



## Parish Council Meeting minutes

For 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024,

7.00pm, Dickleburgh & Rushall Village Centre

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Andrew Goodman (Chair), Stephen Adlam, Les Bragg, David Leyserman, Sam Johnson, Jim Kerr, Pam Reekie and Robert Theobald.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ann Baker (Clerk)  
Matthew Hill (Responsible Finance Officer)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Co. Cllr. C. Rowett, Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson, Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson, a resident

**115. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES** - none

**116. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED**  
– none

**117. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION , COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS -**  
**Co. Cllr. Dr. C. Rowett** - the report is attached in full in the paper minutes file topics included: water & flooding; Norfolk Winter for advice from the County Council to beat cold; the Devolution Deal was discussed at the December meeting, there are various options including encouraging Councils to take on additional responsibilities, with financial support over a period over time. The recommendation was a level 3 deal be accepted, involving a number of responsibilities and financial implications, delayed over a longer period of time - a number of doubts were raised as the funds offered will not be index linked, not all Councillors voted in favour, the discussion continues.

NCC bus service from Dickleburgh to Norwich has been cut, although an alternative service to support has been agreed, this does not make provision for a free bus service to the Doctor's Surgery, in Pulham Market although minimal service for community, the Parish Council would like to see it reinstated. The County Council are proposing a car service to replace bus services, the cost to the passenger would include the cost of petrol from Norwich to pick up the customer – this is considered, by Co. Cllr. Dr. C. Rowett to be unacceptable – further discussions to be held.

The Long Stratton by pass should be started in near future - a question was raised as to whether all archaeological evidence is being recorded and is protected - Co. Cllr. C. Rowett will check through the surveys to ensure that everything is recorded correctly;

The Norwich Western Link Road – the cost of the build has risen, there will be significant damage to environment so there is a possibility it may be prevented;

Any traffic, flood, or highways problems can be reported to the County Council website.

**Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson** - will check if the 'Winter Pressure' grant has closed - it appears to have been closed when an attempt to apply was declined by a Parish Councillor; the recent flooding indicated that 20mm had fallen very quickly, all cases of flooding should be reported to the Flood Management team. In October the Government made an allocation to assist residents and business, via Council Tax relief, up to £500 – Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson will send details to the Clerk;

South Norfolk Council will set their precept in mid-February, this was frozen last year, any comments should be submitted to him.

A new 'Men's Shed' in the Pulham's is being launched at the Pennoyers Centre on Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00 am – 12 noon. It will be based at South Green - community activities, learn/share new skills, further details can be found on Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson's website/Twitter feed;

The Planning Application on the edge of Dickleburgh Moor, Norwich Road has been rejected on two other occasions, Cllr. C. Hudson's comment to the Planning Officer will result, if the Officer is mindful to reject the application, in the application being heard in Committee - comments from all parties will be made in a public forum at the Council Offices in Norwich. Dist. C. Hudson will make representation, Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson will not comment as he is Deputy Leader of Planning, and feels he should not comment on local applications so that he can hear such applications in full;

Question from Councillor - the closure of Diss Pool for 12mths - there was no consultation, it was an announcement just prior to closure. This comment was noted by Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson. The gym is being moved out of Diss Leisure Centre to a potential new site with multi-function usage.

**Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson's - thanked** all volunteer groups; the Town Parish Forum meets later in the week – there is an opportunity to raise any queries at the Q & A sessions towards the close of the sessions. The Clerk has details for these regular sessions.

**Flooding areas in the locality** - (i) a property on Lakes Road, which flooded in 2021 via the ditch opposite, has recently flooded again, support and assistance from neighbours helped to stem the damage;

(ii) The bottom of Pulham Road, near the Rushall junction has had deep water for a number of weeks, which has not drained away, and there has been evidence of raw sewage in the water. Highways have attended recently and drained the area. There is a possibility that there may have been a stream/ford at this point in past years, and with the weight of heavy lorries over the years it has damaged the piping underneath, thus requiring further works to be carried out;

(iii) Ipswich Road flooded again close to the junction with Harvey Lane, there is evidence that further up Ipswich Road of undergrowth and saplings growing in the ditch needing to be cleared, to encourage the flow of water; a complaint was sent to the County Council, but the officers were busy. It was pointed out is also hazardous at night;

It was noted that the County Council were clearing and creating a number of grips around Rushall village on the day of the heavy rain/floods, which instead of diverting water into the ditches, resulted in the water from the ditches flooding back onto the roads.

Cllr. C. Hudson mentioned that the use of leaky dams is being promoted throughout the County. There have been a number of successful projects in the Shimpling and Thorpe Abbots area, using this method.

The Riparian Officer is Nathan Harris - he may be able to offer advice, along with advice to landowners, whilst reminding them of their responsibilities/riparian rights;

It was agreed that a reminder would be included in the next edition of the Parish News using the information from the leaflet published in 2021 – **ACTION** - Clerk to update and send a copy for the back page of the News.

Further discussion on this topic agenda item 125.

*19.09 - CLLR. S. Adlam arrived, 19.15 Cllr. S. Johnson arrived*

#### **118. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AND AMENDMENTS TO 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

- THE amendments were read to the full council from the 13<sup>th</sup> November and the December amendment referenced this amendment. The minutes of both the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to approve them, proposed Cllr. D. Leyserman, seconded Cllr. P. Reekie, approved unanimously.

