leyserman, unanimous approval.
15. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12TH FEBRUARY 2024, FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY:**
 - a. **Bus service to Pulham Market surgery** - nothing to date, meeting not held, Practice Manager unable to make proposed date, in abeyance for Co. Cllr. to set date for the re-scheduled meeting.
 - b. **Parish Cllr. vacancy** – SNC had received no applications for the vacancy, the Parish Council can therefore co-op. It was agreed to put up notices on the boards, the website and to add a piece to the Parish News.
 - c. **'Plug-in Norfolk' pilot scheme** - approval was granted at the last meeting, subject to the Terms & Conditions being satisfactory to the Parish Council. The decision to choose Option 1 for future back-office and maintenance was approved. In brief – NCC would take on all on-costs of maintenance and repair for the offer period (until 31st July 2030), claiming all revenue above the reimbursement for electricity (34p/kWh, subject to review), along with the Terms & Conditions. Ownership of the Charging machines was clarified, they remain the property of the Parish Council. Subject to satisfactory responses the Parish Council were prepared to accept the offer of the pilot scheme. Clerk to inform Andy Drinkell, Anglia Car Charging and Alex White, Norfolk County Council

- 16. THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RFO**, including notification of payments made over the last month:
- a. Payments & receipts** – a list of payments and receipts, along with comments had been circulated to all Councillors by the RFO. Income and expenditure were in line with expectations. It was resolved to accept the ‘Payments and Receipts’ and ‘the year to date’ spreadsheet - proposed by Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. D. Leyserman, all approved
 - b. Dates for Public viewing of Audit** - It was noted the dates for access to the External Audit would be available from Friday 28th June – Thursday 8th August 2024
 - c. Agreement of the Annual List of Payments for 2024 -2025** - this is the list of regular payments made throughout the year – SNC, HMRC, Insurance, electricity, auditors, subscriptions, the Caretaker and Clerk etc. It was resolved to approve this list, proposed Cllr. P. Reekie, seconded Cllr. S. Johnson
- 17. Approval of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Financial Risk Assessment** - agenda item for July - a new set of Financial Regulations have been published, these need closer examination/amendments to reflect the Standing Orders and Financial Risk Assessment.
- 18. Neighbourhood Planning (NP)** - the Chair reported that funding had been applied to Locality for remainder of costs for the Consultants to deliver the completed plan. The Consultant has indicated that Reg. 16 would be ready, hopefully, in the next six weeks. A number of policies had been amended or removed, the completed document will be presented to the Parish Council prior to presentation to SNC. A point was raised that if there is a change of Government there may be a change in approach to planning, it was asserted and accepted that whatever the national outcome it is better to have a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 19. Planning Applications as received from South Norfolk Council:**
- a. Planning Application 2024/1561 Land South of Harvey Lane** – outline planning permission for three self-builds – Following extensive discussion Cllr. A. Goodman agreed to compose a response, including the lack of clear information, detailed map, unsuitability of the site, the single track road etc. There was a unanimous vote against this application
 - b. Planning Application 2024/1533 - 65 Rectory Road, Dickleburgh** - single front and rear extensions, first floor extension onto existing flat roof (resubmission of elapsed planning approval 202/1145), it was resolved to recommend approval of this proposal
 - c. Planning Application 2024/0967 - Walnut Cottage, Harleston Road, Rushall** – amended plans for demolition of garage and cladding of original dwelling - there remained a lack of clarification regarding the original concerns - the removal of hedging - it was agreed that replacement should be of mature specimens rather than whips; chimney height – this had been increased, reassurance that adequate provision to minimise issues on near neighbours were suggested. Clerk to respond with these comments.
 - d. Receipt of Consultees reports of Planning Decisions made by SNC:**
 - Planning Application 2023/3584** Thatchers Meadow, Harleston Road, Rushall – reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout, scale, **approved with conditions 14th June ‘24**
 - Planning Application 2024/1147** Agricultural building east of Orchard Farm, Harleston Road, Rushall – change from barn to dwelling - **approval of details 12th June 2024**
- 20. HIGHWAYS AND PROW REPORTS:**
- a. Ipswich Road crossing** - at present it is unknown if there are any finance in place for this project. At present there are no meetings planned
ACTION - Clerk to contact Adam Mayo (Highways Engineer) copying in Co. Cllr. Dr. C. Rowett requesting an update on the situation

- b. Furze Green progress** - progress to date - Highways are currently considering what is safe for residents. Parish Councillors expressed concern over the time it has taken to resolve this issue.

ACTION - Clerk to email to Gary Overland (Highways Engineer), copying in Adam Mayo expressing the Parish Council concern over time delays and stating the importance of the safety of the community, Health & Safety issues, appropriate signs on the roadside, road surface and a gateway entrance. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Adam Mayo on site to agree where the gateway sign would go, where the road signs are to be placed – horse riders and bends signage, along with ‘SLOW’ painted on the road surface. Chevrons may also be useful to slow traffic coming into Furze Green from Harleston – an indication of where these would be placed would be useful too.

PRoW

- c. Cutting of the PRoW by landowners** - the permissive path FP3 requires attention, it is overgrown - starting by Kings Head, right through to Brandreth Close. The maintenance of this permissive path is the responsibility of the Parish Council, following agreement with Saffron Housing at the time of the build.

The path begins off the pavement, with Kings House on the left, the building plots (to the right will have to drive over FP3 – it was queried as to whether this should remain gravelled or edged as a green path should permission be granted.

