

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

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert (Vice-Chair) and Rayner (Chair), Mesdames Edwards, Growns, Peacock, Peckham and Wilson. 5 members of the public and Norfolk County Councillor Sue Prigg were also present.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs McGeeney and Mr Storey.

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 Growns seconded, 6 in favour, Mrs Edwards abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for 5 minutes. No matters were raised by the public. Cllr Prigg provided an update on Norfolk County Council matters and reported that the Norfolk Community Fund, which had provided over £400,000 for community projects, was no longer available for this purpose. The funding had instead been redirected to support the Fire Service due to increased pressures arising from incidents involving lithium batteries and weather-related fires. Highways Local Members Fund amounting to £11K per Councillor is to be redirected straight into Highways projects in a bid to clear their backlog of works rather than fund new small projects. NCC have also submitted a judicial review of Local Government Reorganisation proposals to replace the current two-tier system of local government in Norfolk with a new structure of three unitary authorities.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Village Sign Revamp - Presentation by Robert Walden – Chair said this would now take place after harvest to ensure as many relevant people could take part as possible.
2. RAF Feltwell – Ms Quamina was not present and had not forwarded a report.
3. Risk Assessment – There appears to be a graffiti issue at present as it is regularly appearing on the multiplay, teen shelter and skate park. Replacement nut caps have been ordered for the multiplay unit. Handyman has started to clear the ivy from the perimeter fence posts and the brown bin has arrived from BCKLWN. A resident had alerted the Clerk to a broken branch hanging off one of the trees over the far side of the field caused by children pulling on it. The Clerk had asked Dave Peckham to remove which he kindly did at no charge to the Parish Council. Annual Inspection was carried out 26th June by Wicksteed and all issues were either Low or Very Low Risk. Clerk said she had forwarded the report to the Handyman and thought he could undertake some of the work. Clerk to request quote from Wicksteed to secure cantilever swing.
4. Balance Sheet – No queries.
5. Allotment Pest Control – Clerk to chase May and June reports but Mr Cole confirmed contractor had been on site.
6. NALC – Weekly updates circulated.
7. Highways – **2 Oak Street:** Ongoing - scheduled for 2027/28. **White Lining:** This had only been handed to the contractor two weeks ago who has 74 days to complete. **Southery Road:** Mr Wallace advised the major works planned for end September were now delayed until end March to allow time to complete testing and design as the original idea was not workable. Road will be monitored and further signage erected or minor temporary repair work carried out over winter if necessary. Mrs Wilson said this was not good enough as some areas of the road are particularly dangerous and it was just a matter of time before an accident occurred. The road will worsen considerably over the winter months and the sugar beet lorries will cause more damage. Cllr Prigg said she would take this up with Highways. **Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck:** Mr Storey was not

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

present to advise if he had spoken to Mr Wallace regarding the scheme being brought forward but Mr Wallace had advised the Clerk that work was still scheduled for 2027/28. **Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction:** No update as to whether the proposal was accepted by the Network Safety Team. **Lodge Road Junction:** 'SLOW' lining will be installed as per white lining. **Old Methwold Road Junction:** Mr Wallace agreed to install a Give Way sign here. **Other:** Clerk to report potholes on the White Dyke Junction and Black Dyke Road, alleyway between Paynes Lane and High Street needed weeding, Give Way sign for RAF Feltwell on Wilton Road is laying on the grass and the white lining is non-existent, road at Feltwell Anchor is atrocious, sunken drain covers on grips leading to them from Pryers Garden and holes around manholes on Oak Street.

8. Overhanging Greenery – 50 Wilton Road: It could be seen that a spade mark had been made exposing tarmac 1 foot under the hedge. Mrs Peckham said removal of the curb and slabs on the other side of the entrance as suggested by Mr Storey at the last meeting would be substantially more work than cutting a hedge to make the junction wider and could not see Highways doing anything about it. Mr Storey to advise if he had spoken to Mr Wallace about this.

