



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 17 November 2016 at 1930

2016/13

Those Present: Richard Cole, David Horton-Fawkes, Sue Lane, & Jon Smith (Chairman)
Keith Leesmith (Clerk) Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC)

- 1) **Apologies** Vincent FitzPatrick (NNDC) & Police
- 2) **Declarations of Interest** None
- 3) **Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2016** - Approved and signed

4) Reports

Norfolk County Council

MS said that there was a lot of concern over *Ash dieback*. It was thought that it would eventually be as devastating as Dutch elm disease. There is a lot of information and advice on the NCC website. The Norfolk Community Foundation is providing advice on surviving winter for older people: www.norfolkfoundation.com Advice can also be found about meals on wheels at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/mealsonwheels

The new police commissioner is asking people for their views, and specifically whether they feel that the police budget should or should not be increased again next year. There has been a lot of concern over people parking on pavements. Despite some confusion over the enforcement, it is in fact the duty of police to deal with this matter if it is not possible for a wheelchair or mobility scooter to pass by. There is still confusion over Devolution but NCC will make a final vote for or against on Monday 21 November. [NB on the same night as the Warham Meeting the Borough of King's Lynn & West Norfolk voted against the plans and the Government has now withdrawn them – the NCC vote will therefore not take place.]

North Norfolk District Council

Vincent FitzPatrick was unable to attend but had sent a report which KL read and is appended to these minutes.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Unable to attend, but they sent a report, which KL read. There had been no recorded crime in Warham since the last meeting. However, in the surrounding area there had been thefts of heating oil (level alarms are available) and also lead from church roofs, as well as a charity box from a nearby church. As usual police would like people to be vigilant and report anything suspicious, preferably with vehicle registration numbers. Thefts of outboards have occurred recently at Wells and Cley, but it is understood that there may have been some success in apprehending the perpetrators.

Parish Clerk

The North Norfolk Forum of Parish and Town Councils continues to meet and to pursue the idea of at least some of the “second homes money” being remitted to the Parishes where it is generated, or at least for it to be spent on the provision of assistance to alleviate the problem of second homes. Norman Lamb MP has been assisting with this recently and has promised to continue to do so. The generous 0.5% currently paid on our Barclays deposit account will reduce to 0.0% with effect from 5 December.

5) No Planning Matters**6) To discuss the proposal for BT to remove telephone boxes from North Norfolk**

NNDC had advised that British Telecom intend to remove a considerable number of telephone kiosks from North Norfolk, due to lack of use. Unfortunately there is no note of which boxes are affected. The box in Warham has been unusable since at least the beginning of the year and has not been repaired despite a request and reminder to do so. It is however, a listed building. Councillors thought it would be a shame to see the box removed, but did not wish to take it on for another use.

7) To discuss possible improvements to the children’s play area

KL had obtained two quotations for new sets of swings (including safety surfacing and installation). One set, containing two standard swings and two “baby swings” would cost £4674. The alternative, which Councillors preferred, consisted of two standard swings and one baby swing. This would cost £3498. We still needed to find out if the farmer would be prepared to allow us a larger area, so that there would be room for football games, and to obtain a quotation for fencing the larger area.

8) To discuss budget for 2017/2018 and approve precept

Although we would now be paying rent for our use of the Reading Room this would be less than the savings made by switching to LED street lighting. Consequently it was not necessary to increase the precept yet again. Councillors agreed a precept of £5000.

9) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated with agendas.

The following accounts were approved for settlement:

Holkham Estates	Village Green rent	20.00
Keith Leesmith	Clerk’s third quarter salary	463.06
HMRC	PAYE on above	110.60

10) Minor Matters

There were blocked drains near the Coast Road and Stiffkey Road junction and near the bridge on the Binham Road. The light opposite the White House was difficult to see because of tree growth. KL would speak to those who could assist.

11) Date of Next Meeting Confirmed as Thursday 19 January 2017 at 1930**12) To discuss vacancy(s) for Councillor(s) with a view to co-opting replacements**

Now that Tony Lilley had left the village we could co-opt another Councillor. DH-F would also like to reduce his commitments. RC had spoken to a possible candidate and was waiting for a reply from them. DH-F would speak to another possible candidate.

The meeting closed at 2031