

Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton, held on Monday 21st October 2024 at 7pm at Freethorpe Village Hall

Present: Nick Spencer (NS, Chairman), David Lake (DL, Vice-chairman), Paul Bacon (PB), Paul Crisp (PC), Andrew Moll (AM, Parish Clerk), Grant Nurden (GN, also District Councillor), Andrea Rowlands (AR).

Also present: John Fleetwood (JF, Tree Warden), and 3 members of the public, including David Brown (DB) in his capacity as a member of the Wickhampton Pond Sub-Committee.

1. Apologies

Michael Blake (MB), Lana Hempsall (LH).

2. Public Forum

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – it was agreed to begin the next meeting with a presentation.
- b) County Councillor Report – a written update from LH was noted.
- c) District Councillor Report - GN advised that Reedham Neighbourhood Plan has been completed. He encouraged applications for the Winter Pressures Grant, and free carbon literacy training sessions. His Member's Grant has been fully spent on a Halvergate project and the Freethorpe Church doors in memory of Janet Church.
- d) Cluster Meeting Update - GN and MB attended a meeting at Reedham on 23rd September. Various outputs are being shared.
- e) Tree Wardens' Report - JF shared serious national concerns about acute oak tree decline and sooty bark disease in sycamores. JF and AR propose to check the trees in the parish.
- f) Public Items – Martin Murrell, attending as a member of the public, was invited to introduce himself as the prospective Conservative candidate for our ward in 2025.

3. Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

As a substitute member of Broadland's Planning Committee GN is unable to discuss Broadland planning applications under agenda item 9. There were no other declarations.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2024

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

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) (2b) Check on First Responders' views on a bleed kit (AM) – awaiting response.
- b) (5d) Bin stickers regarding dog waste (NS) – stickers given to AM.
- c) (8a) Fly tipping at Wickhampton – write to County Council (AM) – done via LH but no response yet. GN advised that fly tipping was discussed at Broadland's Environment Panel, with larger fines being considered. It was agreed that the Parish Council's concerns should also be shared with Broadland. **ACTION AM**
- d) (10i) Pump repair quotes (AM) – carry forward.
- e) (10j) Flower troughs – consider options – carry forward.
- f) (10k) Purchase leaf collector (AM) – done.
- g) Other matters arising – none.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) NALC AGM is 20th November 6pm.
- b) Town & Parish Council Forum 3rd October information was noted.
- c) Town & Parish Council Summit 13th November was noted.
- d) Norfolk Net Zero Communities information (including Brundall) was noted.

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- e) Free carbon literacy training information was noted.
- f) The Freethorpe Remembrance Ceremony takes place at the War Memorial in the Methodist Cemetery on Sunday 10th November 10:50. It was agreed that PB would lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.
- g) Norfolk ALC – the Parish Council would support the call for an Extraordinary General Meeting if needed.
- h) Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan – there were no comments to feed back.

7. Finance

- a) Monthly Financial Update – was reviewed and approved. Summary YTD as follows:

Income	£28,898.97	Bank balance	£28,852.57
Expenditure	£19,886.11	Forecast end year balance	£31,682.82

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

- (1) The Green Reaper. £1420.25 – Leaf Collector INV 108185
- (2) Norse Eastern Ltd. £105.96 – Second pitch setting INV 1074689
- (3) Freethorpe Parochial Church Council £685.00 – cemetery upkeep
- (4) Freethorpe Methodist Church £685.00 – cemetery upkeep
- (5) Wickhampton PCC £685.00 – cemetery upkeep
- (6) Broadland Tree Warden Network £100.00 – agreed donation
- (7) East Anglia Air Ambulance £200.00 – agreed donation
- (8) Freethorpe First Responders £200.00 – agreed donation
- (9) Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau £150.00 – agreed donation
- (10) RBL – Poppy Appeal £60.00 – agreed donation
- (SO1) Calica Computer Solutions £30.00 - Speed machine management
- (SO2) Mr A & Mrs MC Moll £207.33 - Clerk Salary
- (DD) HMRC £103.60 – PAYE (Aug & Sep)

- c) Receipts – the following receipts were noted:

- (1) Broadland District Council £8657.00 – precept (2)
- (2) Broadland District Council £1183.54 - section 106 (leaf collector)
- (3) The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust £2,000 – Village Hall Kitchen grant

- d) CIL income - due in October 2024 for community infrastructure projects:

- (1) Broadland District Council £20,372.26 – 75 The Green

- e) The Norfolk Offshore Windzone Community Fund supporting nature & green space; community hubs & transport was noted.
- f) Quarterly Finance Review should now be scheduled.
- g) Parish Council noted successful £300 'Keep It Going' grant applications by the bowls club, the football club and the Methodist Church Pop-in / Light lunches.