9. SAM2 Data – Chair gave an account of information from SAM2 on The Beck near the primary school; between 12th April and 5th May, it had flashed 22,900 times and although the fastest recorded speed was 55 mph at 11.40 pm on 22nd April, the average speed was only 22 mph. Westcotec advised the battery had died and their quote for a replacement was £101.50 + VAT. Mr Lambert proposed purchasing a new battery, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour.

10. Changing Rooms – Clerk said J Gooch Electrical are installing the heaters on 22nd July and S B Services are coming to repair the window and shutter this week.

11. War Memorial Garden – Ongoing.

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

13. Feltwell Community Group Donation – Benches and fixing kits due to be delivered 17th July.

14. Feltwell FC – The first working party meeting took place 7th July attended by Mrs Wilson, Mrs Gowns, Mr Lambert and the Chair whom Mrs Wilson had invited as Mr Fenn was away on holiday. Mr Neil Edwards and Mr Shaun Massingham also attended as representatives of Feltwell FC. Mrs Wilson said all members were eager for the project to happen but the Football Club would like it to be Parish Council-led as the field is a parish asset and as such, they have no exclusive rights to the pitch. Mr Lambert felt the Football Club needed to research grants and fundraise since they had instigated the project and that the Parish Council should support them as much as possible. The pitch would have to be relocated over near the far fence as it needs to be widened and the area is more suitable. Mr Edwards is seeking quotes for the work required and had already publicised the team's achievements on social media to make the community aware which had been met with positive responses and may help strengthen funding applications. Mr Lambert said once quotes were obtained, research needed to be carried out into funding and whether it would be more fruitful for the Parish Council or Football Club to apply, and it could then be decided who would lead the project although the Parish Council had the advantage of being able to reclaim VAT. Works to the new pitch would need to be undertaken during the football season when weather conditions were more suitable and therefore the current pitch would need to be used during this time. Once completed, the new pitch would need to be cordoned off for a while which would affect the village fete and car show. Mrs Peckham said the football club has been part of the village for over 100 years and if the team are promoted again and the pitch is not up to standard then the team would have to play elsewhere which would be a huge shame. Mr Fenn said if the pitch were to be seeded then water would be a necessity and the 'Achilles heel' as it was expensive. Mrs Gowns reiterated that the football club were fully aware they would never be able to have sole use of the pitch which both Mr Edwards and Mr Massingham had understood and were happy with. Mrs Wilson said all parties were very enthusiastic about the project and she would now pass on all information to Mr Edwards and copy in all working party members.

Cllr Prigg departed the meeting at 8.00 pm.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

15. Clothing Bank – Ongoing, Clerk had chased delivery from Scope which should be any time.

16. Audit – Approve Accounts – Ongoing, Clerk awaiting external auditors report.

17. Defibrillator Replacement Parts – Chair said the current defib outside the Londis was in poor condition and cost for repairs was £865 + VAT including two sets of replacement pads. It also requires a service within the next two months. An alternative would be to replace it entirely at £795 + VAT and, together with a cabinet and case which he recommended purchasing, the total cost would be £1403 + VAT (including two sets of pads). Mr Lambert proposed purchasing a new defibrillator, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Chair to purchase new defibrillator.

18. Church Clock – Clerk read email from the Churchwarden, Christine Parker, who was also present, in which she thanked the Parish Council for funding the servicing of the clock and requested clarification that funding was in place for its repainting/regilding so she could apply for Faculty for the work. At present, the Council are holding £1905.40 and £200 transferred from the PCC's Party in the Aisle. A further £350 had been raised at a recent PCC Quiz night and Cllr Prigg said she had raised an anonymous donation of £500 towards this project as she was unable to offer the £1500 originally promised following the abolishment of Norfolk Community Fund. Clerk had spoken to Mr Storey who said he would be allocating around £250 from his members budget but he hadn't managed to get in contact with Mr Lawrence. This leaves a shortfall of £1894.60. Clerk to contact private donator to ascertain how much they were prepared to give and Mrs Wilson said Feltwell Community Group may also be able to donate but the consensus was that any shortfall could be met with remaining CIL monies and RAF Lakenheath funding therefore Mr Lambert proposed making money available to repair the church clock once all donations and grants had been considered, Mrs Peacock seconded, all in favour. Mrs Parker confirmed she had no issue with the new clockface being blue and thanked the Parish Council for its support.

