



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 18 January 2018 at 1930

2018/01

Those Present: Richard Cole, Polly Hanson-Smith, & Jon Smith (Chairman), Kirsty Vaughan-Jones
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), 2 members of the public.
Graham Connolly (NNDC Housing Enabler), Victoria Hadley & Fiona Farrow (Warham Horseshoes)

1) Apologies Sue Lane, Marie Strong (NCC)

2) Declarations of Interest None

3) Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2017 - Approved and signed

4) To receive a report from Graham Connolly NNDC Housing Enabler

Graham's job is to encourage local communities to develop affordable housing. There is a shortage of affordable housing in the District, as there is in the country as a whole. However, the incidence of holiday and second homes locally makes the matter even more difficult than in urban areas. These not only reduce the housing stock but also tend to push up prices. The government has given grant money to assist with the problem. There have been some successes in the area, including *Homes for Wells* and the *Blakeney Housing Association*, but more work is needed. Graham then provided paperwork of the research that had been undertaken by NNDC into the possibility of providing some affordable housing in Warham. They had identified three small areas that might each be suitable for an affordable housing development. They had not contacted any landowners yet, as they wanted the village to take the lead. The principle is that affordable housing is developed on an "exception site". That is a site on which ordinary (market) housing could not be built. The landowner would be able to sell it for a price higher than agricultural value, but less than would normally be expected for commercial housing. There are currently 54 households on the waiting list for affordable housing in Warham and immediately adjacent Parishes.

It was decided that the Parish Council would discuss the matter at their next meeting in March. If the PC thought it worth pursuing, they would probably want to carry out a local survey in the village to ensure that local people were supportive.

5) To discuss a request from *The Horseshoes* to support their application for financial assistance from *Pub is the Hub*

The new ownership and management of the pub want it not only to be a commercial success, but also to be at the heart of the village. They recognise that in order to do this they have to appeal to local people as well as holidaymakers. A license has been obtained so that they can open from 8.00am to provide breakfasts if required. They would also like to open a café and hope to attract women who would not normally visit a public house on their own. They have looked at other ideas including a post office, but that would not be allowed because Wells and Stiffkey are too close.

They have also thought about a shop, and this may be possible later, but a café seems the better bet at present. They recognise that there has been some friction over reserved tables in the bar area, as people eating meals there stop local people who only want to drink from using them. There is a problem however, in that these are the most popular tables that people usually want to reserve first. They have identified that the “drinkers” usually do not visit the pub until after 9.00pm and so they have decided not to allow bookings there after 7.30pm which should go some way to solving the problem. They will also try to make other areas more attractive to eaters. If the Parish Council were prepared to write a letter of recommendation they could apply for a grant from *Pub is the Hub*, which will enable them to start the café.

It was agreed that the pub is doing what it can to attract local people as well as holidaymakers, and that therefore we would write the required letter.

6) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

Marie Strong had circulated a report to all Councillors. This is appended to these minutes and is available on the website.

b) North Norfolk District Council

Invitations sent but nothing heard.

c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

Invitation sent but nothing heard

d) Parish Clerk

A new Data Protection Act comes into force in May and is likely to cause problems for Parish Councils. KL has booked himself onto a training course later in the month to find out about it. KL noticed that the 30mph sign near to St Mary's seems to have been hit and has reported it to highways. They have said that it will be replaced.

7) Planning Matters

Application to erect rear dormer and replacement windows at Tucwel, The Street.

Resolved – no objection.

8) To discuss revised quotation from Dew Fencing for the children's playground

There do not appear to be the same number of children wanting to play football in the village as in the past. It was therefore decided to replace the fencing on the existing line, without trying to extend the area. A quotation was accepted to erect 1.2m high green plastic coated chain link fencing on concrete posts for the sum of £1922.55. This amount could be managed by existing Parish Council funds without having to seek grant aid. This would however, leave us with very little in reserves and we would need to apply for a grant if we want to improve the equipment later.

9) To agree arrangements for grounds maintenance next year

Steve Balding, who had undertaken the work in the past, had provided a quotation for a three-year agreement at £130 per month for the seven months between April and October. This included one cut of the hedge on the village green. Additional (stated) sums would be payable for extra grass or hedge cutting if the weather demanded it. It was agreed that we accept the quotation.

10) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors.

The following accounts were approved for settlement:

a)	Warham Village Trust – exchange remittance (sent to wrong account)	30.00
b)	Norfolk Parish Training and Support – data protection course	10.00

c)	Keith Leesmith – 4 th quarter salary and contribution to expenses	466.33
d)	HMRC – PAYE on above	111.60

11) Minor Matters

There is a large banner sign on the bridge advertising “Weight Watchers” sessions. This was not thought to be very attractive. JS would telephone the number on the banner and ask them to remove it. They could if they wished place an advert no larger than A4 on the village noticeboard.

12) Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Thursday 15 March 2018 at 1930

The meeting closed at 2045