



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 1930

2024/12

Those Present: Karl Jagger, Jonathan Smith (Chairman), David Reason, Kirsty Vaughan-Jones & Steve Vickers
Keith Leesmith (Clerk)

- 1) Apologies None
- 2) Declarations of Interest None
- 3) Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 17 September - Approved and signed

4) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

Michael Dalby had sent a report which was distributed to Councillors, is appended to these minutes, and appears on the website.

b) North Norfolk District Council

Sarah Butikofer had sent two reports (dated October and November) which were distributed to Councillors, are appended to these minutes, and appear on the website.

c) Parish Clerk

KL had circulated a report to Councillors. This is attached to these minutes and appears on the website. Now that *Awards for All* had rejected our grant application KL had started an application to *The Geoffrey Watling Charity*. This would require a reference from someone who knows us well but is unconnected. Two names were suggested as possibles for this.

d) Affordable Housing Site

No reports received but it is understood that the houses will be completed around the end of the year and that the site will be cleared by February. The works to provide a sewage connection and also the footpath have been completed

5) To agree Clerk's application for (VAT) overdraft from Unity Trust Bank

As well as the cost of the new playground, we will have to initially pay Value Added Tax of around £17,000 although as a Parish Council we can reclaim this from HMRC. Our experience in the past shows that the repayment period can be anything from a couple of weeks to several months. KL had therefore thought it expedient to arrange an overdraft to cover this period. It was agreed that he should continue to undertake negotiations to arrange this.

6) To agree current Homes for Wells Allocation Policy

The new policy was considerably “tidier” than the previous one and as it was not substantially different it was agreed that we approve it.

7) Planning – any planning matters to hand

There were no matters for discussion, but we had received notice from planners that 11 fire hydrants had been added to the affordable homes site.

8) To agree purchase of a replacement grit bin

Following the damage to the grit bin at the top of Park Road (thought to be a large vehicle reversing) it was agreed that we purchase a new bin similar in size to the previous one. Bins are filled by highways twice each year - before and after Christmas. It was thought that there was probably enough grit in the existing bin to cover the “first fill” and with any luck it could be in place before the second. KJ agreed for it to be delivered to his house.

9) To discuss budget for 2025/2026 and fix precept.

KL had drawn up a proposed budget for the coming year which would require the same precept as before. The additional £1000 which had been set aside towards the new playground would still be required next year to pay for overdraft interest. It was agreed that we fix the precept at £7000 and advise NNDC accordingly.

10) Financial Report plus accounts paid

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors

The following amounts had been paid since the last meeting:

a) Yu Energy – streetlights September	16.61
b) Ground’s Maintenance September	114.00
c) Bank Charges July - September	18.00
d) Bank Charges – October	5.40
e) Ground’s Maintenance October	76.00
f) Yu Energy – streetlights October	17.22
g) Village Green annual rent	20.00
h) Parish Clerk – 3 rd quarter salary & expenses + backpay	675.84
i) HMRC – PAYE on above	162.40

11) Minor Matters

On the new footpath, there were several pieces of barbed wire and other metal on the hedge side. As the hedge would need to be trimmed, this needs to be removed. KL would speak to the site foreman. The roadway was considerably uneven following the work to connect the sewer. The school bus driver was particularly unhappy with it. KL would speak to highways.

12) Date of next meeting

Confirmed as Thursday 23 January 2025 at 1930.

This is one week later than usual as one Councillor is rostered to work on the earlier date.

The meeting closed at 2030.