

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 16th day of JUNE 2025 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Lambert, Rayner and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Wilson. Ms Quamina (Community Relations Advisor, RAF Lakenheath), Mr Atterwill (Constituency Caseworker for Terry Jermy MP) and 3 members of the public were also in attendance.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Fenn, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock and Mrs Peckham.

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. Mr Storey abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 10 minutes for Public Speaking.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Ms Quamina read Sqn Leader Eaton's report as he was absent again. She read that following the EDP article published 10th May regarding Terry Jermy MP's interest in Trenchard Square, it had been confirmed that the housing, owned and managed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), is due for disposal. During Public Speaking, Mr Atterwill said he and Mr Jermy had visited Trenchard Square and met with the DIO Director of Housing. He said that out of the 15 houses situated there, only 6 or 7 were in good enough condition for immediate occupancy but the rest need significant refurbishment work. Al Carns, Minister for Veterans and People at the MOD, had suggested they could be occupied by people on the housing register. Mr Atterwill said Mr Jermy was keen to see the houses put back into use and there are ongoing discussions to benefit local people. Mr Storey appreciated Mr Jermy's involvement but said he should have engaged with the Parish Council on this matter and a Council representative should have been invited to attend the visit. He said the Council had been pursuing this matter for numerous years, had more local knowledge and would also have been able to provide a wealth of background information. Mr Atterwill did not agree. Mrs Wilson said a resident had recently attended a Parish Council meeting to enquire about empty housing on Trenchard Square and Portal Close which was another reason why the Council should have been involved in the visit, so it could carry out its duty to keep parishioners informed. Ms Quamina said Mr Atterwill knew more than she did on the matter. On other matters, she said the DIO had completed various remedial tree work in and around RAF Feltwell and the Clerk had been notified that the tree on Portal Close was being felled 22nd July. Ms Quamina said enquiries had been made with the RAF Safety Centre (Noise & Vibration Division) regarding the provision of new noise contours for RAF Lakenheath. Unfortunately, and despite the arrival of new aircraft types, there are no immediate plans to update the existing information. Lastly, a Change of Command ceremony had taken place on 4th June and Lt Col Danielle Amason handed over command to Maj Ian Weller. Mr Storey said more and more residents were complaining about noise and possible damage to their properties caused by the demolitions and asked her to relay the Parish Council's concerns to the RAF Commander. He could not understand why EOD activity could not take place at Stanta which was not in a residential area and had acres of land. Chair said the Council had put this matter to the previous MP and although it had been discussed at MOD level, it had been quickly dismissed by USAF representatives. Mr Storey asked if Mr Jermy could assist with this matter and Ms Quamina said she would take the Council's concerns back to the RAF Commander. Ms Quamina departed the meeting at 8.07 pm.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