8. Correspondence

- a) Allotments – further interest in allotments has been expressed. It was agreed that with land ownership unchanged there is no point in writing formally to landowners having previously established that no-one has land to rent for allotments.
- b) Park & Ride Update – was noted.

9. Planning

- a) New Applications – BA/2024/0330/LBC windows, Thatched Cottages, Wickhampton - it was unanimously agreed to support the application.
- b) Decisions – approval of 2024/2399 9 The Green, carport - was noted.
- c) Enforcements – two open cases were noted.

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- d) Planning constraints – while a Housing Needs Survey has been requested, it appears that this will require a social housing organisation with firm interest in a significant development, which is not the case in our parish at the moment.
- e) Design Model – AM attended the stage 2 workshop. Follow-up consultation closes on 11/11/2024.
- f) Affordability/viability check for Green View Way – GN has raised the problem of viability exceptions with District Councillor Laming, who is following this up with officers. Retain as an agenda item.

10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

- a) Speed Management- figures are for September 2024. On the Green by the Manor House, 85th percentile speeds were down to 30.4mph, with 27758 vehicle, 84% kept within the 30mph limit. On The Common, 85th percentile speeds were up slightly to 31.8mph. 75% kept within the 30mph limit..
- b) Play Area Inspections – the latest inspections raised no significant items requiring attention.
- c) Electronic Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) – all information has been provided to NCC and the engineer installation date is being scheduled.
- d) Wickhampton Pond – (dealt with out of sequence before item 2c, with DB in attendance). JF advised that no-one has been able to eradicate crassula helmsii from ponds, either manually or with chemicals. Options to suppress the crassula by filling in the pond or by applying a temporary liner to smother it were discussed but agreement was not reached. It was agreed that Parish Council has a duty to put in place measures to contain the spread of crassula, and in the first instance this should be a fence. JF kindly agreed to get costings for picket fencing. **ACTION JF**
- e) Rampant Horse – rumours that the pub has been sold could not be substantiated. The Parish Council remains hopeful of a re-opening.
- f) Clean Up & Bloom – the completion report was approved and AR thanked for her work. Most recently, children from the school have been helping plant bulbs at the Village Hall.
- g) Village Hall kitchen – successful grant applications mean that the work can proceed. The project plan was approved. DL reported that the plans had been discussed at length at the Village Hall meeting.
- h) Playing Field – await requirements on grounds maintenance for football. DL reported that the football club are trying to fund some portable floodlights to help with youth football training.
- i) The Pump – quotes for repainting and repairing not yet sought. **ACTION AM**
- j) Flower troughs at Village Hall and Flying Field Memorial – options to be developed, including green matting and more substantial troughs. **ACTION AM/AR**
- k) Leaf collector – it was noted that the Leaf Collector for the football club has been purchased and delivered. The letter gifting it to the football club as their responsibility and asset was noted. The cost has been reclaimed from Section 106.
- l) New trees – no immediate options were forthcoming for places for tree planting.

11. Other Matters

- a) Village Hall dog bin – DL/PB reported that the old metal waste bin has been removed, but someone is still putting dog waste in the general bins. Given that dog bins are close by, it was not felt necessary to buy another one.
- b) Village Hall recycled waste – DL asked whether a grey recycling bin could be provided for the Village Hall. Previous enquiries have established that this would be chargeable and this will not pursued at the moment.
- c) PB advised that the shop has re-opened.

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d) PB reported recent flooding at both the Southwood entry to Freethorpe and the Halvergate Road.

12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th November 2024 7PM, Freethorpe Village Hall. GN will be unable to attend. 2025 meetings were agreed as follows: 20th Jan; 17th Feb; 17th Mar; 28th Apr (1 week late due to Easter); 19th May; 16th Jun; 21st Jul; 15th Sep; 20th Oct; 17th Nov; 15th Dec (reserve)

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 8:40 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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