

Weybourne Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES of the Monthly Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024, 7pm in the Village Hall. (A large print copy of these minutes can be obtained from the Clerk)

Present: Penny Taylor, Val Stubbs, Charlie Harrison, Nick Stubbs, Wayne Shields, Martin Brown, Michelle Allard and Dan Futter (Clerk & RFO)

Also present: 2 members of the public, and the District and County Councillors.

1. **(a) To confirm that this meeting will be recorded, and that Members of the Council and general public are reminded they should behave appropriately.**

Cllr Taylor read this statement out. No issues.

- (b) To receive and consider apologies**

No apologies received from Cllr Woodhouse.

- (c) To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda items and consider requests for Dispensations.**

None at the time, but at 13(b) it was stated that Cllr Allard has a declaration of interest for being on the Weybourne Community Fund Committee.

2. Minutes

To approve the draft minutes of the meetings held on 10th April 2024

Revised minutes were approved by all and signed off by Cllr Taylor.

3. Public Participation

- (a) The meeting will be adjourned to allow correspondence from members of the public and any councillors with prejudicial interests to speak.**

None.

- (b) To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and Police.**

The District Councillor's report was sent around prior to the meeting.

The bin changeover seemed to have gone well. Next Tuesday will be the decider on if Blakeney Surgery will close, this will be via an online meeting. No response from the Secretary of State about the proposed closure.

Talking to BT next week regarding mobile phone hotspots. It was stated by the councillors there was no internet in the village for approx. one day with no explanation. Cllr Holliday to raise this in the meeting with BT next week.

Update was sent around regarding fiber to premise, but no actual date as of yet but the digital switchover has been pushed back to 2026.

Cllr V. Stubbs stated that the beach car park toilets are disgusting. Cllr Holliday stated will be report this but do contact immediately if this carries on.

The County Councillor's report was sent around prior to the meeting.

Stated next year's Norfolk CC budget is very tight which could well affect services etc. but its early days.

Will get extra income regarding a Directly Elected Leader, which will go to Council in July, to be voted through to change the constitution for next May elections. Norfolk is the first county where this could become operational where the Directly Elected Leader will have more functionality than a mayor. This also brings additional funding of £20M per annum minimum and other benefits moving forward. The county should be better off with a Directly Elected Leader.

Regarding the Peace Garden, Cllr V. Stubbs stated we are waiting on grant funding. Cllr Vardy stated money is still in his budget for the time being. Maltings car parking issues was raised, with the councillors stating this has eased somewhat. Cllr Harrison and Cllr V. Stubbs had a meeting with the Chestnut Group, where it was stated, they are failing with finding parking offsite but they are liaising with a landowner.

The Clerk to contact NCC Highways to chase up the white line work now the main road has been done, and also to find out about restoring the 20mph speed limit signs. Cllr Vardy maybe able to pay for a speed sign.

Regarding the recycling centre, Cllr Vardy is aware of a consultation for a 'No Waste Wednesdays' but does not know the outcome, but a bookings system is being dripped fed in.

The County and District Councillors left the meeting at this point.

4. Windfarm Developments

To receive updates regarding the offshore wind developments

Cllr V. Stubbs stated that a report has been sent around. Hornsea 3 windfarm will be doing horizontal directional drilling under the beach over the couple of months. There will probably be some noise and disturbance. The Equinor and Sheringham Shoal/Dudgeon extensions have been approved, but with no idea when construction will start.

5. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications received since the publication of the agenda

None.

(b) To receive updates on the Maltings Hotel meeting

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

(c) To receive updates on previous Parish Partnership bids

Not completed. The Clerk to chase up Highways on an update.

(d) To receive updates on the neighbourhood plan

An initial meeting for this will be after next weeks Annual Parish Meeting.

6. Finance

(a) To note the bank reconciliation to –

I. 31 March 2024 (end of the financial year)

II. 23 April 2024

Both bank reconciliations were noted.

(b) To note the accounts summary to –

I. 31 March 2024 (end of the financial year)

II. 23 April 2024

Both accounts summaries were noted.

(c) To approve the following invoices for payment:

I.	D Futter	Salary for April	£ 456.30
II.	D Futter	Expenses for April	£ 35.44

The two invoices/payments were **approved** for payment.

(d) To approve payment of invoices received since the publication of the agenda

I.	Secret Gardens	Verge cutting (April) & HDPF contract	£ 230.40
II.	WVHMC	Hall hire (April)	£ 20.00
III.	Westcotec	VAS sign straps	£ 29.04

The three invoices/payments were **approved** for payment.

(e) To make note of the upcoming electricity company change

The Clerk sent around information to all councillors prior to the meeting regarding the need to change suppliers. The Clerk to obtain quotes and bring this information to the next meeting.

7. Cemetery matters

(a) To discuss the recent complaints about the cemetery

It was stated there has been intensive growth because of the weather and the contractor has had issues that have been out of our control. It was **agreed** that the Clerk, Cllr Taylor and Cllr V. Stubbs to meet up with the contractor at the cemetery next Tuesday regarding moving forward. It was **agreed** that the Clerk will ask the contractor for a recent breakdown of work. If no good progress then will need to look into an alternative temporary contractor.

(b) To discuss the resident's enquiry regarding the churchyard

Information was sent to all prior to the meeting. The Clerk to contact Weybourne Hall to investigate if the large step is on their property. Historically a zebra crossing has been refused.

(c) To receive updates on the Churchyard Conservation Scheme

Cllr V. Stubbs stated some of the markers have been placed, and the rest will be placed shortly. Laminated boards with information on plants etc. will be placed. And then this information will be shared with the contractor. An area to the east of the church has been set aside as a wildflower area, and then other parts have been designated where wildflowers are growing, in conjunction with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

(d) Trees

Cllr V. Stubbs stated that historically we had a survey completed for the turkey oak in the churchyard, where it was stated, it needed cutting back. After liaising with the Diocese for approval they stated that a full survey would need completing where it was going to cost the Parish Council thousands, and it ended here. But as a Parish Council we have a responsibility to make sure this tree is safe. Also, there was another tree in the churchyard that had to be removed which was never replaced. Cllr V. Stubbs to investigate this further with the Diocese and speak to the Tree Officer.

8. Harry Dawson Playing Field

To receive progress updates from the HDPF working party

Cllr V. Stubbs stated that the Chestnut Group have confirmed they will pay and construct a shelter. Cllr V. Stubbs to keep chasing this up with them and to investigate where this will be placed. Cllr V. Stubbs to chase up the £500 donation from the Church. Both Cllr V. Stubbs and Cllr N. Stubbs stated that both swings need replacing and supplied quotes. There is a potential grant with short turnover that could be used. It was **agreed** to move forward with the current company we have used previously to supply the swings. Other grant applications are nearly complete.

9. Highways & Footpath matters

(a) To receive updates on verge cutting

Cllr V. Stubbs stated that signs have been put around the village regarding 'No Mow May' and the first cut of the new regime was done on Monday. Verge by the bench has been mown. The verges outside 30/41 Pine Walk are having only the roadside edges mown, and the verge outside the Village Hall is not being mown, but all the rest are being mown on the outside but not in the centre.

(b) To receive updates about the flooding issues on Beach Road

Cllr N. Stubbs stated now the offsets have been completed then there have been no complaints. A meeting was held today by the lagoon where discussion on the dredging and clearing of the pond. Some progress with Sir Michael Savory eager to move forward and possibility of NCC funding. Survey of water voles went ahead but it was alive with nesting birds. Sir Michael Savory will fund a survey in September, and in the meantime mapping and design work will take place, ready for the possible go ahead this Winter.

(c) To receive updates on the VAS reports

The Clerk stated that information downloaded to PC is to be completed. The brackets are now in place and they will be changed around tomorrow.

