

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 14th day of APRIL 2025 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert, Rayner and Storey, Mrs Edwards, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. 4 members of the public were also in attendance

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Arnold and Sqn Leader Eaton.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mrs Wilson declared an interest in Item 36.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 8 minutes for Public Speaking.

MATTERS ARISING

1. RAF Feltwell – Clerk read Sqn Leader Eaton's report. Police presence will be increased at Gate 1 for a Peace Camp held by CND and LAP from 14-26/4/25. Work is still underway to implement a permanent solution for drone flying near military establishments. F35s are currently deployed in the Netherlands whilst a further squadron remains at high readiness to provide an immediate response to the European Command if required. There is still a keen interest for involvement in Feltwell's VE80 celebrations. A member of the public said she had attended the meeting in the hope of speaking to a USAF representative to enquire what was happening with the empty housing on Portal Close and Trenchard Square. She had made some enquiries herself and was told by the East Anglian Regional Housing Officer that the houses are in a cycle of refurbishment for a period of years. Mr Storey said the Council had put this question to the USAF numerous times to no avail and the lack of information regarding Base matters was not good enough. He said the Squadron Leader should keep the Parish Council informed so that residents can be kept updated and the fact that Trenchard Square had stood empty for well over 5 years was disgraceful. He assured the resident that the Council would try to find answers. Clerk to contact Vikki Quamina. Clerk said a tree has been felled but not the one which the resident had complained about and is awaiting a response from the Contracting Officer.

2. Risk Assessment – **Weekly:** No issues except the Handyman had noticed the red lights above the Changing Room doors were on. Chair will investigate. Fresh Air Fitness serviced the gym equipment on 17th March. The Handyman has yet to cut back shrubs etc near the entrances. Quarterly inspection carried out by Online Playgrounds on 12th March with items raised being Very Low Risk or Low Risk. Clerk will forward to Handyman.

3. Balance Sheet – No queries.

4. Allotment Pest Control – March report received together with a note that six rats had been caged last year and two trapped. Both Mr Fenn and Mr Cole said they had not seen any vermin in the last month. Agreed to monitor and ask Tenants at their forthcoming meeting if they had seen any.

5. NALC – Membership renewed for 2025/26 at £483.50. Website/Email hosting will be an extra £70 and invoiced in due course.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

6. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Continue to monitor wall. Mr Cole cut the area 11th April and will spray after the Easter holidays.

7. Highways – **2 Oak Street:** Andy Wallace advised the footway widening scheme had been put forward to the 2026/27 programme. **Malfunctioning flashing 30mph sign on Lodge Road:** Westcotec said NCC will expedite their review on replacing the sign following the Clerk's persistent requests which would be based on available funding, road safety factors and local consultations. **Southery Road;** Some areas have been marked for repair. **Billboards:** Clerk said billboards should have a licence if situated on a pavement and if not, advertisers could face fines of £2500 and £250 a day thereafter until the licence is in place. Mr Storey said he had spoken to the proprietor of The Wellington stating that the pavement was not wide enough for a billboard but was happy to have that conversation again. All agreed for Mr Storey to speak to the proprietor. **Bell Street Parking:** Mrs Peckham raised concern about vehicles parking on the grass on Bell Street. Clerk said she had also received a complaint from a pedestrian that vehicles were obstructing the Oakfields alleyway. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

8. Overhanging Greenery – **50 Wilton Road:** Hedge has still not been cut therefore Andy Wallace will ask his Engineer to revisit the owners. Chair felt a letter should be sent to the local MP in August/September requesting his involvement as this is a road safety issue.

9. SAM2 Data – Following Methwold Parish Council's recent investigation into the accuracy of SAM2 data, Chair learned that the number of vehicle movements recorded is not the actual number of vehicles passing the SAM2. However, speeds recorded are correct and he gave an account of SAM2 data collected from The Beck 1/3/25 – 25/3/25: 25,665 vehicle movements, average speed 20.2 mph and highest recorded speed 45mph on 6/3/25 at 5.30 pm. Data from Paynes Lane 1/3/25 – 15/3/25 (battery didn't last as long): 6683 vehicle movements, average speed 23.3 mph and highest recorded speed 50 mph on 6/3/25 at 4.25 am. SAM2s now located at Lodge Road and Wilton Road.

10. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Ongoing.