19. Request for Changing Room Hire – KFN Events – Clerk said the event had been cancelled.

20. Norfolk County Council Bus Shelter Scheme 2027/28 – It was not thought any new bus shelters or bus shelter maintenance was necessary.

21. Cable Wire Quotations – Clerk had struggled to obtain three quotations as many companies will only service a cable wire they supplied. Online Playgrounds had quoted £571.20 + VAT with individual costings for other items that may be required if further work is deemed necessary. She was awaiting an affirmed quote from NGF Play who had given a rough cost of £1000 which included replacing all parts if necessary, and Mr Treehouse had offered two options ranging from £1720 + VAT to £2270 + VAT. Mrs Peckham proposed accepting Online Playgrounds quotation, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour.

22. Request to Fly the Flag of the Fens – Mr Lambert said Feltwell was not strictly in the fen district therefore proposed declining the request, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour.

23. Feltwell Surgery Enquiry – Clerk read email from the Practice Manager asking for the Parish Council's input on their business continuity plan. If there were to be a disaster and the premises could not be used for any reason then an alternative base needs to be sought. Mrs Peckham said the only building the Council owned was the Changing Rooms which were not suitable and all agreed.

24. Feltwell in Bloom Proposal – Clerk read Feltwell in Bloom's proposal to place two benches on the far side of the playing field under the trees and two benches on the grassed area outside Oakfields Estate on Wilton Road. It was queried who would maintain and insure the benches on the field and concern raised regarding bird droppings and sap if placed under the trees. Children had already been spotted hanging off the tree branches in that area and it was felt benches placed under them would provide a platform for further antisocial behaviour, particularly as they would be close to neighbouring properties. It was agreed that Feltwell in Bloom's intentions were good but the field location was wrong. Mr Lambert proposed declining the proposal to place benches under the trees on the playing field but accepting the proposal for two benches to be placed outside Oakfields Estate on Wilton Road, Mr Cole seconded, 6 in favour, Mrs Peckham abstained.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

25. Anglo-American Car Show 2027 – Clerk said an application had been received from Mr Samuels to hire the Changing Rooms for next year's car show on Saturday 15th May. Mrs Wilson proposed accepting the application, Mr Fenn seconded, all in favour.

26. Mulberry Close Bollards – Clerk had spoken to BCKLWN Open Spaces having received a complaint from a Mulberry Close resident that one of the grassed areas on the Close had not been cut due to debris being left by tenants of neighbouring Freebridge properties. Another Mulberry Close resident had also complained about vehicles belonging to said tenants being parked on the grassed verges and damaging her driveway, and to suggest wooden bollards previously removed by those tenants be replaced with permanent concrete structures. Clerk had passed the complaints onto Open Spaces and Highways and advised both residents to contact them also. Open Spaces were still awaiting a response from Land Registry investigations as it had transpired that the grassed area was unregistered but included in their maintenance map to cut for the good of the community.

27. Old Methwold Road Pathway – Clerk contacted Highways regarding the poor condition of the pathway from Old Methwold Road to Munsons Lane but said damaged areas had been white-lined.

