

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL 2026 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert (Vice-Chair), Rayner (Chair) and Storey, Mesdames Edwards, Growns, McGeeney, Peacock, Peckham (arrived 7.45 pm) and Wilson. Mr Robert Walden was also present.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from 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:** Ms Quamina had been in attendance so her name was added to those present and removed from 'Apologies'. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were then approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mr Fenn seconded, 5 in favour, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Growns, Mrs McGeeney and Mr Raynor abstained having not been present.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** No members of the public were present.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

1. Village Sign Revamp - Presentation by Robert Walden – Mr Walden gave a presentation of his work to revamp the village sign and an explanation of the history behind the images on it. He will touch up the paintwork every 6-12 months at no charge but said the sign should be cleaned every three months with soap and water to keep it in pristine condition. The flintwork also needs repointing. Mr Storey thanked Mr Walden, on behalf of Feltwell residents, for the wonderful job he had undertaken with the utmost care and attention, and Mr Lambert said he was very impressed with the finished article based on the Parish Council's requirements. Mr Walden said it had been his pleasure and departed the meeting at 7.54 pm. The purchase of a book detailing his work and a brass plaque outlining the sign's history had been agreed by Councillors prior to the meeting at a cost of £49.45 and £16.48 respectively, and with Mr Walden's charge for materials used of £63.44, the total cost amounted to £129.37. Mrs McGeeney proposed ratifying this expenditure, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour. The book is to be kept on Parish Council file but Mrs McGeeney felt members of the public should also have access to it and suggested purchasing two extra copies to be kept in St Mary's Church and Feltwell Museum. Chair proposed purchasing two extra books, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Clerk to purchase and liaise with the Church and Museum.

2. RAF Feltwell – Clerk read report from Ms Quamina. US forces recently supported Norwegian and NATO total defence concepts in Exercise Cold Response. Volunteers continue to engage with residents at Feltwell Care Home. A planned demonstration took place outside Gate 1 from 1-6<sup>th</sup> April which increased traffic congestion on and around the site. Policing of plane spotters parking on the A1065 near the Wangford junction has taken place during peak times of activity and Suffolk Highways are placing signage at the forest entrance where most vehicles park. Chair is unable to attend the NATO Bowl on 15<sup>th</sup> May at RAF Lakenheath but Mrs Edwards expressed an interest.

3. Risk Assessment – MWM (Anglia) have filled all potholes, only charging for materials used. Handyman still to investigate fence posts and reported the alarm lights on the Changing Rooms were red again. Mrs Wilson had pulled up thistles and weeds from beneath the Multiplay whilst there at the weekend so Clerk will ask Handyman to monitor. A resident reported the park bench had been upended. The quarterly inspection report was undertaken by Online Playgrounds on 11<sup>th</sup> March and the Clerk has asked the Handyman to deal with most of the items. It could be seen that some photographs of work required had been duplicated from the previous inspection so Clerk has queried this with them. The report stated the entrance gates on the corner did not close within 4-8 seconds and gaps around them were less than 12mm. It also identified a potential issue with the cantilever swing and Online Playgrounds quote to rectify this was £584.40 + VAT which also included cementing in a ground fixing kit for the park bench. Mrs Edwards, Mrs Growns and Mrs Peckham volunteered to meet at the field tomorrow evening to investigate these issues.

