

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 9th day of MARCH 2026 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert (Vice-Chair) and Storey (arrived 8.25 pm), Mrs Peacock, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson. Ms V Quamina (Community Relations Advisor, RAF Lakenheath) was also in attendance.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Edwards, Mrs McGeeney, Mr Rayner (Chair) and ~~Ms V Quamina (Community Relations Advisor, RAF Lakenheath).~~

Vice-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 Peacock seconded, 4 in favour.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: No members of the public were present.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Ms Quamina said the high tempo of 48FW operational activity had continued throughout February due to their support of several US foreign policy initiatives. The Wing will join over a dozen nations at Exercise Cold Response in Norway this month, a key component of NATO's defensive framework. Several airmen attended Feltwell Care Home in February supporting residents with games and engagement. 19 Feltwell residents including Mrs Edwards and Mrs Peacock attended the EOD tour in February which included a live demonstration, information on how the EOD team protect Wing personnel and resources from explosive hazards, and a close-up look at robots, bomb suits and specialized equipment. Mrs Peacock thanked Ms Quamina for organising it. The Clerk received positive feedback and had posted an attendee's report on the Council's Facebook page. Mr Cole asked how the situation in the Middle East would affect RAF Feltwell and Ms Quamina replied that security had been heightened and aircraft activity would increase. Mrs Wilson had seen a few posts on social media concerning plane-spotters parking along the B1112 outside RAF Lakenheath. Ms Quamina said the RAF Commander was aware of the issue and liaising with the Police. Ms Quamina departed the meeting at 7.42 pm.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** No issues although a lot of deep potholes were reported which MWM (Anglia) will fill with bitmac. Handyman still to investigate fence posts. Mrs Peckham said the gate at the Falcon Road entrance required oiling and the area onto the field needed building up with soil. Clerk to ask Handyman to oil spring and Mr Lambert offered to build up entrance.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – Command visited 25th February and the technician advised the Clerk that although they are contracted to attend every six weeks, more if necessary, the sudden departure of a member of staff had resulted in less frequent visits. Mr Cole was not impressed with their service and had offered to check the bait boxes between visits but agreed with Mr Storey that he should not have to do this. Bait had been taken from a couple of boxes which he had refilled using bait from other boxes. The technician had informed him that they were limited on which bait they could use as sheds are not classed as permanent buildings. Mr Lambert felt more frequent visits were necessary to monitor this situation. Clerk to contact Command.

5. **NALC** – Weekly updates circulated.

6. **Highways** – **2 Oak Street:** Still no confirmation from Andy Wallace that the widening scheme is still scheduled for 2026/27 therefore Mr Storey will investigate. **White Lining:** Scheduled for the new financial year with Feltwell being a priority. **Southery Road:** Clerk had heard nothing from Southery Parish Council but understood the Clerk had resigned suddenly. Signs have been erected along some parts of the road to warn drivers that it is dangerous in places. Mr Storey is meeting Mr Wallace this week so will update at the next meeting. **Short Beck:** Potholes have been filled.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Other: Clerk said she had enquired why some potholes had been repaired and others not (such as the large pothole on The Beck) and was told by Dan Jordan that all reported potholes are listed on the PMDA inspection carried out every six weeks but the inspector can deem it necessary to repair some before permanent repairs are made. Feltwell sign on Lodge Road still needs attention.

7. Overhanging Greenery – 50 Wilton Road: Clerk said Mr Wallace had emailed the owner.

Other: Hedges at 4 St John's Way and 2 Falcon Road have been cut.

8. SAM2 Data – No data available. The units have not been seen around the village which Councillors felt was a waste of resources. Chair to update at next meeting.

9. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – The six-monthly check on the cracked column at 20 Nightingale Lane was carried out by Frith Blake and no movement was detected.

10. Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck – Still no update from Mr Wallace. Mr Storey said Kevin Allen (Network Safety Team) was working on a scheme in conjunction with Mr Wallace. A large white van had been parked on the pavement all weekend.

11. Changing Rooms – Heating: Ongoing. Mrs Peckham said there had been no heating in the 'Home' changing room on Saturday. Clerk had checked the control panel and said it appeared to be working so would check again this weekend. **Fire Alarm:** Mrs Peckham said the fire alarm had gone off Saturday afternoon and the fire brigade had attended having been alerted, she assumed, by the installers. The Clerk said she had been notified but was out of the area so had contacted the Chair who had met them there shortly after. It was presumed the steam from the showers had triggered the alarm but Mrs Peckham questioned why this had not happened before. She said the Chair was going to contact CTS and furnish the football manager with a key to turn the alarm off if this happened again.

12. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – Still no update from Mr Wallace therefore Mr Storey will make some enquiries.

13. Lodge Road Junction – Still no response from Jason Moorse despite chasing him again for a date for signs and SLOW lining to be installed. Mr Storey said he would follow this up.

14. Winter Event (BCKLWN Beat Your Bills Roadshow) – Mrs Wilson said this had been a well-attended, successful event.

15. Trod – Installation work commenced today.

16. War Memorial Garden – Ongoing.

17. Grey's Funfair Visit Request – Still scheduled for w/c 25th May.

18. Dog Bin Issue – Clerk had circulated litter bin prices but then been informed by BCKLWN that dog waste was now not permitted in litter bins. It was agreed that another dog bin was required and should be sited on the grassed area at the bottom of The Beck. Clerk had obtained prices but recommended accepting the BCKLWN's price to supply and install one for £250 + VAT. Mrs Wilson proposed accepting BCKLWN's price of £250 + VAT, Mrs Peckham seconded, all in favour. Clerk to apply for street licence and liaise with BCKLWN.

