

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 11th day of NOVEMBER 2024 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Lambert, Rayner and Storey (arrived 8.25 pm), Mrs Arnold, Mrs Edwards, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peacock. Also present 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Fenn, Mrs Peckham, Mrs Wilson, Sqn Leader.

The Chair asked if anyone was recording the meeting and Mr Cole replied that he was. All present consented to be recorded.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mrs Edwards proposed, Mr Cole seconded, 4 in favour, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peacock abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 1 minute for public speaking.

MATTERS ARISING

1. RAF Feltwell – Sqn Leader Eaton was not in attendance again due to Remembrance Day engagements and US Bank Holiday but had sent his report and said he would make every endeavour to attend the next meeting. His report stated night flying had commenced 4/11/24 and would continue until further notice with operations finishing by 10 pm and a no-fly period of 24/12/24 to 2/1/25. Suffolk County Council has allocated funding for road safety improvements in the TriBase area including road sign replacement, white line/road marking improvements and cutting back of vegetation.
2. Risk Assessment – **Weekly:** Handyman has cleared leaves from the tennis court and repaired the perimeter fence where loose. Mr Storey had implied at an earlier meeting that he would flail the shrubs etc around the perimeter of the field so would be asked to undertake this. Basketball unit was installed 6/11/24 but as an additional part had been required which had not arrived on time, an extra charge of £100 for a wasted morning had been imposed by the contractor.
3. Balance Sheet – No queries.
4. Allotment Pest Control – No report for November yet.
5. NALC – Updates circulated. Chair said the request for an emergency meeting by NALC's President to discuss the dismissal of the County Officer had not been required.
6. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Continue to monitor wall.
7. Highways – **2 Oak Street:** Clerk said Mr Wallace had no update again. **Other matters:** Malfunctioning 30mph flashing speed signs along Lodge Road and Wilton Road to be repaired by Westcotec. Highways are monitoring Southery Road and will make repairs when necessary.
8. Overhanging Greenery – **50 Wilton Road:** Clerk said Mr Wallace had no update again. **Other matters:** Hedge at 2 Falcon Road has still not been cut despite Highways writing to the owner on 7/10/24. Hedge around 2 Western Close has not been cut either. Clerk to ask Highways to write to both properties. Overhanging greenery from 12A Vincent Close has been cut back and Clerk will ask Highways to clear brambles growing over the neighbouring pavement.
9. SAM2 Data – Chair said SAM2's have been moved and there will be data available next month.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

10. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Ongoing.
11. Long Lane Development – Flagship advised work commenced this morning and should be completed in the Spring. Their Delivery Manager will be on site tomorrow and Clerk will ask him to look at the overgrowth around the dog and rubbish bins, and ivy around the telegraph pole.
12. Premises Licence – Fire Risk Assessment – Chair said the electrical work had been completed and fire alarm installed. He will carry out weekly checks on the emergency lighting and fire alarms. The Clerk, Mr Fenn and Mr Lambert all volunteered to join the Chair as emergency contacts/key holders in case of a fire. Mr Lambert thanked the Chair for his hard work with this project.
13. Damage to Playing Field Entrance, 2nd June 2024 – Clerk is awaiting an installation date from J M Ayres and will continue to chase the third party claim with Zurich.
14. Overgrowth around Dog Bins – See Item 11.
15. Empty Freebridge Houses – Mrs Edwards said her meeting with the Portfolio Manager had been rescheduled and she will ask why the properties are still empty.
16. To Discuss Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26 – No application will be submitted this year.
17. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – K&M are still surveying the brackets and carrying out electrical inspection, testing and certification of Council street lights. Frith Blake will carry out their visual assessment of the concrete columns from ground level with binoculars to inspect the high level elements where necessary. This is considered to be an appropriate assessment strategy as the more significant defects would be close to ground level.. Survey report should be received within four weeks.
18. Feltwell in Bloom – Email received from Rita Page thanking the Council for its kind offer but with their insurance and donations from villagers, there was only a minimal shortfall which they had managed to cover themselves.
19. High Street Parking – No response from Kevin Allen from NCC so Clerk will continue to chase
20. Christmas Tree – Mrs Edwards and the Clerk said the Festival of Light tree was in hand. Outdoor tree to be collected 20/11/24 by Mr Storey and Mr Lambert.
21. Remembrance Sunday – Chair thanked Councillors who attended the service and said it was the biggest congregation there had ever been.
22. Damaged Street Light at Mulberry Close – Clerk said the third party had admitted liability to DAS Beachcroft but had requested inspection reports and photographs of the lamppost prior to the incident stating it had already been damaged and was held together by duct tape. K&M confirmed the lamppost had been structurally sound and said it was common for duct tape to be used to secure column doors. Clerk had relayed this to the insurers and provided them with a copy of the 2019 structural survey of the concrete lampposts which confirmed the lamppost had been structurally sound. DAS Beachcroft have now sent a letter before action to the third party and await a response. K&M have installed the new lamppost and UKPN will be reconnecting supply 22-26/11/24.
23. Age UK/Citizens Advice Event for Elderly – Mrs Wilson was not present but had forwarded a response from Age UK which stated that due to being inundated with event requests, they wouldn't be able to visit Feltwell until January. She had replied, asking if they would attend a Wednesday coffee morning at St Mary's Church which could also involve The Food Pantry and had requested

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

leaflets to be sent in the meantime. Chair suggested sending the leaflets to residents with their cheque donation from The Edmund de Moundeford Trust and if they hadn't arrived in time then they could be hand delivered. Mrs Edwards said she would be happy to go to the Church on a Saturday to help people apply for Winter Fuel Payments etc.

