

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Present:

Cllrs. Brian Landale (Chairman), Lee Acton, Julia Marozzi, Tom Lane, Elizabeth Meath Baker, Nigel Morter, Vanessa Paige, Keith Tuck, James Woodhouse (Vice-Chairman)

and: District Councillor Tom FitzPatrick and one member of the public

Meeting of the Parish Council

on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 7.15 for 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall

- A member of the public raised concern about the lack of maintenance at the ford which might be contributing to the raised water levels in the river and flooding at the upstream in the field by Church Street and at the Fakenham Road bridge. He had reported the problem to Highways but no action had been taken. The Clerk was asked to put in a request for the pipes under the ford to be cleared out to allow water to flow properly. If Highways are not able to deal with the problem, then it should be reported to the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance.

MINUTES

Welcome

1. **Apologies** from County Councillor Michael Dalby.
2. **Declarations of interest** by the Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below. None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting** on 11 September were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising** not otherwise on the agenda. None.
5. **To consider co-opting to fill the vacancy**
 - a. No applications received.
6. **Report from County Councillor** circulated via email.
7. **Report from District Councillor**
 - The District Council has to make budget savings of £1.9 million largely due to the increase in homelessness levels. They are looking at making savings by closing ten of the public toilets including the ones in Walsingham. Tom FitzPatrick opposed the proposed closures as they were part of the tourist offering - a mainstay of the North Norfolk economy – and there were other savings which would be better.
 - Work on the roundabout on the A148 Fakenham Bypass had started. This would open up the development of 950 homes 40% of which would be affordable.
8. **Police Matters:** nothing to report.
9. **Highways**
 - a. **Potholes and other highway faults** should be reported via the website:
<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/default.aspx>
 - b. It was noted with appreciation that the hedge had been cut back and the path cleared on Scarborough Road.
 - c. It was reported that damaged cobbles outside the Shrine shop in Common Place were being repaired.
 - d. Concern was raised about parking on yellow lines on the High Street which caused disruption to traffic. The District Councillor explained that there has been a cut back on parking enforcement and that the police often do not enforce obstructions. Parking enforcement requests can be made online at
<https://www.parkingoperations.co.uk/enforcement/enforcement-requests/>
 - e. **Flooding** near the bridge on Fakenham Road
 - i. Are the pipes under the ford at Westgate blocked and so increasing the water level and adding to problems upstream at Houghton bridge? A Parish Councillor would check the pipes.
 - ii. It was agreed that the problem would be reported to Highways and / or the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance (co-ordinated by the County Council).

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

f. Speed limit on Dry Road at Egmere

- i. The initial consultation period for this scheme has ended and several of the responses would like an extension to the initial proposed length of speed reduction. The designer therefore needs to speak to the safety team to discuss options. Once this has been done, they will draft the Traffic Regulation Order document and prepare for advertisement. The document then goes to NPLaw to process. Unfortunately, we are unable to give a good estimate for when it will be implemented, but hopefully by the end of the financial year.
- ii. A donation of £1000 has been received from RES in addition to the £2000 from Holkham Estate and £1000 from the Walsingham Estate which covers the total £4000 contribution from the parish. This means that the £750 from the Memorial Project can be returned to that fund.

10. SAM2

- a. The unit had been on Knight Street and was now on Scarborough Road.
- b. It was agreed to get post/s for both directions on Egmere Road.

11. Donations. It was resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. James Woodhouse declared an interest as he is a Church Warden at St Peter's.

- a. It was agreed to make donations as in previous years to St Peter's and St Mary's (£200 each for grounds maintenance), Heritage House and Citizens Advice (£100 each).

12. Finances

a. Statement and Accounts

- i. It was noted that £1000 had been received from RWE Norfolk towards the speed reduction at Egmere. This means that the £750 can be returned to the Memorial Project Account.

b. The following payments were approved

payments to approve		cheque no	
Norfolk Copiers	service charge Aug, Sept, Oct	101622	£289.80
V Paige	verges & hedge Sept, Oct	101623	£290.00
J Otte	expenses	101624	£140.10
Nurture Landscapes Ltd	grounds maintenance Sept, Oct	101625	£170.28
Fenland Leisure Products	annual playground inspection	101626	£144.00
Countrystyle Recycling Ltd	emptying bottlebank	101627	£27.00

c. To consider moving to online banking

- i. **Unity Trust Bank** <https://www.unity.co.uk/>: online banking facilities which allows the Clerk to set up payments for authorisation by two signatories. Cost of approx. £6 per month.
- ii. **Barclays**: one signatory to set up payments and a second signatory to authorise. It was agreed that online banking with Barclays should be set up.
- d. **CCLA deposit account**: to continue with opening an account but in the meantime the insurance payout was held in the insurance savings account at Barclays.

13. Employment

- a. Salary increase for 2024-25. The Local Government Association (LGA) advised the National Association of Local Councils that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed on pay rates applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.'
 - i. SCP 23: was £16.67 increased to £17.29. Back pay for 2024-25 April to November: £188.07; employee's pension contribution £10.34; employer's pension contribution £43.26.
 - ii. The instructions to the bank to make the back payments and to change the monthly payments was approved.