**MATTERS ARISING (CONT)**

4. Balance Sheet – No queries. Chair asked if a budget could be set for defibrillator parts. The casing around the defibrillator outside the Londis had been smashed by a delivery lorry and the cost to replace it was in the region of £800. Mr Storey said the defibs were vital within the parish and funding could be obtained via the Borough Councillor's Community Grant Scheme. Chair said their unfortunate frequent use meant several sets of replacement pads were required. Mrs Wilson proposed purchasing the required replacement pads, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour. Chair to bring costs to the next meeting and contact Cllr Adrian Lawrence for funding towards these.
5. Allotment Pest Control – Command visited 13<sup>th</sup> March and the technician advised the Clerk that ongoing staff shortages meant they could only visit every six weeks until the vacancies had been filled. Mr Cole had been checking the traps but Mr Lambert said Command should be doing this weekly. Mr Storey said their service was not good enough and Mr Cole should not be doing their job. To be discussed further at the Allotment Management Committee Meeting next week.
6. NALC – Weekly updates circulated. AGM is 14<sup>th</sup> May.
7. Highways – Clerk said she had asked Mr Storey to contact Mr Wallace as he was not responding to her emails and an update from him had been received late afternoon as follows:- **2 Oak Street:** Budget was less than anticipated and as the footpath widening scheme was not high enough priority, it had been moved to 2027/28. **White Lining:** Very little for Feltwell although Technician and Inspector will check and programme the areas required for July. **Southery Road:** Mr Storey said a scheme is being looked at for implementation early this financial year but any serious damage would be repaired immediately. He would keep pressing Mr Wallace regarding this matter.
8. Overhanging Greenery – **50 Wilton Road:** Mr Wallace's update stated the owner had not responded to his emails but he thought the hedge had been cut this weekend. Mr Storey said either Mr Wallace or Dan Jordan would be visiting this week or next to ascertain the edge of the boundary.
9. SAM2 Data – No data available but Chair said one unit has been placed near the Lodge Road entrance and another along The Beck.
10. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – Clerk said she had called out K&M Lighting on 29<sup>th</sup> March to repair a door on street light unit 9016 at Hereward Way which had cost £193 + VAT.
11. Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck – Mr Wallace's update stated modelling was being carried out to ensure the scheme was feasible and if so, it would be added to the forward programme for 2027/28 which Councillors were extremely frustrated to hear. Central Garage have erected a fence to stop vehicles parking on their grass frontage and over the weekend vehicles have parked on the extended concrete pavement, totally obscuring vision for vehicles exiting Long Lane and Short Beck junctions. Mrs Wilson said vehicles had double-parked everywhere and Mrs Edwards had seen numerous vehicles driving the wrong way along High Street. Whilst the Council was grateful for the addition of the new fish and chip shop, its arrival had exacerbated the problem and Mr Storey said the change of priority and removal of the extended pavement should now be attacked with more vigour so would take this forward with Highways.
12. Changing Rooms – **Heating:** Ongoing. Clerk and Mrs Peckham had met with a local electrician last weekend who said it could be that the pump had failed but could not locate it to check. Mrs Peckham queried if it was just the thermostat that wasn't working in the Away room but Chair said CTE had tested the underfloor heating back in January 2025 and it had failed. Clerk to contact DJD Plumbing to investigate further. **Fire Alarm:** Chair said it was unfortunate that both he and the Clerk had been out of the village when the fire alarm had activated but said it had been triggered by steam from the showers as the surrounding area was so cold.
13. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – Mr Wallace's update stated he was hoping this would be carried out by his lining contractor as part of the summer maintenance programme but his proposal has to be accepted by the Network Safety Team first.

**MATTERS ARISING (CONT)**

14. Lodge Road Junction – Mr Wallace's update stated he had been waiting for traffic management to be agreed before works could commence. Signs are due to be delivered imminently so once agreed, signage should be erected in the next six weeks.
15. Trod – Installation work had been completed although the verge outside Portal Close had been left in a terrible state. Mr Storey said the Laurel hedge above the fence line needed cutting back to the boundary which would have to be undertaken when nesting season has finished.
16. War Memorial Garden – A working party consisting of the Chair, Mr Lambert, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock and Mrs Peckham will take this project forward. Both St Mary's Church and the British Legion would be consulted on schemes put forward. Mrs Peckham proposed ringfencing £5000 for this project with a view to ringfencing a further £5000 in January depending on the Council's financial situation, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Clerk to diarise for January.
17. Grey's Funfair Visit Request – Date moved by Mr Gray to w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July.
18. Dog Bin Issue – Clerk said she was waiting for the street licence to be signed off by BCKLWN.
19. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey did not provide a report due to purdah.
20. Village Sign – See Item 1.
21. Feltwell Community Group Donation – Clerk had just received the street licence for the two benches from Mr Wallace and said FCG's application for £500 from the Norfolk Community Fund had been successful. A total amount of £1042.80 will be transferred to the Parish Council and funds from the USAF donation will fund the shortfall of £42.80. MWM (Anglia) will lay the two concrete bases free of charge as a gesture to the village and Clerk will order the two plastic benches from TDP. A request had been received from Mrs Clements, acting chair of Feltwell in Bloom, to place two benches near the flower tubs along Wilton Road, another near the wilding area and another in the shaded area of the playing field car park underneath the trees. Mrs Wilson had spoken to Mrs Clements who believed funding for two benches was being offered by the Parish Council which was not the case. Mrs Wilson said FCG would consult her on the location of the two new benches as a matter of courtesy. It was not thought safe for a bench to be placed near the wilding area on the corner of Wilton Road with Bell Street and placing one near the wilding areas facing Oak Street could cause a distraction to traffic approaching the junction. Councillors felt a better position would be near the planters at the Oakfields entrance or at the entrance to Newcombe Drive. Councillors were also not in favour of placing a bench under the trees on the car park due to safety concerns at peak times although were happy to consider other areas of the playing field.
22. Allotment Sign – Mr Fenn had installed the two signs.
23. Biffa – Clerk said Biffa were adding a temporary surcharge to their service following rises in fuel, electricity and transport costs due to the situation in the Middle East.
24. Roadsweeper – Roadsweeper has still not been to Crabbes Close. Clerk to contact Clean Up.
25. Litter Bins on Addisons Close and Bell Street – Clerk said both bins were now being emptied.
26. Feltwell FC – Clerk had circulated R H Landscaping's quote of £200 + VAT to spike and roll the pitch to all Councillors; 6 had been in favour and 1 against so she had instructed them to proceed. R H Landscaping did not have a heavier roller than used before so the team had decided to roll the pitch themselves however the quote could not be reduced due to their contractor's minimum charge. Mr Lambert proposed ratifying the expenditure of £200 + VAT, Mr Cole seconded, 8 in favour, Chair against. R H Landscaping had also been able to bring the first cut forward to 19<sup>th</sup> March following the Manager's request for this to be done before their next game.
27. Year 6 Prom Committee - Mr Lambert proposed a sponsorship amount of £100, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour.
28. National Living Wage - The National Living Wage will increase to £12.71 as of 1<sup>st</sup> April.
29. Clothing Bank – Clerk had said Scope had expressed an interest so she would follow this up.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

30. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; Annual 2026/27 Non Domestic Rates Bill for Changing Rooms (exempt); Public Access Scheduled Downtime Notification – 28/3/26, 6/4/26, 15/4/26; Temporary Event Notice 26/00345; Call for Sites Consultation Extended to 1st May 2026

31. NCC – Emails – **Road Closure:** Lynn Road, Weeting for pole and cabinet upgrade works, 8am – 6pm, 30-31/3/26. **Press Release:** Ghosts of Norfolk country houses to be captured in new historical project. **Other:** Tom McCabe, Chief Executive re Norfolk LGR

30. RAF Lakenheath - Emails - NATO BOWL, Armed Forces Flag Football game, 15/5/26

31. Fenland and West Norfolk Friends of the Earth – Email - Norfolk Warm Homes Programme

32. RLS Computers – Email – Website hosting promotion

33. Brochures - Parish Magazine, NBB Recycled Furniture

**34. CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the Payments Schedule, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Payments Schedule was approved and cheques were signed for J Martin £640.75, S Sargent £117.80, D Wilkinson £67.28, R H Landscapes £722.98, K&M Lighting £231.60, R Walden £129.37, HMRC £781.41, MWM (Anglia) £96.00. Direct Debits to Biffa £178.16, BCKLWN £245.98, British Gas £96.98, SSE Energy £703.01, URM £80.10, Vodafone £3.83. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1111.85.

## **35. PLANNING**

**Breach of Planning - 21/00066/RM: 30 Long Lane** – Clerk read email from the Planning Enforcement Officer advising she had to contact the owners of the chalk barn plot to establish how much of the chalk barn had been demolished, why and if the permission 22/02127/F could be built. Condition 13 of this permission states “Prior to the occupation of the dwelling hereby approved, a scheme shall be submitted detailing the maintenance and management of the area of public open space shown on Drawing No 870-PC and identified as ‘Area of Land Retained (Grassed Area)’. The scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and retained as such in perpetuity unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. She needed to establish if 22/02127/F could be built and if a breach has occurred at this time.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

36. Highways – Pothole on the corner of Paynes Lane, grass growing in footpath on High Street causing a trip hazard, footpaths on Addisons Close all need attention as they are near non-existent in some places, full of grit and chalk, and are dangerous. Clerk to report all issues.

37. R H Landscaping & Maintenance – Clerk said they have applied a 3.2% increase in their contract rates in line with CPI which had been advised in their quotation.

38. Recycling Credits – Clerk had submitted a claim for 5.738T of glass deposited in the bottle bank from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

39. Allotments – Mr Fenn said he and Mr Lambert would be clearing the left hand side of the allotments this coming Friday and said any assistance would be appreciated.

40. Parish Footpath Audit – Clerk read a proposal from the Chair of Norfolk Area Ramblers calling for each parish to have a documented audit of their footpaths and Rights of Way.

**41. 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 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 9.42 pm.