



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 1930

2023/03

Those Present: Polly Hanson-Smith, Jonathan Smith (Chairman), Kirsty Vaughan-Jones, Steve Vickers
Keith Leesmith (Clerk)

- 1) Apologies** Richard Cole said at the end of the last meeting that he expected to be undergoing an orthopaedic operation at this time.
Richard Kershaw (NNDC) – illness

- 2) Declarations of Interest** None

- 3) Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023** - Approved and signed

4) Reports

c) Parish Clerk

KL had circulated a report to Councillors. This is attached to these minutes and appears on the website.

d) Homes for Wells/ Flagship Housing re affordable Housing Site.

No report has been received from either of the above organisations. However, it appeared that some preliminary work had been undertaken on the site

5) Planning Matters

Work re-naturalising River Stiffkey – amendment re soil spread zone.

Councillors were divided as to the merits of this scheme. We have concerns for local farmers regarding the loss of grazing land and wonder if the benefits outweigh this. We also believe that the work should be undertaken during the autumn and winter rather than the summer if it is not to disturb wildlife and also to assist farming operations.

6) To discuss the proposed fitting of timers to street lighting

A notice had been placed on the noticeboard towards the end of January stating that we intended to fit timers to the street lights so that they would be off between midnight and 6am during the winter (1.00am and 7.00am during British Summer Time). In view of the increased cost of electricity we believed that this was a better option than increasing the precept. The notice suggested that if anyone objected to this they should speak to any Councillor or the Clerk. Nobody had done so, so it was decided to go ahead with the scheme.

7) To discuss financial appeals from local organisations

Although we had two appeals posted to us, it was felt that our limited funds were better used on very local organisations. The Reading Room had lost several regular bookings since Covid, it was decided to donate £100 to them. Another £100 would be sent to the Burnham Market Car Service, which despite the name operates in Warham as well as other local villages. They provide volunteer transport for people to have medical appointments and also collect and deliver prescriptions.

8) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors.

The following amounts had been paid since the last meeting:

a)	Npower January lights	30.72
b)	Npower February lights	26.92
c)	Zurich – annual insurance policy	449.57
d)	Reading Room Rent 2023-2024	144.00

9) Minor Matters

Nil

10) Date of next meeting

Confirmed as 18 May 2023 at 1930.

11) To undertake administrative procedures in respect of the forthcoming election

Councillors completed the necessary forms to enable them to stand in the forthcoming election on 4 May.

The meeting closed at 2045