

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST 2025 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Messrs Cole, Lambert, Rayner and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Edwards, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peckham. Ms Quamina (Community Relations Advisor, RAF Lakenheath) and 3 members of the public were also in attendance.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Mr Fenn, Mrs Peacock and Mrs Wilson.

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. Mr Cole proposed, Mrs Edwards seconded, 5 in favour. Mr Storey abstained having not been present.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** No matters were raised by the public.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

1. RAF Feltwell – Ms Quamina read Sqn Leader Eaton’s report. F15’s and F35’s are currently deployed in support of ongoing US operations. The Combat Readiness Exercise at RAF Lakenheath on 25-28<sup>th</sup> August will impact Feltwell with sirens, alarms and public addresses during the day and night. Ms Quamina said this was a training exercise and not a real world emergency and would furnish the Clerk with public statements and social media material to make residents aware. She would like to involve residents as well as Councillors in the EOD visit, possibly in the Autumn. Clerk had still not heard from Roger Atterwill regarding the impact of EOD activities on residents. Ms Quamina contacted the Clerk in late July regarding complaints of vehicles obstructing DIO access to the sewage works on Leonards Lane. Clerk had contacted the landowner who said the obstruction was caused by a member of the public and that the map sent to illustrate the location was incorrect as it stated the river bank was a dog walking area. Mr Storey, who owns the river bank, was extremely disappointed by this, particularly if the map was in the public domain, and asked Ms Quamina to investigate where it had originated from. Ms Quamina said she would do this and departed the meeting at 7.43 pm.

2. Risk Assessment – **Weekly:** Graffiti reported on teen shelter but no other issues. Clerk had noticed the surfacing underneath the cantilever swing was badly damaged and said it needed urgent attention before it got worse. It was only installed September 2024 and had a 5-year warranty so the Playing Field Committee will look at this and try to ascertain if damage was deliberate. Clerk felt there were a few items on the annual playing field report that the Committee should look at and was also obtaining a price for cleaning the equipment and benches to be done after the school holidays. Committee to meet at the field asap.

3. Balance Sheet – No queries. £10,000 transferred from the BSA to CA.

4. Allotment Pest Control – Clerk said contractor had collected his bait boxes and thanked the Council for their business over the years. The Allotment Management Committee had discussed quotes for a new vermin control contractor at a meeting held 22/7/25 and awarded the contract to Command Pest Control at £560 + VAT per annum plus a one-off charge of £360 + VAT for 20 bait boxes which will remain Parish Council property, commencing August 2025.

5. NALC – Weekly updates circulated upon receipt.

**MATTERS ARISING (CONT)**

6. Playing Field Boundary Wall – Continue to monitor.

7. Highways – 2 Oak Street: Widening scheme ongoing. **Bell Street Parking**: Clerk had reported the blue Audi TT to the DVLA. The owner also parks a white van on the green space and as both vehicles are causing obstructions for the grass cutters, Clerk will write to the owner requesting they are moved for grass cutting. **Weed Spraying**: Hill Street is grossly overgrown in places so Clerk will report to Highways again. Chair said it was difficult to tell if weeds had been sprayed or had just died in the recent hot spell. **White Lining**: Some areas have been done but Clerk to enquire about other areas such as The Beck, Oak Street and Paynes Lane junctions.

8. Overhanging Greenery – 50 Wilton Road: Clerk to request Highways take action and contact the owner as soon as nesting season is over. Years ago, the owner agreed with Highways that the hedge could protrude his boundary to protect his young children playing in the garden but it has now grown way over the boundary. Mr Lambert proposed obtaining the title deeds to ascertain whether a stipulation had been added, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 5 in favour, 1 against. Clerk to obtain title deeds. **Other Areas**: Clerk said developers are going to completely remove the greenery growing around the bin in the next fortnight whilst installing a fence around the site. She had written to other properties as stated in Minute 1911 Item 33 and several residents had responded. Chair and Mrs McGeeney had tried to visit those residents to address their issues. Mrs Peckham suggested asking the USAF to assist with this as part of their community service scheme. Chair to contact Ms Quamina. Mrs McGeeney said greenery was growing over the road in some areas and the boundary line was unclear. Clerk to write to Freebridge to remove the overgrowth. Clerk to write to properties on Falcon Road whose greenery is obstructing the alleyway to the playing field.

9. SAM2 Data – Chair had not managed to obtain any data.

10. Iron Bridge & Track – Anchor Ward – Ongoing, still no response from Terry Jermy MP.

11. Damage to Playing Field Entrance, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 – Mr Fenn was not present but the entrance is now finished.

12. Empty Freebridge Houses – Clerk had had no response from Terry Jermy MP re 21 Methwold Road. Clerk to continue to pursue with Freebridge.

13. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – Clerk had spoken to the structural engineer who promised this would be completed within the next month.

14. Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck (formerly High Street Parking) – Clerk read response from Jay Moore, dated 1/8/25, which stated that following his visit with Andy Wallace to view the junction, he would arrange the following: (1) a further visit by the Network Safety Team focusing on visibility and junction priority (2) a re-examination of the feasibility of altering the junction layout and priority in consultation with design and safety teams and (3) explore potential funding routes such as the Parish Partnership Scheme if a suitable design is identified. Mr Storey felt this was half a step forward and felt the Council should be included in the reassessment visit. Mr Lambert agreed and said this matter must be pursued. Clerk to write to Jay Moore.

15. Tree – Chair had not yet met with the owner of 28 Lodge Road.

16. To Consider Request for New Street Light in Mulberry Close – UKPN'S quote to connect supply was £3640 + VAT which Chair said was incorrect as their plan depicted the street light in the wrong location. He had been to measure the actual distance to the correct location which was at least another 27m away and would increase the cost considerably. Whilst there, he had by chance seen the resident who advised he no longer wished to pursue his request due to personal reasons

**MATTERS ARISING (CONT)**

and lack of support from the MP although Freebridge's Health & Safety Advisor would still be visiting in October. Clerk had asked Freebridge to furnish the resident with their response but as he had not yet received this, the Chair advised him of their stance on providing a street light.

17. Land Behind Feltwell Surgery – Clerk had received a draft template from Mr Hawkins which Mr Lambert said he would look over.

18. Changing Rooms – Chair and Mrs Peckham had discovered there was no electric supply to any of the changing areas so will now meet with a heating engineer to discuss feasible options.

19. Climbing Wall Opportunity – Still waiting to hear if application has been successful.

20. White-Lining – See Item 8.

21. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said the main topic was local government reorganisation and a decision had to be reached by 26/9/25. NCC full council will meet to discuss all information gathered but financial implications indicate a preference towards a single unitary council. Borough Council prefer a two-three tier unitary council but he said Norfolk residents' consultation results will be of utmost importance to both council's decisions. NCC voted against solar farms, pylons and reservoirs consuming agricultural land. He reiterated that as well as a Member's Allowance, each Borough Councillor also has a fund of £1000 as well as a Norfolk Community Fund of £5000 to support community projects. All information can be found on the NCC and BC websites.

22. Review Financial Regulations – Ongoing.

23. Tree Survey – Clerk read quotations for tree work from David Peckham, SP Landscapes and Golden Tree Surgeons. The most cost competitive was Mr Peckham at £1100 including grinding the felled tree's stump. Mr Lambert proposed awarding Mr Peckham the work at £1100, Mr Storey seconded, 7 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained. Clerk to advise Mr Peckham.

24. Audit – Approve Accounts – Awaiting External Audit report.

25. New Funding Initiative to Support Bus Shelter Installations Across Norfolk – Clerk said the planning officer did not recommend removing Lodge Road bus shelter as it would run the risk of the developer arguing there was not one to replace and weaken the Council's position to secure a relocated/replaced shelter. Chair had inspected the shelter with Mrs McGeeney and said it just needed sweeping out although the Perspex panels were in poor condition. Mrs Peckham proposed removing the front Perspex panels, provided it was safe to do so and left no sharp edges, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. Clerk to speak to Handyman.

Mrs Edwards departed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

26. Request to Re-Design Falcon Road Playing Field Entrance – Clerk, Mr Cole and Mr Fenn had met with two contractors and felt that removing the existing wooden gate posts and adjusting the gate to open onto the field would be the most straight-forward and cost-effective way to allow mobility scooters to access the field. Clerk is meeting a third contractor this week. Mrs Peckham said the ground may need levelling afterwards.

27. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – Clerk had still not heard from Terry Jermy MP regarding an on-site meeting but the white-lining had at least been renewed.

28. Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26 – Deadline of 1/12/25 for applications.

### **MATTERS ARISING (CONT)**

29. Request for Changing Room Items (Mirror & Sanitary Bin) – As the cleaner did not wish to empty sanitary bins, Clerk had contacted Norfolk Washrooms for a quote. They had quoted £156/year for two bins on a four weekly emptying service including the installation, service, maintenance and duty of care transfer note. This was felt very reasonable but as it was only for two bins, Clerk will obtain a quote for three to accommodate the disabled toilet.