19. Parish Councillor Vacancy – Mrs Laura Gowns was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Mr Storey arrived 8.25 pm.

20. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said NCC had withdrawn from commenting further on Government reorganisation/devolution as it deemed enough time and money had been spent on it. The budget had been agreed with no detrimental effect to Adult Social Care and Children's Services. Purdah starts on 27th March. Ward boundaries will change but Feltwell will not be affected. All information could be found on NCC and BC websites.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

21. Village Sign – Mr Lambert and Mrs Peckham met Mr Walden on 20th February and were confident that he would do an excellent job. He had removed the sign on Saturday but could not remove the post therefore would paint it in situ. Clerk said the flintwork needed repointing.

22. Feltwell Community Group Donation – Mrs Wilson said FCG wished to donate the cost of a recycled four-seater bench (£515) and fixing kit (27.80) and had applied to Mr Storey's Community Fund for £500 towards another one. MWM (Anglia) had offered to lay bases for both benches as a donation to the village. Mrs Wilson had received clarification from NCF that the funding could be transferred to the Parish Council so that the VAT element could be reclaimed. She and the Clerk will determine suitable locations and the Clerk will apply for street licences. Mr Lambert thanked FCG for their donation and Mr Storey for his funding. It was agreed to use funds from the USAF donation to fund the shortfall of £42.80.

23. Allotment Sign – Two signs had been purchased at £35 each and Mr Fenn will install.

24. Vodafone – Clerk said Openreach would reconnect this Friday.

25. Biffa – Clerk said she had contacted Biffa as they had not emptied the wheelie bin at St Nicholas Churchyard for over three weeks. They could not explain why but said they would carry out a complete site clearance tomorrow.

26. Internal Auditor Quotations – Clerk had received quotations from TWR Accountants, Wheelers and Stephenson Smart. Mr Cole proposed TWR Accountants undertake the internal audit at £425 + VAT, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact TWR Accountants.

27. Annual Operational Play Inspection Quotations – Clerk said this was due in June to coincide with quarterly inspections carried out in March, September and December by Online Playgrounds. She read quotations from Wicksteed, The Play Inspection Co and Safe Play. Mrs Wilson proposed Wicksteed carry out the inspection at £150 + VAT as they were the most cost competitive, Mrs Peacock seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Wicksteed.

28. Review Allotment Terms of Reference - The Council felt the current terms were still valid therefore Mrs Peckham proposed readopting them, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour. Allotment Terms of Reference were readopted.

CORRESPONDENCE

29. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'

30. RAF Lakenheath - Emails - Explosive operations 18/2/26, 10 am, 1 detonation; Small scale explosive 25/2/26, 10 am, 1 explosive tool; Explosive operations 26/2/26, 9 am – 2 pm, 3 volleys.

31. Brochures - Parish Magazine

32. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mrs Wilson proposed approving the Payments Schedule, Mrs Peacock seconded, all in favour. Payments Schedule was approved and cheques were signed for J Martin £174.46, S Sargent £100.00, D Wilkinson £48.85, Feltwell PCC £50.00, DM Carpentry & Building £120.00, Norfolk Tractors £300.00, J D Signs £70.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £101.81, British Gas £101.06, SSE Energy £749.03, Vodafone £31.14. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1111.85.

33. PLANNING

26/00335/F: Single Storey Rear Extension with a Flat Roof and Lantern at 15 Curtis Drive – 6 in favour, Mr Storey abstained. APPROVE.

Breach of Planning - 21/00066/RM: 30 Long Lane - The entrance kerbing had been addressed shortly after the last meeting and work had been completed. The Clerk stated with disbelief that she had had to furnish Planning Enforcement with a photo of the chalk barn to illustrate where it had been situated as they believed it to be still standing. She had since chased the progress of this breach and the sale of the open space but had not received a response.

PLANNING (CONT)

National Planning Policy Framework: Proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system – Mr Storey gave a brief overview of the proposed changes which include increasing the proportion of planning application decisions made by planning officers from 94% in West Norfolk to 99%, removing the call-in system, reducing the size of the Planning Committee with any existing members being subject to passing an examination, and a revision of consultees.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

34. Roadsweeper – The Roadsweeper has been seen in the village over the past two weeks but Crabbes Close has not been done yet. Clerk to contact Clean Up.

35. Litter Bins on Addisons Close and Bell Street – Clerk had contacted BCKLWN as Bell Street litter bin had not been emptied for a couple of weeks and was told it was not on their schedule. She had disputed this and was waiting to hear back. Mr Cole said the bin at Addison Close had not been emptied either and the door had been left open. Clerk to contact BCKLWN.

36. Feltwell FC – Clerk read an email from the Manager enquiring if there were any plans to spike and roll the pitch again, perhaps with a heavier roller. Clerk to obtain prices.

37. Stamps – The price of a first class stamp is due to increase from £1.70 to £1.80 on 1st April therefore Mrs Peckham suggested purchasing 5 books of 8 stamps at £68.00 before this date.

38. Year 6 Prom Committee- Clerk read an email from the Year 6 Prom Committee requesting a donation towards their litter pick.

39. National Living Wage - The National Living Wage will increase to £12.71 as of 1st April.

40. Clothing Bank – The Salvation Army has removed it's clothing bank from the playing field due to the cost of emptying it. Clerk believed there was a demand for another clothing bank so will make some enquiries.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 13th April 2026 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 9.15 pm.

Planning Application received after the meeting with deadline before the next meeting:-

26/00436/F: Single storey extension on rear of existing two storey dwelling at 2 Munsons Lane, Feltwell – 7 Councillors in favour. NO OBJECTION.