

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held on Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Bruce Andrews (Vice-Chair)
Cllr John Newton
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Graham Buckley
Cllr James Daniels (arrived late)

Four members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from D/Cllr Trevor Carter, C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris and Cllr James Daniels, who would be arriving later.

2. To consider the co-option of a councillor to fill the one vacancy.

The prospective councillor was not able to attend the meeting.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2019.

Cllr Edge proposed that, subject to a minor amendment at item 10a) (amend resident to household), the minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

The following points were raised by members of the public:

The recent resurfacing of the two junctions in Whissonsett was not a good use of public money when many of the adjoining roads were also in need of resurfacing works. There had been a great deal of inconvenience caused and the other roads should have been done at the same time – the Chairman responded that Council had been requesting resurfacing of the London Street junction for some time and was pleased that the work had been carried out, however, it would have been good to see some further essential works carried out at the same time.

Cllr James Daniels arrived at this point in the meeting.

Concerns re speeding vehicles coming through the village was raised and Council agreed to investigate forming a Community Speedwatch Team and also to install the SAM II sign to collect accurate data of the problem.

6. County & District Councillors

As neither Cllr was present, a written report from C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris was read out to the meeting which, in summary, reported the following:

The recent resurfacing to the two junctions in Whissonsett was carried out using some of the £12.7m which the government gave to NCC for pothole repair and highway improvements.

Norfolk County Council agreed a net budget of £409.293m on the 11th February. It was agreed that NCC's share of Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property and that an adult social care charge of a further 3% rise was not to be made. Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and NCC has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. This year's NCC council tax bill will be divided into two lines, one for the general council tax showing a 2.99% rise and the other for adult social care showing no rise but currently £96.05 for a Band D property.

The Council set the Children's Services budget at £186m for the year. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities to children from birth to the age of 25 (government has revised the upper age of for which Children's Services are responsible from 18 to 25) and the pressure on this budget is increasing.

NCC are awaiting a government grant to allow a fibre broadband connection to Norfolk's schools, this will allow broadband speeds of 1Gigabit.

The C/Cllr is working with the NCC Highways to affect a solution to the problem of BT vehicles parking near the old telephone exchange.

7. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

The following updates were noted:

Application	Parish Council Comments	Current Breckland Status
3PL/2019/0022/VAR Talbot House, London Street Erection of five dwellings – reserved matters	The Council object to this application on the grounds that the removal of the reference to cumulative ground-space could result in an increase in both the size and number of dwellings permitted on the site. The Council objects to any properties over 1 storey as they would not fit sympathetically with the properties in the surrounding area, which are all either cottages or bungalows. In addition, the Council considers any more than five properties to be over-development of the site.	Undecided

3PL/2018/1415/D Meadow House, Mill Lane Reserved matters.	No objections.	Permission
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b) Applications to consider.

There were no applications for Council to consider.

c) To consider a response to the Breckland Local Plan consultation.

Council agreed to respond as follows:

- That developments in small villages be limited to a maximum of three dwellings per site, and
- That permission will only be granted if applications receive the support of the parish council.

8. To consider any Highways matters.

a) To receive an update re matters previously reported.

Council noted the following updates:

- Flooding in New Road – awaiting clearance of the gruts.
- Footpath 4 (adjacent to Rodwell Farm) – overgrown and awaiting clearance.
- East View Crescent – overgrown shrub/blocked grit box – reported to Flagship for action.
- Mill Lane – damage to verges by Open Reach vehicles – complaints continue to be submitted to Open Reach make assurances that the drivers have been instructed not to park there, however drivers continue to do so. It is hoped that a permanent pull-in can be installed and this is being investigated by Highways.
- North View Crescent – pavements blocked by overgrown shrubbery – reported to Broadland Housing for action.

b) To consider any new issues.

The following new issues will be reported to the appropriate authority:

- Pot Hole at Highfields, Dereham Road.
- Broken street signs at Church Close.
- Pot Hole at Stocks Hill.

9. To receive a report re the grass cutting contract.

A meeting had taken place with the grass cutting contractor and the Chairman was assured that the correct, contracted works were being carried out. However, there are some issues in the Churchyard, particularly with overgrown hedge and trees. A PCC representative was present and assured Council that steps would be taken to resolve the problem. Issues were also raised regarding the conservation area which it appeared had not been touched for some time, despite it being included in the contract for a twice-yearly trim. The Chairman will contact the contractor and ensure the work is carried out this season.

The PCC would prefer any church related works to be included in the parish council contract, with a donation being made by the PCC and this will be discussed again at renewal.

10. To consider any maintenance required for Spring Well.

Cllr Newton will inspect Spring Well and report back to the next meeting.

11. To appoint a Councillor to tend the recently planted oak tree.

Cllr Edge volunteered to tend the tree, with support from Cllr Buckley.

12. To consider issues relating to the Play Area.

a) To receive an update regarding the Play Area regeneration project.

Grant applications have been submitted and decisions are expected prior to the next meeting. It was agreed to reconsider the layout of the play area following concerns raised by a local household.

b) To receive an update regarding the resurfacing of the playing field drive.

A quotation had been received for £450 and it was agreed to contact local residents for confirmation that they wished to go ahead, at an individual cost of £112.50.

c) To consider any other issues.

There were no other issues raised.

13. To consider issues relating to the Allotments.

The Chairman confirmed that an existing allotment holder had taken on an additional plot.

14. To receive an update regarding training – Planning Matters.

Council agreed to wait for training in respect of planning which will be available from Breckland following the elections in May.

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

- Great British Litter Pick – it was agreed not to join in as Brisley School may be carrying out a litter pick in Whissonsett in the near future.
- Carers Matter Norfolk – Newsletter- this was noted.
- Visit Breckland Website – it was agreed there was no need to subscribe to this website.
- Western Link Consultation Update – this was noted.
- Letter from a local Household raising concerns regarding the Play Area – the concerns raised were noted by Council.

16. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2019.

The financial statement was noted.

b) To consider membership of Norfolk Parish Training & Support or Norfolk ALC.

Council approved annual membership of Norfolk Parish Training & Support at a cost of £130.00.

c) To consider a donation to Norfolk Accident & Rescue Service.

It was agreed to consider this request at the next meeting in May, at the start of the next financial year.

d) To approve the following payments:

Cllr Edge proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Andrews and agreed by Council.

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| • Clerk (Salary/Allowance – Feb/March & End of Year Expenses) | £294.35 |
| • HMRC | £30.20 |
| • Tree Contractor (Oak Tree) | £312.00 |
| • Cllr S Dye – (Domain Renewal, Website) | £15.99 |
| • Grass Contractor (grass and moles) | £2220.00 |
| • Norfolk Parish Training & Support (see item b above) | £130.00 |
| • Allotment Refund (as approved at the meeting held on 13.12.18) | £20.00 |

e) To consider approval of a Retention and Disposal Policy and Privacy Notice.

Cllr Dye proposed approval of both documents, this was seconded by Cllr Andrews and agreed by Council.

17. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items for the next agenda, however, the Chairman informed the Council that the defibrillator was currently back with the supplier for repairs, and a decision may be required at the next meeting regarding any repair costs. Another machine is currently on loan.

18. To note the Annual Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th May 2019, following the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed:

Date:
