

**Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton,
held on Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.00pm at Freethorpe Village Hall**

Present: Nick Spencer (NS, Chairman), David Lake (DL, Vice-chairman), Paul Bacon (PB),
Michael Blake (MB), Andrew Moll (AM, Parish Clerk),
Grant Nurden (GN, also District Councillor)

Also present: Andrea Rowlands (AR, Tree Warden) and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies

John Fleetwood(JF, Tree Warden), Lana Hemsall (LH, County Councillor)

2. Public Forum

- a) County Councillor Report – LH sent a report advising that (1) the road safety grant for Freethorpe was confirmed at cabinet; (2) she has endorsed the County Deal for Norfolk; and (3) she has objected to the GNLP Gypsy and Traveller site at North Burlingham.
- b) District Councillor Report - GN advised that (1) there was much opposition at meetings about the Gypsy and Traveller site; (2) Broadland are making positive progress towards net zero carbon emissions earlier than planned; and (3) he is enthusiastic that Parish Council clusters could be used to deal with common issues.
- c) Tree Wardens' Report - nothing to report this time.
- d) Public Items – none.

3. Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

As a substitute member of Broadland District Council's Planning Committee, GN is unable to discuss planning applications under agenda item 9. NS is unable to take part in discussion of planning enforcement item 9c. There were no other declarations.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record and were duly signed by NS.

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) (6c) Process and timing of GPC (AM) – done.
- b) (8a) Wickhampton Noticeboard purchase and permission from owner of wall (AM) – done, with thanks to the owner for giving permission by text.
- c) (9a) Log Parish Council response on 20230129 and 20220619 (AM) -done.
- d) (12) Log School Road faded signs and potholes (AM) – done.
- e) Other matters arising – none.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) Election Information 4th May 2023 – was shared with Parish Councillors.
- b) New policies for review – Training and Grants & Donations Policies were unanimously **agreed** by the meeting. MB suggested that next review dates for all policies are considered and updated in May. Not all policies need to be reviewed annually.
- c) CiLCA training – AM has completed the course, awaiting certificate in the post.
- d) Dog bin at Palmer's Lane – has a new post at a cost of £20 refunded to AM via expenses.

7. Finance

a) Monthly Financial Update

AM advised the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as follows:

Income	£23,673.18	Operational Expenditure	-£16,552.67
Contingency Reserves	£10,539.85	Earmarked Reserves Exp	-£9,911.81
Bank balance	£14,792.34	VAT to be reclaimed	-£1,000.00

- b) Payments - it was **agreed** to make the following payments:

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Ref	Payee	Description	Amount (£)
1	Andrew Moll	Salary February	183.60
2	Andrew Moll	Administration Expenses = postage + dog bin post	20.68
3	HMRC	PAYE	46.00
4	Office Boffins	Purchase of Wickhampton Noticeboard VAT 52.39	314.34
5	Playdale	Purchase & installation of basketball backboard (50%) Order 0000084377 VAT 119.90	719.40
6	Countrystyle Recycling Ltd.	Invoice INV363279 Date 28/02/2023 VAT £2.50 Empty bottle bank 02/02/2023	15.01
SO	Calica Computer Solutions	Speed management machine - mandates 3 & 4	24.00

8. Correspondence

- a) For decision – (1) Noise disturbance from off-road vehicles at the Plantation had been raised by 2 residents. An enforcement case has been opened, which will test the legality of the frequency. It was **agreed** that residents be encouraged to submit noise nuisance complaints direct to Broadland. GN asked to be copied in by residents. (2) Parish Council **agreed** to support the letter asking for reinstatement of the Postwick Park & Ride. (3) It was agreed not to formally organise a Big Broadland Litter Pick. (4) Reedham Neighbourhood Plan consultation was noted for comment at next meeting.
- b) For discussion – (1) It was agreed that speeding is priority concern for the area's Police priority setting meeting on 23rd March. (2) Countrystyle Recycling Services changes were noted.
- c) For information – the following were noted: GNLP examination programme, the Armed Forces Charity Event, and the Broads Authority briefing. GN encouraged all to join in with the Town & Parish Council Forums, the next of which is on Wednesday 26th April.

9. Planning

- a) New Applications –Parish Council had no objections to planning application 2023/0421 but asked for the opportunity to comment further by email before the deadline of 3rd April, and, at GN's suggestion, if necessary call an extraordinary meeting to discuss. **ACTION AM**
- b) Decisions - none.
- c) Enforcements – one open case was noted, along with the new Reedham enforcement case regarding the Plantation. Item 8a refers.

10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

- a) Speed Management - in February speeding figures were a small backward step after several months of improvement. Parish Council asked for the latest figures to be fed into the Police Priority Meeting this week. At the Village Hall facing Reedham, 85th percentile speeds were up from 40.8mph to 41.3mph on lower volumes of 24,501 vehicles. Again, there was one alarming speed of 75mph at 19:20 on 11/02/23, and 69% of drivers exceeded the speed limit. On the Green facing Acle, 85th percentile speeds were also slightly up from 32.0mph to 32.2mph on reduced volumes of 22,747 vehicles. PB advised that the machine currently on the Common is giving volatile readings. Is this to do with the flag nearby. NS asked whether the machine can be angled differently. **ACTION AM**
- b) Play Area Inspections – no new concerns. Awaiting advice from Broadland on whether the S106 funds can be used for surfacing work.
- c) Freethorpe Village Sign – awaiting work to clean and repaint.
- d) Allotments – no further progress.
- e) Parish Nature Plan – no further progress.
- f) Electronic Vehicle Charging Point - Parish Council reviewed interim results from the survey, with 31 responses and some helpful comments for and against. There was some discussion whether the Parish Council or the Village Hall should manage the EV charging point. Advice from Norfolk County Council to AM and the late Janet Church had been that Parish Council is

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preferable. However GN advised that Reedham's EV charging point will be managed by the Village Hall. DL advised that the Village Hall Committee had discussed informally but further agreement would be needed if the charging point is to be progressed.

g) Wickhampton Pond – npLaw have assigned the work.

11. Other Matters

a) AR advised that the Village Hall Committee discussed placing a bench and/or tree at the Village Hall in remembrance of the late Janet Church. It was agreed to consult the family.

ACTION AM

12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th April 2023 at 7:00pm at Freethorpe Village Hall.

14. Exclusion of the Press and Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to consider the following item of business: None.

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Signed after approval by the Parish Council as being a true and accurate record by the Chair of the meeting or authorised deputy	Chair Nick Spencer	Date
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