11. Damage to Playing Field Entrance, 2nd June 2024 – Seven Councillors met 10th April to discuss the footpath and corner entrance into the playing field. It was felt the areas needed filling with plainings. Mr Fenn said he could obtain 60 tonnes free of charge which would be ample and the excess could be used in other areas of the village. However, a waste carrier licence would be required to transport it and Mrs Peckham said she would make some enquiries.

12. Empty Freebridge Houses – Mr Storey had been informed by Freebridge's Lettings Manager earlier in the day that 20 Lodge Road was unoccupied due to refurbishment and would be advertised for letting soon. He was told the reason their properties stood vacant for so long was lack of funding for refurbishment but Chair said 21 Old Methwold Road and 20 Lodge Road had both stood empty for over two years. Mr Storey will follow up his enquiry. Clerk had also contacted Freebridge and was awaiting a response from the Voids Team.

13. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – Concrete column assessment is still ongoing.

14. High Street Parking – Clerk said Andy Wallace advised Network Safety were not wholly in agreement with Mr Storey's wishes regarding the change of priority at Short Beck but he would look into their alternative suggestions when next in the village.

15. Damaged Street Light at Mulberry Close – New 50 watt lantern has been fitted which Mrs Edwards said had made a big difference.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

16. Tree – Chair will try to ascertain if the hedge growing around the lamp post on Addisons is on private land.

17. Street Light – Old style lantern on Lodge Road/Old Methwold Road has been replaced.

18. To Consider Request from Gray's Funfair – Clerk said Mr Gray thought 9th - 15th June would suit but will confirm asap. Clerk to obtain a copy of his insurance.

19. To Review Grass Maintenance Specification – First cut took place 19-20th April.

20. To Consider Request for New Street Light in Mulberry Close – Mrs Peckham and the Clerk had visited the resident and viewed the area where he felt a street light would be beneficial. Since then, the Clerk had ascertained the area belonged to the Borough Council. Their Senior Valuer, Christian Wilson, was now awaiting a response from their Legal Dept as to whether the erection of a street light required statutory advertising concerning a lease or disposal if they were to grant a licence or wayleave agreement. Mr Wilson said there would also be rights and reservations contained in the transfer to Freebridge when Borough passed the housing over to them but he wouldn't know the impact of this until he had had a response. A petition for a new street light, signed by all residents in that area of Mulberry Close, had been received and the Clerk read a letter from Terry Jermy MP supporting their request. The letter stated that a member of his team had visited the area and felt the location lent itself to a column mounted LED light designed to reduce light pollution with dimming capability. Mrs Peckham said it was a pity Mr Jermy had not met with the Parish Council and Mr Storey was disappointed not to have been copied in to his letter in his capacity as Borough and County Councillor. Mr Lambert said the legal process must be followed and the matter could not be discussed further until Borough had responded. Mr Storey will pursue this matter with Mr Wilson.

Mrs Edwards departed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

21. To Consider Request for New Bus Stop outside Manor Park Estate – Ongoing.

22. Land Behind Feltwell Surgery – Clerk received confirmation from the Surgery's partners that they were agreeable to a deed of Grant of Easement being set up for access over their land to the overflow car park, depending on its terms and conditions. Mrs Peckham proposed Mr Hawkins draw up a deed of Grant of Easement and a licence to occupy the car park at a cost of £260 + VAT, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Mr Hawkins.

23. Changing Rooms – Chair and Mrs Peckham will meet at the Changing Rooms to look at alternative heating options. Clerk said she had instructed Mr Waites, a local plumber, to repair a leaking sink in the Ladies Toilet and Official's Changing Room. He had repaired both sinks and descaled the shower heads in the Home Team Changing Room at a cost of £40 + VAT.

24. Hill Street – Clerk will write to Highways about various overgrown areas in Hill Street.

25. Climbing Wall Opportunity – Ongoing.

26. White-Lining – Clerk enquired to Highways again but had no response.

27. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said only nine members of the Borough Council's Planning Committee had attended the Special Planning Meeting on 3rd April but confirmed they had voted unanimously to refuse both of Cranswick's planning applications. There had been 10 speakers from the public domain and the debate was well managed. The issue of retrospective planning was raised at a meeting held 7th April as the Legal Department felt Parish Councils should be informed and given the opportunity to support or object to any amendments. NCC were against pylons being

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

installed across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex due to their negative impact on the scenery. NCC had reached their target of replacing 15,331 street lanterns with state of the art LED's a year in advance. Further information can be found on both the Borough and NCC websites.

28. Review Financial Regulations – Clerk to review NALC's new version of Financial Regulations with Mrs Peckham and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

29. Annual Playground Inspection – Clerk said Wicksteed's quote of £150 + VAT had been correct so the annual inspection was pencilled in for June.

30. Street Light Electricity Supply Renewal Quotes – Clerk had made several enquiries and recommended renewing with SSE Energy at 24.10p/ kWh, 24.36p/kWh and 24.42p/kWh for MPAN's ending 480, 718 and 992 respectively until the end of July when the switch to half hourly unmetered supply takes place. Mrs Wilson proposed renewing with SSE until end July 2025, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to renew with SSE.

31. Request from the BCKLWN to fund a Community Information Point (CIP) – Mr Storey apologised and said he had omitted to discuss this matter at the last Edmund de Moundeford Trust meeting but would ensure it was on the next meeting's agenda. Mr Lambert proposed the Parish Council cover the broadband costs for the next three months pending a decision from the Trust, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Churchwarden.

32. Bins – Bins have been emptied. Chair said the doors on bins at Addisons and Bell Street had been left open on several occasions. Clerk to speak to BCKLWN.

33. Request for Donation towards Year 6 Prom – Mr Lambert proposed donating £100 towards the Year 6 Litter Pick, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise the Prom Committee.

34. Tree Survey – Clerk read three quotations from S P Landscapes, Golden Tree Surgeons and Gavin Jones Ltd. Mrs McGeeney proposed accepting S P Landscapes quotation of £475 + VAT as it was the most cost competitive, Mrs Peacock seconded, all in favour. Chair asked if the tree on the island at Lodge Road/Old Methwold Road junction could be included as it had recently been damaged. Clerk to enquire.

35. Request to Change the Date of June Parish Council Meeting – Clerk asked if the June meeting could be postponed to 17th June due to holiday commitments. Mr Storey proposed postponing the June meeting to 17th June, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk thanked Councillors for this.

36. Request from Feltwell Community Group re Village Fete on Saturday 21st June 2025 and Picnic in the Park on Sunday 27th July 2025 – Mrs Wilson, as Chair of Feltwell Community Group, requested use of the Changing Rooms for both events. Mr Lambert proposed allowing FCG use of the Changing Rooms for both events at a rate of £27.50, Mr Storey seconded, all in favour. Mrs Wilson said FCG were a non-profit entity with donations from last year's fete being made to the Feltwellbeings, Feltwell Playgroup and Feltwell Brownies, and asked if the Council would be willing to contribute to the running costs of this year's fete. Mrs Peckham proposed the Council pay for the sound system as per last year at £300 + VAT and asked for the invoice to be made to Feltwell Parish Council so that VAT could be reclaimed, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Mrs Wilson thanked the Council for this.

37. VE80 – Chair requested use of the Changing Rooms for the RBL VE80 event on Sunday 4th May. Mr Storey proposed allowing the RBL use of the Changing Rooms for this event, free of charge, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Chair thanked Councillors for this.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

38. Increase in BCKLWN Dog Bin Emptying Charges 2025/26 – Clerk had received notification that dog bin emptying charges were increasing from £1.96/bin/week to £4.22/bin/week for 2025/26. Furthermore, invoices will be issued at the beginning of the financial year rather than at the end although there was an option to pay by direct debit over 10 months at no extra charge. Clerk had circulated an email from Cllr Jim Moriarty apologising for the late notification which was because increases could not be confirmed until the Borough Council's budget had been agreed. It read that in future, draft figures could be shared by late November and that he would endeavour to do better. Mr Lambert proposed sending a letter of complaint to the Borough Council for not making Parish Councils aware of the increase in time for precepts to be set, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Mrs Peckham proposed paying the invoice by direct debit, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Direct debit mandate was signed and Clerk to write letter of complaint to Borough Council.

39. Large Scale Fly Tipping of Tyres at Oulsham Drive – Mr Fenn felt the recent fly-tipping of two x 30 tonne artic lorry loads of very old tyres on private and public land should be minuted and said he was disgusted that people get away with this sort of behaviour.