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

14. Setting the Budget and Precept for 2025-26

- a. The figures for the draft budget were reviewed:
 Estimated payments to the end of March 2025: £17,987 (uses reserves)
 Estimated receipts to the end of March 2025: £460
 Expected bank balances at the end of March 2025: £630,282 (with an estimated deficit of £2,882).
 This is made up of:

£603,060	Village Hall insurance payout
£ 11,300	insurance account
£ 7,448	Airfield Memorial Project
£ 678	WDG (village website)
£ 1,687	Archive Group (History Society)
£ 9,000	Parish Council reserves

Projected payments for 2025-26: £38,720 (includes estimate for employer NI contributions)

Projected receipts for 2025-26: £ 7,717 (includes £4,000 interest on Village Hall fund)

- b. To determine whether or not there are any other likely calls on planned expenditure.
 i. Repair / replace the parish council notice boards on the High St and in Gt Wals.
 c. It was agreed to set the precept at £33,400 (6%) to provide a projected surplus of £2,397 to cover the deficit for the current year (£2,882).

Options	Increase by	%	Precept	Charge	Band D annual increase
Current			£31,500	£86.51	
Option 1	£1,100	3.5%	£32,500	£89.98	£41.56
Option 2	£1,500	5%	£33,000	£91.36	£58.17
Option 3	£1,900	6%	£33,400	£92.47	£71.46

- d. The form for the District Council was completed and signed.

15. Report from Village Hall Working Group.

- a. The Group has met once since the last meeting. James Woodhouse was the Chair, Clare Williams the Vice-Chair and Keith Tuck the Chief Fundraiser. The Group discussed revisions to the booking process, hire charges and Terms and Conditions and started to address the issues raised in the feedback from the Lottery Grant application. The next meeting is scheduled for 19 November at 7pm. Thank you to the Anglican Shrine for allowing the use of a meeting room.
- b. **Damaged manhole cover** at the car park on the Recreation Ground. Thank you to the Walsingham Estate for fencing it off. It was agreed that this should be reported to Anglian Water to repair.

16. Playground Equipment

- a. The repairs to the skate ramp to be carried out by Playscape.
 b. Annual Inspection carried out by OLP. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for repairs.

17. To consider how to support the **Village Store**. It was agreed that a Village Shop was a vital facility for the village but it was not clear what role the Parish Council could play, although it would be supportive of an application to have a post office within the store.

18. Dog fouling around the village continues to be a problem. The Clerk was asked to include an item in the newsletter reminding people to clear up after their dogs and to use the bins provided around the village or take the bags home. The Clerk was asked to see if the District Council would provide stickers saying that bagged dog waste could be disposed of in the litter bins.

19. A request from residents had been received asking for the High Street to be pedestrianised or the speed limit to be reduced to **20 mph** particularly in the light of the recent accident which had caused damage to a property. It was clarified that the old people had flipped their car by getting in a muddle, pressing the wrong pedal and hitting a building and it had nothing to do with speeding. It was noted that Highways have responded multiple times to this question with a negative as it is known that 20mph or less is probably what most people are doing already. Boy racers (the odd vehicle recorded on the SAM2 doing more) are unlikely to be deterred. The cost for a feasibility study would be in the £1000s (as an example the reduction in speed limit on the Dry Road at Egmore cost £12,000). It was agreed not to take this further.

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

20. Public Toilets

- a. The District Council is proposing to withdraw from the provision of public toilets in Walsingham before the end of the financial year and transfer the facilities to the Walsingham Estate, the Parish Council or other local interest such as on the local religious organisations. The Parish Council and the Estate have written to NNDC objecting to this proposal. The District Council will be arranging a meeting with relevant parties in due course. It was agreed that public toilets were an essential facility for the community and the huge number of visitors to Walsingham.

21. Street Lighting: no problems to report.

22. Litter bin

- a. 1 x litter bin located near the grit bin on junction of St Peters Road / Wells Road.

23. Defibrillator

- a. It was noted that the defibrillator outside the Parish Hall is to be replaced under warranty and should be delivered next month.

24. Planning

a. Applications received since the last meeting

- i. PF/24/2115 & LA/24/2215: Change of use of 9 Common Place from dwelling (Class C3) to provide extension to existing Estate Office (No.10) Common Place at| **9 - 10 Common Place**. Link circulated. E Meath Baker declared an interest. No objections.
- ii. PF/24/2158: Erection of single storey detached outbuilding at **Hilltop Barn Hindringham Road**. Link circulated.
- iii. RV/24/2318: Replacement garage including home office without complying with condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/21/1376 to gain allow for alterations to the proposed garage already carried out at **11 St. Peters Road**. Link circulated 8 Nov. No objection.
- iv. PF/24/2321: Demolition of retaining wall and erection of two storey side and rear extension at **31 Scarborough Road**. Link circulated 8 Nov.

b. Decisions made by NNDC

- i. PU/24/1444: Change of use of agricultural building to 4 dwellings (class C3) with associated development and building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion at **Barn At Brick Kiln Farm Edgar Road**. REFUSAL OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION.

25. Correspondence: circulated as usual.

26. Items for report or future agenda

27. Next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 7:15 for 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm

Joanna Otte, Clerk to Walsingham Parish Council, e-mail: walsinghampc@googlemail.com Tel. 01328 822366
Little Manor, Thursford Road, Little Snoring, Fakenham, NR21 0JN *Agenda prepared by JO 06/11/2024*