2. Risk Assessment – **Weekly:** Handyman had continued to trim back overgrowth from the playing field entrances and cut down the Pyracantha near the telegraph pole. No issues had been reported. **Annual Inspection:** Undertaken by Wicksteed on 6th June. Clerk circulated report. No concerns as items were either Very Low or Low Risk but the hoop top fence was again identified as needing a repaint and she reminded Councillors that Mr Cock still had four panels which had been removed to make way for the skate park. Clerk will speak to Handyman about other items.
3. Balance Sheet – No queries.
3. Allotment Pest Control – April, May and June reports received and Mr Cole said he hadn't seen any vermin recently. Mr Storey said he had been notified that some bait boxes were empty so had contacted the contractor who said he carries out weekly checks, doesn't rebait each box every time and concentrated more on where the poison was being taken up. Chair asked the Clerk to obtain a location map of the bait boxes in time for the allotment walkabout next week.
5. NALC – Weekly updates circulated upon receipt.
6. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Continue to monitor wall. Mr Cole was concerned about a large patch of nettles in the fenced-in area so Mr Lambert will meet him there to see what can be done.
7. Highways – **2 Oak Street:** Widening scheme ongoing. **Southery Road:** Mrs Wilson was pleased some repairs had taken place but astounded that one large segment of road had been left despite being directly in front of a section that had been repaired. **Billboards:** Mr Storey said he had spent a while with the proprietor whilst he had measured the edge of the billboard to the edge of the pavement. The gap was 4½ feet and he had agreed with him that this was ample space for a wheelchair or pushchair to pass through. **Bell Street Parking:** Continue to monitor. **Other Matters:** Clerk to write to developers to remove greenery obscuring road sign. Short Beck has been patched but some areas are still quite bad. Weeds have either died or been sprayed along the alleyway from Paynes Lane to High Street.
8. Overhanging Greenery – **50 Wilton Road:** Highways will contact the owner after nesting season. **Sparkes Way:** Resident emailed to say he had brought forward his routine hedge cut to 2nd June.
9. SAM2 Data – Chair had not obtained any data but would endeavour to do so this week.
10. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Ongoing. Clerk to email a location map to Terry Jermy MP and resend an email of 3rd September 2024 which she had had no response to.
11. Damage to Playing Field Entrance, 2nd June 2024 – Mr Fenn had put plainings down. Clerk said DAC Beachcroft had made a 74% recovery for the claim.
12. Empty Freebridge Houses – Clerk had been advised by the Voids Team that 20 Lodge Road was occupied however 21 Old Methwold Road required extensive work and was with the Options Appraisal Team. Mrs Edwards said Freebridge had a lot of empty properties requiring substantial work. Clerk to furnish Mr Atterwill with empty Freebridge properties as they become unoccupied.
13. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – Structural report still awaited on concrete columns.
14. High Street Parking – Mr Storey said the Safety Team's suggestion of shaving off the build-outs on High Street and Long Lane would make little difference. The proprietor of Central Garage had informed Mr Storey that if the High Street build-out were to be completed removed, he would fence off his grassed area. There were numerous cars parked on the High Street build-out over the

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

weekend making it very difficult for drivers exiting Long Lane and Short Beck to see oncoming traffic. Clerk to contact Jay Moore and Mr Atterwill suggested copying in Tom McCabe, Director of Highways and Terry Jermy MP to escalate this matter.

15. Tree – Clerk said the owner of 30 Lodge Road had replied stating the obstruction was in fact an uncontrolled growth of ivy originating from a neighbouring property, believed to be No.28, which he clears on an annual basis when the birds have stopped nesting. He was happy to meet with a Councillor to look at this matter further so Chair agreed to meet him. Clerk to arrange.

16. To Consider Request from Gray's Funfair – Clerk said Mr Gray had asked to visit in October but she had informed him this was not possible due to the football season. He asked the Clerk to contact him again should a weekend became available when no games were scheduled.

17. To Consider Request for New Street Light in Mulberry Close – Clerk read an email from Rob Haigh confirming that a licence agreement over a small area of land would not meet the threshold for the Borough Council to serve a S123 LGA 1972 Notice in terms of having to undertake a statutory advertising process for a “disposal”. He had attached a copy of the land transfer to Freebridge which included rights granted and reserved, and said from his perspective, the potential for a small area of land for a single streetlight to cause an issue in terms of rights granted and reserved was unlikely. The Borough Council would support the issue of a licence providing their legal and surveyor fees (£750 + VAT and £350 respectively) were covered. The Clerk had spoken to K&M Lighting who said a light could be installed between the properties but locating the mains service might be expensive. The solar street light installed last year along Oak Street had cost £2330 + VAT. The resident requesting the new street light spoke during Public Speaking and asked what the Parish Council intended to do as he would like a street light installed by October. Mr Atterwill who had met with the resident on behalf of Mr Jermy who supported his request also spoke and suggested contacting UKPN to ascertain where the nearest connection point is and to obtain a cost for connection. He thought a 5m column with LED light c/w dimmer would cost approx. £1500 + VAT. Mr Lambert said the Council had already set its budget and precept for 2025/26 which was being paid in two instalments but it was something that could be considered for next year. Mr Atterwill said it could be funded by CIL monies and Mr Storey's Member's Budget, and suggested contacting Freebridge to see if they would contribute. Mr Rayner proposed obtaining further cost information, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to obtain further costs and contact Freebridge.

18. To Consider Request for New Bus Stop outside Manor Park Estate – Clerk said new stop has been installed. She had tried to ascertain from NCC which bus companies would operate it and as she had had no response, had contacted Coach Services who informed her that it would not be a public service and would only accommodate the Icen Academy school children. She said this was not what NCC had said when she had first enquired about installing one. Consideration to be given to installing a bus shelter via the new bus shelter scheme (see Item 32) and Parish Partnership.