Footpath 3 crossing to A140 – this was cleared and checked by the NCC PRoW Officer, it is understood that the land is owned by Chapel Farms - the Chair will request it is cut

- d. Green Lane, Langmere Road, Rushall** – Clerk to ask A. Paterson to cut urgently, in view of a local memorial service that will necessitate use of the path to walk to the Church. IF there is no response Clerk to request Caretaker to cut.

In the long term – it is intended to register the path with NCC/Open Spaces. The path has been used for hundreds of years and its status is unclear. A local resident has offered to follow this action through. An application update on the registration of Pack Lane, Rushall also would be beneficial at this time.

ACTION - Clerk to contact NCC PRoW Officer for application forms and any updates.

21. PLAYING FIELD REPORT:

- a. Receipt of play inspection weekly reports** – this continues to be carried out by Matt Hill.
- b. Grounds maintenance** - two quotes have been received from Excite Solutions and S. Crisp, very similar in costing. Following discussion it was agreed that Steve Crisp be offered the contract, if the work is acceptable a fixed rate contract for three years will be considered.
- ACTION** - Cllr. A. Goodman to arrange a meeting with S. Crisp and send a letter of thanks to Excite for their service over the years
- c. Annual Inspection of play equipment by ROSPA** - the Clerk has liaised with RoSPA regarding an inspection in June. The basic cost to a council is £78.00 + VAT, which includes five pieces of equipment. As the BMX Track will also be inspected and there are more than five pieces of equipment to be inspected, the additional pieces will be charged at £4.00. There are thirteen pieces of equipment in all excluding the gates, fence, benches, signage - these were all included by the previous contractor. The report will be sent following inspection.

- 22. CAR PARK MARKINGS & SAFE PATHWAY TO THE SCHOOL** - Cllr. S. Adlam presented details of a suggested hatched safe area for pedestrians walking to the School from the Village Centre Car Park. It was proposed that Cllr. S. Adlam liaise with School and parents, to progress plan, informing the Parish Council of any costs, all agreed. The plan to be presented at the July meeting for action.

ACTION - Cllr. S. Adlam to liaise with the School and parents.

- 23. COMMUNITY ASSET PROGRESS** - re the two Public Houses in the Parish - an application was submitted to SNC for the Half Moon Pub, Rushall, to be recognised as a Community Asset. A map will be sent by the Clerk. The Dickleburgh Crown has apparently been acquired by the leaseholders of The Half Moon and is to be managed as a Sports Bar. It was suggested that the Parish Council prepare an application

for The Crown but until the first application has been completed. A question was raised regarding the Crown – with a change to a ‘Sports Bar,’ is it likely to attract more traffic and cause parking issues, what effect will it have on Mikeys Bar at the Village Centre?

ACTION – Clerk to: 1) Send a map to support the Community Asset application for the Half Moon pub. **2)** Apply for a Community Asset application form for the Crown. **3)** Clerk to send Cllr Johnson a copy of the Half Moon application form. **4)** Generate a map of the Crown to support the Crown application.

24. INFORMATION RECEIVED TO NOTE:

- a. **Norwich/Tilbury Pylons consultation** - the documents are very similar to those last sent, with the plan to run the pylons north to south on the Burston side of the A140. Following discussion it was agreed to restate the council’s position, copying in the new parliamentary candidates.
ACTION - Clerk and the Chair to compose and circulate a response.
- b. **The Great Collaboration Pilot Scheme** - the Clerk had registered the Parish Council as an interested party. This was an update on progress to date. It was suggested and agreed the information would be passed onto the Waveney Volunteers group and the School.
ACTION - Cllr. A. Goodman to action.
- c. **Norwich Western Road link** - an update from Norfolk County Council on recent progress
- d. **Hedgehogs R Us** - highways project to create five inch gaps in fencing to allow access for hedgehogs to forage food and mates. Option to purchase a box of 50 inserts, leaflets and window stickers - noted.

25. RECEIPT OF MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS:

- **Cllr. P. Reekie/Cllr. J. Kerr** – reported that the Town Land Trust old allotments land is very overgrown. The Trust are to enquire if the housing developers might purchase and revive the old orchard and create a more attractive area. Talks to be held with Rural Solutions Ltd., or would the Parish Council look to turn it into a Community Orchard - **Agenda item for July;**

The Chenery building still remains insecure. Cllr. P. Reekie challenged a number of teenagers who were causing a disturbance on the site. A Police car did arrive but the youths had left. The Officer was unaware of previous requests for attendance and suggested that the owner secures the buildings

ACTION - Clerk to contact Police and Tricker & Last solicitors, who last acted on behalf of the owners of the site.

- **Cllr. S. Adlam** - a Community Garden Project has been set up at Vic Blake’s old farm on Common Road, with a composting toilet, an orchard and the growing of vegetables etc.
- **Cllr. S. Johnson** - spoke of an event at Harleston Library, Sat. 22nd June, 2pm - local author Andy Garner has transcribed letters from an American GI to a lady from Norfolk, Terence Blacker, a local singer/songwriter, author is the guest in July.
- **Cllr. J. Kerr** – Rectory Road - the footpath hedge and verge on Rectory Road needs cutting/digging back.

ACTION - Clerk to contact local farmer, Highways and Saffron – hedging in front of the Rectory Road houses.

26. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING & RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA:

MONDAY 8TH JULY 2024, AT 7.00PM AT DICKLEBURGH & RUSHALL VILLAGE CENTRE

The Chair thanked all Councillors for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting closed at 9. 47pm

SIGNED

DATE