30. Review and Adoption of NALC IT Policy – Ongoing.

31. Lodge Road Junction – Clerk read Jay Moore's response which stated that a desktop assessment by the road safety team would be undertaken to understand historical and recent accident data to ascertain if a formal feasibility study was needed. If so, funding would have to be externally funded and he encouraged the Council to investigate viable funding options should the need arise. Once the desktop assessment has been finalised, he will arrange an onsite visit. Mr Lambert felt cutting verges around this junction would greatly improve visibility and the Chair questioned whether NCC's current schedule of three cuts a year around junctions was adequate.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

32. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; Cllr Alistair Beales (Leader) - Future Norfolk: Town & Parish Council Briefing July 2025, 7/8/25 & 11/9/25 (and updated version); TEN 25/00813/LA\_TEN 43.

33. NCC - **Email:** Richard Greaves, Head of Planning - FUL/2021/0011 Methwold Farm, Methwold IP26 4DU: Non-compliance with conditions 1, 2 & 3 of permission C/2/2017/2003: Warren Energy Ltd (Refused) and FUL/2021/0013 Warren Energy Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Methwold Farm, Methwold, IP26 4DU: Part Retrospective Application to retain bund, post and wire fence, and use of existing hardstanding/track for access/egress to the liquid digestate storage tank; proposed partial use of southern access road (to and from the B1112 Lodge Road): Warren Energy Ltd (Refused); Community Diversity Awards. **Road Closures:** Wilton Road from Paynes Lane junction for 50m north for pipe repair works, 28-30/7/25; Methwold - Main Road from 40m northwest of The Avenue junction for 20m north-west for new water connection works, 28-31/7/25

34. RAF Lakenheath - Emails - **Notification of operations at RAF Feltwell:** Emergency Detonations 4/8/25, 4 pm, 1 shot; 5/8/25, 10.30am-4 pm, 1 shot. **Other:** 48th Fighter Wing - Civic Leaders Tour 17/9/25 - Save the Date

35. Rural Services Network - Email - Bulletins

36. TWR Accountants - Email - August Tax Tips

37. RLS Computers - Email - Last Chance for Free Norfolk ALC Website Transfers

38. Community Action Norfolk - Email - Newsletter

39. Wicksteed - Email - Newsletter

40. Creative Play – Email - Promotion of playground equipment

41. Brochures - Parish Magazine

42. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the payments, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Payments were approved and cheques signed for S Sargent £124.59, D Wilkinson £48.85, R H Landscapes £936.00, J Rolph £50.00, J Martin £50.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £255.74, BCKLWN £237.27, British Gas £24.86, SSE £1197.78, Vodafone £31.14. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1111.85. Clerk advised a Direct Debit of £85.74 to Anglian Water had been taken in July but the invoice had not been received in time for last month's meeting

### **43. PLANNING**

**25/01179/F: Construction of Garage for Domestic Use at 96 Lodge Road, Feltwell** – No concerns, 6 in favour, Mr Storey abstained – SUPPORT.

### **PLANNING (CONT)**

**25/00324/CU: Change of Use from a Public House to a Mixed Use Community Centre, Café and Place of Workshop at 36 Hill Street** - Chair asked Mr Storey to relay his disgust to the Borough Council that yet again the Planning Committee had not followed the rules. It had been categorically stated that if the planning officer's views were against that of the Parish Council's then the application would go to the Sifting Panel however this had not been the case for this application which, despite the Parish Council's objection, was granted under a delegated decision and not referred to the Sifting Panel. Mr Storey said he was unsure if the policy still applied but assured the Chair that the Parish Council was a very important consultee and that he would look into this.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

44. Highways – Clerk said she had referred a resident's complaint about the state of a footpath in Mulberry Close to Highways who had scheduled it for urgent repair.

45. Spar – Mr Lambert had been asked by the proprietor who to contact regarding installing disabled bays outside the front of his shop. Mrs McGeeney questioned who would police this and Mr Storey said that unfortunately limited parking options was the nature of three businesses all situated along the same small stretch of road and there was nothing that could be done.

46. Request from Feltwell United FC – Clerk read a request from the Secretary of Feltwell Utd FC for the football pitch to be spiked and rolled following damage caused by village events earlier this year. Mr Lambert said it had been dry during all the events but Mrs Peckham said it could be seen where vehicles had driven over the pitch. Clerk to ask grass contractors for a price.

47. Remembrance Sunday 9/11/25 – Chair said NCC are now charging for road closures for Remembrance Sunday parades which had never been the case and the British Legion were no longer allowed to pay for marshalls or road closure signs. NALC had decreed Parish Councils should finance these costs. Mr Lambert asked the Chair to provide costs in the first instance.

### **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

48. 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 9.48 pm. Chair proposed increasing the Clerk's pay as per the recommended NALC pay scale, backdated to April 2025, all agreed. He said the job role ought to be re-appraised as this hadn't been done in the 10 years the Clerk had been in the post. Mrs McGeeney proposed the re-assessing the Clerk's job role, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour. Clerk thanked the Councillors for this.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 9.55 pm.

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