#### **119. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023, FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY:**

- a. **Bench at Langmere** – once a fixing kit has been obtained the bench will be placed on the Green. Clerk reported
- b. **Quotations for the three trees on the Green, Dickleburgh** –

- c. **Town Lands Trust** - Cllr. A. Goodman, spoke with the Charity Commission, who agreed that the trust should be registered with them.

**120. 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.

It was resolved to accept the 'Payments and Receipts' and 'the year to date' spreadsheet - proposed by Cllr. R. Theobald, seconded Cllr. D. Leyserman, all approved

b. **Finance Working Party** –

- (i) **Precept for Financial Year 2024 – 2025** - The tax base has risen to 546 homes, it was recommended that a charge of £70.65 remain for Band D properties. This will generate a precept of £38,575.00. It was resolved to approve the Precept for 2024 – 2025, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. D. Leyserman, unanimously approved

It was noted that this figure formed the basis for the Budget 2024/25 which was approved at the December meeting, item 105b (ii)

c. **Approval of the quarterly bank reconciliation** - the third quarter Sept. – Dec. 2023 - proposed Cllr. D. Leyserman, seconded Cllr. S. Johnson, all agreed

d. **Cost of projector - the** Clerk presented two recommended projectors, it was suggested that further research into adding a decent sound system/additional speakers, type of picture resolution would be beneficial - ACTION – Clerk to circulate.

e. **Brown Bin** - email sent to 'Waste Administration at Ketteringham, this has been actioned

f. **SNBC 'Winter Pressure' grant offer** - Cllr. P. Reekie went to the South Norfolk and Broadland Council website (SNBC), the SN applications had been closed - presumably all the grants had been allocated. ACTION - Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson and Cllr. P. Reekie will liaise – item 117

g. **Maintenance around the villages** - the Clerk has met with Hadleigh Drake, Hadleigh will send proposal. ACTION - A similar conversation/meeting with Neil Shannon will be arranged, both will be invited to meet with a couple of Councillors prior to the February meeting, with a recommendation.

**121. Neighbourhood Planning** - Reg. 14 finished, the Chair intends to call a meeting later this month, for the collated response to be presented and then returned to SN, management of the process will then be handed over to Rachel Leggett, the Consultant who will complete the final documents for the referendum to take place.

**122. Planning Applications as received from South Norfolk Council:**

a. **Planning Application 2024/0035 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, Common Road, Dickleburgh** - siting of two Nissan huts to accommodate museum gift shop and exhibition space - resolved to support

b. **Planning Application 2023/3449 (2022/0007) 4 Thatched Cottages, Norwich Rd., Dickleburgh** - a retrospective garage application has been received - objection has been raised – the procedures were not followed correctly, residents should not expect to build as they please then submit retrospective applications which will be approved. ACTION Cllr. A. Goodman agreed to attend the full planning meeting, when details have been received by the Clerk. The Chair and Clerk will prepare a response for the meeting

c. **Receipt of Consultee reports of Planning Decision made by SNC:** none

**123. HIGHWAYS AND PROW REPORTS:**

- a. **Safe Crossing on Ipswich Road** - no further progress has been made on this project to date
- b. **Furze Green, Rushall** – the matter of speeding vehicles - A response is expected in early Spring, the Parish Council submitted the necessary papers

- c. **Advertising on A140** – local services, Electric Vehicle chargers, the Village Centre, etc. **ACTION**  
Clerk to contact Highways Engineer, Adam Mayo

**PRoW**

- d. **Lonely Road bridleway** - As yet there has been no change – **ACTION** - the Clerk to write to the two landowners copying in Frances Salway there is a need for on-going maintenance as currently the bridleway unsuitable for horse riders wishing to use it.

**124. PLAYING FIELD REPORT:**

- a. **Receipt of play inspection weekly reports** – this continue to be carried out by Matt Hill - it was suggested that with some training this could be handed over to Hadleigh Drake or Neil Shannon.
- b. **Annual Play Inspection** - discussed at the December meeting
- c. **Petanque court** – until the survey is ready in all formats and the weather is more clement, the project is on hold
- d. **BMX track** - Excite Solutions Ltd. have quoted to cut the grass and weeds and apply weed killer to the track and remove any rubbish from the site - **ACTION** - Clerk to ask for it to be carried out

**125. RECENT CONCERNS REGARDING WET WEATHER** - some details mentioned in item 117 - Burston Road, Ipswich Road, Norwich Road, Pulham Market Road, Harvey Lane. Rectory Lane – before Christmas the local landowner dug a trench, which helped to divert the water from the two houses on Rectory Lane, the situation occurred again last week, neighbours assisted in building an earth bund;

It was suggested that an informal meeting of farmers/landowners, residents who had knowledge of the locations in the Parish where flooding occurred, could collate information and advice on strategies within the Parish, looking at pinch points, some of the natural low points etc. in days gone by there may have been ford within the Parish/Villages. The evidence and a direct line of communication may assist in communicating information to Norfolk County Council re-issuing flood advice. **ACTION** - the previous flier to be checked and updated information, Cllr. S. Johnson will liaise with the Parish News for it to be printed on the back cover facing outward, copy to be placed on the Village Shop noticeboard and on the website.

**126. RECEIPT OF MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS: NONE**

The Chair thanked all Councillors for their attendance,

The meeting closed at 9.47pm

**127. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA ON - MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024, AT 7.00PM, DICKLEBURGH & RUSHALL VILLAGE CENTRE**

**AGENDA ITEMS** - flooding, Read’s near Loddon – national collection of figs, grants policy, the Chair gave his apologies for the next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance at the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 10.20pm

SIGNED .....

DATE .....