CORRESPONDENCE

40. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; 2025/26 Non Domestic Rates Bill for Changing Rooms (exempt); Alistair Beales, Council Leader - Devolution Briefings; Planning Committee Meeting 3rd April Arrangements to accommodate additional members of the public; Beach cleanup updates following the tanker collision; MHCLG Housing Delivery Test Result Recalculation; TEN 25/00361/LA_TEN; Change of Property Address from 'Glenavon' to 'Olive Cottage' at 48 Wilton Road

41. NCC - Road Closures: Black Dyke Road, 160m south of junction with Corkway Drove for 50m southwards 12-18/3/25 for fire hydrant repair; Wilton Road, 20m south of junction with Paynes Lane for 50m southwards 16-18/4/25 for new connection works. **Press Release**: Public Info Notice: Next of kin appeal (Ruth Shephard); New Independent Chair joins Norfolk Adults Safeguarding Board. **Other**: Email - Kay Mason Billig - Local Government Review in Norfolk; Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan: Publication of Inspector's Report

42. RAF Lakenheath - Email - **Notification of operations at RAF Feltwell**: 27/3/25 - Demolition training, 8 am - 5 pm. **Other**: Email - Vikki Quamina - Local VE Day Official plans/Celebrations; Joan Mann Special Sports Day 5/6/25

43. Helen Goddard-Nickols - Email - An email request had been received from Mrs Goddard-Nickols to hold a two-hour Pilates session at the playing field on 20th May including use of toilets, as her usual venue was not available that day. Clerk had circulated her email to the Councillors and Mr Fenn had proposed allowing Mrs Goddard-Nickols use of the toilets at a charge of £5.00, 8 Councillors were in favour.

44. Stuart Samuels - Email - Clerk read Mr Samuel's email of 13th April which confirmed his email request of 6th June 2024 to hire the playing field on 17th May for the car show (agreed, in principle, at the Parish Council meeting held last June). He had also attached a signed, amended version of last year's contract which was deemed invalid as contracts cannot be self-amended. Following last year's event, it was felt two clauses should be added to the contract; all exits must be kept clear and not sealed off; any cabling must be covered to avoid trip hazards. As there is one more football game, it was debated whether cars should be permitted to drive over the pitch. If the same volume of vehicles are expected to attend as in previous years, avoidance of the football pitch would be impossible so Mrs Peckham would try to find out if the football team's last game scheduled for 25th May could be brought forward or played away otherwise extreme care must be taken by all vehicles when driving over the pitch and any damage must be repaired. Mr Lambert proposed allowing Mr Samuels to hire the Changing Rooms at the standard fee of £27.50 and issuing a new contract to include the terms stated above, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 3 in favour, 4 against. Clerk to amend contract and issue new one to Mr Samuels.

45. Norfolk Police – Email - SNAP Meeting – 16th April @ Marshland St James

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

- 46. Rural Services Network – Email – Bulletins
- 47. TWR Accountants – Email – April Tax Tips
- 48. URM – Email – Bottle bank emptying price increase of 3% from 1/4/26
- 49. Biffa – Email – Waste Transfer Note
- 50. Kevin Bacon, RLS Computers – Email – Website & Email Hosting Promotion
- 51. Keep Britain Tidy – Email – Request for info on how Councils are supporting #GBSpringClean
- 52. Elancity – Letter – Promoting road safety products
- 53. Creative Play – Email – Promotion of play equipment
- 54. Tapping House – Email – Help to Promote Recruitment Day for King's Lynn Shop
- 55. Brochures - Parish Magazine

56. CHEQUES/PAYMENTS – Mr Lambert proposed approving the payments, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Payments were approved and cheques signed for J Martin £152.37, S Sargent £185.46, D Wilkinson £45.80, John Rolph £50.00, HMRC £312.78, Norfolk Tractors £360.00 (reissue of mislaid cheque), K&M Lighting £276.00, R H Landscapes £468.00, Norfolk ALC £483.50, Hugh Harris t/a Fresh Air Fitness £518.40, Feltwell PCC £50.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £183.00, British Gas £191.48, Vodafone £29.26. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £100.21, J Martin £1082.38. A direct debit mandate form was signed for BCKLWN for 2025/26 dog bin fees

57. PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

58. Volunteer Litter Pick – Clerk had received a request from a resident wishing to undertake voluntary litter picking around the village.

59. Hazardous Waste Event – Mr Storey reminded Councillors of the next event taking place in Thetford 25th and 26th April.

60. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – 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 pay reviews for the Litter Collector and Handyman.

Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 12th May 2025 at the British Legion at 7.00 pm (accounts on view from 6.45 pm) followed by the Annual Meeting of Parish Council.

Meeting declared closed 9.55 pm.