24. Grass Dumped in The Beck – Mrs McGeeney said she would speak to the resident.

25. Tree – Clerk to clarify with Mrs Peckham which tree she was referring to.

26. Street Light – K&M will replace old style lantern on Old Methwold Road when LED received.

27. To Review Model Standing Orders – No amendments. Mrs McGeeney proposed current Model Standing Orders be readopted, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour.

28. To Consider Request from Grey's Funfair – Grey's Funfair have asked if they can visit Feltwell Playing Field during March/April next year. They would need access to water as well as electric (for evening use only when generators were not running). Clerk said the football teams have home games on 15th and 29th March but their Chairman said cars could be parked at the Social Club if necessary. The fair coming to Feltwell was considered a great idea by all and a site fee of £200 for the week was considered reasonable plus water and electric according to usage. Mrs McGeeney proposed accepting Grey's Funfair's request and charging a site fee of £200 plus water and electric usage, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise Grey's Funfair and confirm a date.

Mr Storey arrived 8.25 pm.

29. To Discuss Graveyard Complaint - Clerk read email complaint from resident which stated the grass contractors had hit some of the older gravestones with a mower, moving or knocking several of the corner stones over. Three Councillors went to the graveyard and all felt the stones could have just moved over time. They said they could also have been moved by children as a number had been seen there lately. Mrs Arnold said a corner stone on one of her grandparents graves had recently been knocked out therefore Chair proposed contacting the contractor to make him aware of the situation and to reiterate to his employees that they must respect the gravestones, all agreed. Clerk to write to contractor and reply to resident. Mr Lambert said he would monitor the situation.

Mrs McGeeney departed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

30. To Discuss Budget & Precept 2025/26 – Chair asked Councillors to consider items for next year's budget. Mr Lambert felt a yearly provision should be made for repairing the wall around the war memorial garden as there was significant brickwork decay. Chair said the whole front wall needed repair and lack of wheelchair access should be addressed. He felt an architect/designer should be consulted to obtain a better understanding of damage and repair costs and said the garden may have to be completely redesigned if costs were too high. Mr Storey said the project should be a priority but the public should be consulted and grants should be sought. Mr Lambert agreed but felt the British Legion should be consulted first who may also be able to advise grants available. Clerk to write to British Legion.

31. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said savings of £44.722m had to be found in order for NCC to balance their 2025/26 budget and public consultations are open on three proposals; raising Council Tax, reducing street light usage and reviewing their Housing Related Support services. £1.15m of the Household Support Fund is being allocated to keep vulnerable people warm now the winter fuel payment is to be means-tested from this winter and NCC are working with Age UK and Citizens Advice to ensure payments are made quickly. The Cabinet are considering four alternative options following the abolishment of the Devolution Deal. All information can be found on both

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Borough Council and NCC websites. **Other matters:** Clerk said Mr Wallace had no date for the roundels as the contractor was under investigation however the Chair said roundels had been painted in Methwold earlier in the day. Mr Storey was not impressed so will take this forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

32. BCKLWN – Emails – Weekly Planning Applications/Decisions; Parish Planning Update; Local Plan 2021-2040: Main Mods Part 2 (Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople) Consultation
33. NCC – Emails – **Road Closures:** Temp restriction on St Mary's Street 10am–12.30pm and Bell Street 10.50am–11.20am on 10/11/24 for Remembrance Sunday Parade; Sedge Fen Road 11/11/24-1/12/24 for Anglian Water works; Bell Street for stop tap replacement works 12-14/11/24. **Press Releases:** Have your say on Norfolk savings proposals. **Other:** Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan: Publication of proposed Main Modifications & Additional Modifications
34. RAF Lakenheath – Emails – **Notification of operations at RAF Feltwell:** 17/10/24 explosive training, 4-6 detonations, 9.30–4pm; 4/11/24 emergency demolition shot x 1, 2.30–5 pm. **Other:** Invitation to Ely Thanksgiving Eve Service 27/11/24 and Tri-Wing Yuletide Reception, RAF Mildenhall 5/12/24; Night-flying out of RAF Lakenheath w/c 4/11/24 until the Spring
35. Member of the Public – Email – Environmental Permit Consultation re Planning Applications 22/00866/FM and 22/00860/FM
36. Cllr Alun Ryves – Email – Re Wayland Farms Limited: Environmental Permit Consultation
37. Rural Services Network – Email – Bulletins
38. Brochures - Parish Magazine, Clerks & Councils

39. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mrs Edwards proposed approving the payments, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour. Payments were approved and cheques signed for J Martin £284.36, S Sargent £94.89, D Wilkinson £43.54, R H Landscapes & Maintenance £936.00, CTE Electrical £6342.00, L&R Enefer £50.40, Feltwell PCC £150.00, M P Dennis & Sons £792.00, Peckham's Construction £540.00, Fenland Fire Appliance £105.30, RBL Poppy Appeal £60.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £310.69, British Gas £98.23, Vodafone £21.95. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £100.21, J Martin £1082.38.

40. PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

41. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

42. Chair proposed that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting at this point as the matter next being discussed was a confidential issue relating to the Clerk's pay, all agreed. Members of the public departed at 9.10 pm. Chair proposed increasing the Clerk's pay by £0.63/hour as per the recommended NALC pay scale, backdated to April 2024, all in favour. Clerk thanked the Councillors for this.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 9th December 2024 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm. Meeting declared closed 9.15 pm.