(d) To receive updates on the re-erecting the village sign

Cllr N. Stubbs stated that the sign is ready to be refixed. This will be placed back in the same location. Looking into having an unveiling and the Clerk to contact a local contractor to complete the re-erection. Cllr N. Stubbs to produce some wording to be placed on a plaque to go alongside the sign.

(e) To receive updates on the broken dog bin on Station Road

The Clerk to chase up the supplier.

(no sections (f) and (g))

(h) To receive updates on the no cycling signs

The Clerk to chase up Norfolk CC Highways, who has stated will supply a new sign.

(i) To receive updates on the Station Road streetlight timer

All done.

(j) To discuss any outstanding highways issues

It was stated that one of the 'Slow yer Down' signs has gone missing. The Clerk to contact a local supplier for a replacement.

10. Allotments

(a) To receive the allotments co-ordinator report

Cllr Brown stated that there is one outstanding plot. After discussion with committee no hedging will be placed around the plot. The path is being kept clear but there is a lot of dog waste being left in this area. Cllr Brown to liaise with the Clerk about wording for signs regarding this issue.

(b) To receive updates on the non-maintained allotments path

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

11. Biodiversity

(a) Update from Biodiversity for Parish Councils webinar

Cllr V. Stubbs stated the webinar attended was very useful, and from this as a Parish Council we have a duty to enhance biodiversity. Information regarding this was sent to all prior to the meeting. Bio-diversity has to be an agenda item moving forward and make any note of actions taken. The biodiversity plan has been completed and Cllr V. Stubbs will start completing a summary of what we have done so far and then start making future plans. Parish Councils will not be audited on this and produce statutory progress reports on this. When we start completing the neighbourhood plan then we will contact the Norfolk Wildlife Trust on this subject for help and advice. We need to make sure we have records of what we have in the parish, which includes rare species etc., so will need to have a biodiversity audit for Parish Council land.

(b) Hedgehog Highway Project

Cllr V. Stubbs stated that hedgehogs are in real trouble and it is something that the Suffolk Wildlife Trust are focusing on and also had a resident ask about putting up posters relating to this, which will be added to the notice board. It was **agreed** to purchase a hedgehog starter pack regarding fence plates, with the possibility of receiving donations from residents who would like one. Also, a resident has offered to donate a hedgehog box, with location to be confirmed.

(c) Weybourne Pond Project

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

12. Village Hall

(a) To receive the Weybourne Village Hall Management Committee report

All received prior to the meeting.

(b) To organise ongoing input for the newsletter

It was **agreed** that the relevant councillor responsible for a certain topic will provide the relevant input. The Clerk to contact Norfolk ALC regarding any upcoming Neighbourhood Planning training.

13. Weybourne Community Fund

(a) To receive the Weybourne Community Fund report

No meeting to produce a report.

(b) To discuss reducing the fee on the lease

It was agreed to move forward with the rest of the lease as a Peppercorn Lease. The Clerk to contact the Community Fund with the relevant information.

14. Co-opt Councillor

To co-opt a new councillor to the council – No applications received.

(a) Applicants can, if they wish, introduce themselves briefly to the councillors and give some background etc. to support their application.

(b) Note that all applicants and members of the public present will need to leave the meeting whilst the council make their decision

15. Governance

(a) To discuss the recent internet issue in the village

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

(b) To receive updates on transferring email address to gov.uk

The Clerk to complete.

(c) To discuss communication improvements between meetings

Cllr Brown raised the point that not all information is being sent around from Councillors. Please send correspondence onto the Clerk who can forward onto all Councillors moving forward.

(d) To discuss any further details on the Annual Parish Meeting (Wednesday 8th May 2024)

None, apart from next year will have the May meetings on the same evening.

16. Correspondence to consider and respond to the following:

Items received since the publication of the agenda

The Clerk sent around an email to all Councillors from North Norfolk Community Transport asking for a donation. It was **agreed** for the Clerk to ask for statistics regarding residents using the service in the village.

17. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting being Wednesday 5th June 2024
Meeting confirmed.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.25pm