CORRESPONDENCE

28. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; Removal of requirement to publish Parish Councillors Addresses; Notification of IDOX Public Access Intermittent Availability - 24/6/26 (am), 1/7/26 (am) & 6/7/26 (6.45pm - 9.15pm); SNN Ref 5859 - Change of Residential Property Address from Spencer Farm, Feltwell Road, Southery to Blossom Tree Farm, Feltwell Road, Southery; TEN 26/00802/LA_TEN; Parish Update Training Sessions 16/6/26 and 22/6/26; Feedback Form - Parish Update Training Sessions

29. NCC – Road Closures: Emergency temp closure of Southery Road for customer service restoration and cable renewal works 9.30am - 3.30pm from 9-10/6/26; Temp closure at Short Beck for HRA patching works 23-24/6/26; Emergency temp closure affecting Mundford Road for water main valve repair by Anglian Water 22-26/6/26 (extended to 30/6/26); Temp closure of B1112

Methwold Road for HRA patching works on 21/7/26. **Other**: Cllr Prigg - Pryers Gardens 20mph zone TRO consultation; Feltwell Iron Bridge TL68100 - Permanent 7.5T Weight Restriction TRO; Matthew Barnett, Solicitor (Planning) - Feltwell - Proposed 20mph SL Zone in Pryers Gardens

30. RAF Lakenheath - Email – **Notification of operations**: EOD Field Training 15-18/6/26, multiple detonations 6am - 8pm; 15/6/26, 7am - 12 noon, 60 detonations, 1-2 detonations throughout light hours. **Other**: Save the Date - Civic Leaders Tour, RAF Lakenheath, 2/9/26

31. Defib Supplies – Email - Replace Your Old Defibrillator

32. Norfolk Fire & Rescue – Email - Fire Safety Campaign

33. RLS Computers – Email – New website design

34. Brochures - Parish Magazine

35. CHEQUES/PAYMENTS – Mr Lambert proposed approving the Payments Schedule, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Payments Schedule was approved and cheques were signed for S Sargent £164.39, D Wilkinson £271.21, R H Landscapes £965.95, Norfolk ALC £67.20, Environmental Agency £39.64, Haward Horological £450.00, Norfolk Sound System £420.00, Wicksteed £180.00, S Dunstone £150.00, Royal British Legion £135.00, HMRC £1498.15. Direct Debits to Biffa £181.10, BCKLWN £245.98, British Gas £49.14, SSE Energy £432.22, Vodafone £19.94. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1684.40.

36. PLANNING

Breach of Planning - 21/00066/RM: 30 Long Lane – Planning Enforcement Officer had not yet met the Planning Officer to discuss the demolition of the chalk barn and sale of the open space. She had also not heard back from CNC Building Control regarding the precarious condition of the remaining barn wall. She could not disclose details of the new owners of the chalk barn plot in order for the Council to claim back costs incurred for the Handyman to cut the greenery protruding from it onto the pavement therefore Mrs Wilson proposed Clerk obtain these from Land Registry, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Clerk to contact Land Registry.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. Request to Object to the Order for the Restriction of Vehicular Access over Church Lane, Hockwold-cum-Wilton – Having been made aware of the above order by a concerned resident on 10th July, and noting that the deadline for responses was 13th July, the Clerk circulated details of the order to Parish Councillors and sought their views on the resident's request for the Parish Council to submit an objection. This was necessary to ensure that a response could be submitted within the required deadline. 8 Councillors responded in favour of objecting to the order on the grounds that Church Lane has been used by the public for access for generations and is the only practical means of accessing a safe area near to the river, allowing families with children, elderly residents and those with limited mobility to enjoy this valued local amenity. Clerk had therefore submitted the Parish Council's objection.

38. Hedge on Wilton Road – Clerk said she had contacted Orbit Housing regarding the protruding hedge which had now been cut.

39. Damaged Lamp Post Addison Close – Clerk had been notified by a resident that a street light outside 45 Addisons Close had been knocked over by a van. The van company had also contacted the Clerk advising of the incident and giving details of their insurance company which Clerk had passed on to the Council's insurers. Clerk is in the process of obtaining quotations to replace the street light.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 10th August 2026 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 9.05 pm.