19. Land Behind Feltwell Surgery – Clerk had received the requested information from Feltwell Surgery and forwarded on to Mr Hawkins. She had tried to contact him on numerous occasions since for an update to no avail so will ring him this week.

20. Changing Rooms – Chair and Mrs Peckham still to look at heating options.

21. Hill Street – Highways will deal with overgrowth along Hill Street. Mr Storey said there would be two weed kill sprays this year.

22. Climbing Wall Opportunity – Application had been refused but Finding Fitness had suggested rewording the application. Clerk had resubmitted application 3rd June.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

23. White-Lining – Clerk said Highways are still unable to give a date due to the sheer number of defects and reliance on weather conditions. Once an order is handed over, the contractor has 12 weeks to complete it (plus extensions for bad weather etc).

24. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey spoke of the Government's intention to replace existing county and district councils in England with fewer, unitary councils delivering all services in their area. He said the planning system would be affected as the current planning committee could be reduced to only 8 members, none of whom might live locally to an application. There will be no call-in system therefore less opportunity for local representations as well. A consultation is running from 28th May until 23rd July for councils to submit their views to central Government. Further information can be found on the NCC and Borough Council websites.

25. Review Financial Regulations – Clerk apologised and said she would bring recommendations to the next meeting.

26. Request from the BCKLWN to fund a Community Information Point (CIP) – Mr Storey said the Edmund de Moundeford Trust had agreed to fund the CIP's broadband after the Parish Council's three month funding period ended. Clerk to obtain further information from the Churchwarden.

27. Tree Survey – S P Landscapes to carry out the survey 17th June.

28. Increase in BCKLWN Dog Bin Emptying Charges 2025/26 – Clerk had written letter of complaint to Cllr Jim Moriarty about the late notification of the increased charges and copied in Borough Councillors Mr Storey and Mr Lawrence. Cllr Moriarty had then called the Clerk to ask what sort of response the Council was expecting. Chair thought he had read that the Borough Council were offering to supply and install dog bins for £250. Clerk to investigate.

29. Stuart Samuels, Car Show, 17th May – Clerk read email from Mr Samuels who advised the car show had raised £1678.85 which had been donated to Feltwell Playgroup. He asked to hire the field for the 6th car show to be held on 16th May 2026. Agreed to put in the diary.

30. Audit – Approve Accounts – Clerk has sent AGAR to external auditors and the public rights notice will be displayed until 14th July.

31. List of Parish Council Meeting Dates & No August Meeting Proposal – A decision on whether there should be an August meeting to be made at the next meeting.

32. New Funding Initiative to Support Bus Shelter Installations Across Norfolk – Clerk to obtain costs for a new shelter. The new scheme funds 80% of the total project costs. Clerk to check if the Parish Partnership Scheme would fund the balance and also ascertain when the scheme ends. Even though only a few school children would benefit from the new shelter at Long Lane, it was felt consideration should be given to any funding opportunity.

33. To Review Changing Rooms User Agreement & Rates for Feltwell United FC – Mrs Edwards proposed including clauses that had been added earlier in the year whilst reviewing the agreement for the Car Show, i.e. Accidents/ Damage to Any Property, Fire Safety and General Safety, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Mr Storey proposed rents remain the same, i.e. £27.50/game for Senior and Veteran teams, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Feltwell FC United. Chair felt the Football Club needed to tidy areas as per the agreement and Mrs Edwards offered to police this.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

34. Request to Re-Design Falcon Road Playing Field Entrance – At the last meeting, a resident asked if the playing field entrance from Falcon Road could be widened for wheelchair access. Clerk to arrange date for Councillors to look at this.

35. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – An email had been received from a resident asking if something could be done about Hill Street junctions with St Mary's/The Beck which he deemed very dangerous as the Give Way sign is regularly ignored. Clerk informed him the Council had met with Highways several times which only resulted in the Give Way sign being moved forward. The resident had then asked if he could approach Terry Jermy MP independently about this matter which the Clerk advised he was free to do. Mr Jermy had forwarded the resident's email to Tom McCabe, Chief Executive at NCC, stating that although he appreciated Highways budget constraints, a more practical solution must be sought. Mr McCabe had responded, agreeing that alternative measures needed exploring to improve safety. To enhance awareness and compliance, he said an additional advance Give Way sign on Hill Street could be installed, accompanied by a SLOW road marking to prompt caution. He recommended a review of the current road markings and said the junction markings are also worn and the NO ENTRY markings are positioned within Hill Street rather than on the main carriageway (The Beck/St Mary's Street) side of the Give Way lines. He said a refresh and adjustment would provide a clearer arrangement and that Highways would take this forward. Chair said the whole junction needed re-designing and signage should be displayed where St Mary's Street met The Beck. Mr Storey agreed and said the current one-way system drives traffic into traffic both at this junction and the Long Lane and Short Beck junctions with High Street. He said common sense is needed and someone must come out and look at what is happening on a daily basis. Mr Atterwill said Mr Jermy would be pleased to do this which Mr Storey felt would put some weight behind the Council's persistent requests for action. Clerk to arrange.

CORRESPONDENCE

36. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; RTS switch off in June; Planning Parish Update Sessions Reminder; Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy Review; New Dog Waste Bin Application Form; Possible issues with Public Access to Planning portal 11/6/25. **News Release:** Business support goes rural

37. NCC - **Email:** Tom McCabe, Chief Exec - Local Government Reorganisation. **Road Closures:** Lime Kiln Lane from High Street junction to Short Lane junction 27-9/6/25 for new connection works; Southery Road junction with Black Drove for 1100m south-eastwards 4-6/6/25 for patching works, 20 mph speed restriction; Emergency Temporary Road Closure of Hythe Road, Methwold 9-13/6/25 for burst water main. **Press Releases:** 'Unearthed: The Power of Gardening' display opens at Gressenhall before touring Norfolk libraries; New campaign aims to help older people to drive safely for longer; Rural Community Project Fund opens for 2025/26; Council seeks new investment into social care estate. **Other:** Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Notice of Adoption

38. RAF Lakenheath - Email - **Notification of operations at RAF Feltwell:** Explosive training - 15/5/25, 8.30 am - 4 pm, 3 shots and 28/5/25, 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm, 5 shots. **Other:** 100 ARW Change of Command Invitation

39. Rural Services Network – Email – Bulletins

40. Zurich – Emails - Getting Summer Ready; Supporting town, community and parish councils

41. CPRE Norfolk – Email - Invitation to join Anti Mega Solar Alliance

42. Sunshine Gym – Letter – Promotion of gym and playground equipment

43. Creative Play – Email – Promotion of services (playground equipment and funding)

44. Sovereign – Email – Promotion of playground surfacing products

45. Defib Supplies – Email - Advertising

46. NBB – Email – Promotion of outdoor furniture

47. Plantscape – Email – Solar Powered Christmas Trees

48. Brochures - Parish Magazine

49. CHEQUES/PAYMENTS – Mr Lambert proposed approving the payments, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Payments were approved and cheques signed for J Martin £107.36, S Sargent £141.44, D Wilkinson £95.25, J Rolph £150.00, R H Landscapes £936.00, Wicksteed £180.00, BCKLWN £70.00, L Palmer £700.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £183.00, BCKLWN £237.27, British Gas £101.29, Vodafone £31.14. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £100.21, J Martin £1082.38.

50. PLANNING

There were no planning applications. Clerk reminded everyone of the forthcoming Planning sessions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

51. Bulk-Tipping in Dog Bins – This is becoming an issue again. Clerk to put post on the Council's Facebook page asking people not to do this and advising that bagged dog waste can also be disposed of in domestic black bins and any litter bins around the village.

52. Recycling Credits – Clerk said £370.49 had been received.

53. Overgrowing Greenery – Greenery needs cutting back along Long Lane near Feltwell Chinese as the bin is almost obscured. Hedges belonging to properties in Nightingale Lane, Short Beck, The Beck, Long Lane and Western Close also need attention after the nesting season.

54. Village Fete – Mrs Wilson reminded everyone that the village fete was this Saturday and said Feltwell Community Group would appreciate Councillors' support.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 14th July 2025 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 9.40 pm.
