

Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton, held Monday 20th January 2025 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).

Also present: John Fleetwood (JF, Tree Warden) and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies

Michael Blake (MB), Lana Hemsall (LH), Andrea Rowlands (AR)

2. Public Forum

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – NS proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that the area for a potential Neighbourhood Plan be raised for discussion at the next cluster meeting.
- b) County Councillor Report – none.
- c) District Councillor Report - GN welcomed additional funding from government will support the waste collection service, although this does not cover garden waste, which may yet see an increase in charges. He advised that there is uncertainty about local elections and boundary reviews given the proposed local government reforms. Council meetings can be watched on Youtube. He encouraged us to read *Broadland News*.
- d) Tree Wardens' Report - JF presented the annual survey report on the trees at Wickhampton Play Area. No risks were identified. He will kindly put heavy duty tree guards on the new trees to prevent further strimmer damage. JF had also met AM at Wickhampton Pond, and been in touch with the Wildlife Trusts about the crassula and is persuaded that eradication in place is all but impossible. Item 10d refers.
- e) Public items – Three items were noted: (1) some of the directional road signs are dirty; (2) cars are parking on the new double-yellow lines at Green View Way; (3) straw is scattered along the Common and blocks the drains. Action initially to be taken on item (1) with Highways. **ACTION AM**

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 18th November 2024

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

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) (2d) Establish boundary responsibilities re. Wickhampton Pond (AM) – Land Registry report has been purchased which confirms no specific constraints.
- b) (6g) Respond to government on Zoom meetings (AM) – done.
- c) (6h) Apply for new dog bin (AM) – Broadland and Highways have confirmed that the location is acceptable. Parish Council approved the purchase of a Glasdon Fido 25l bin (£115.68) and signing up to Broadland fortnightly collection (£116.60pa). **ACTION AM**
- d) (11a) Draft report for cluster meeting (AM) – done, 6b refers.
- e) Other matters arising – none.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) Royal British Legion Acle & District collection of £13,573.78 was noted.
- b) Cluster meeting – draft report was approved. The meeting has been postponed, probably to 18th February, at Brundall. Details to follow.

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- c) Solar panels for Village Hall – the feasibility report was discussed. It was agreed that the potential benefits are attractive and that three quotes be sought. The question of planning permission and suitability for the roof need to be understood in discussion with suppliers and Broadland District Council. **ACTION AM**
- d) Norfolk ALC voting form - it was **agreed** to support the move to becoming a company limited by guarantee. **ACTION AM**
- e) Norfolk Anti-poverty Alliance meeting 26th Feb 5-7 at Norwich Cathedral was noted.
- f) Town & Parish Council Forum was noted, along with next meeting 4th Feb 1pm.
- g) Norfolk Drought & Flood Summit – 31st Jan 10-1 was noted.

7. Finance

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

Income	£60,010.52	Bank balance	£35,037.61
Expenditure	£44,812.62	Forecast end year balance	£34,381.16

- b) Payments - it was **agreed** to make the following payments:
 - * paid in Dec with Chair & Vice-chair approval*
 - (1) **Broadland Hoardings Ltd - £17,700.00 – INV BHS417 Village Hall kitchen*
 - (2) **Beckhithe Farms - £200.00 – INV 916 Wickhampton Playing Field annual rent*
 - (3) Mr A & Mrs M C Moll **£153.56** – reimbursement for detailed boundary report
 - (4) The Sign Shed Ltd. **£15.51** – INV SHED777882 Village Hall kitchen plaque
 - (5) Countrystyle Recycling Ltd. **£34.51** INV 502555 Bottle bank emptying
 - (SO1) Calica Computer Solutions **£30.00** - Speed machine management
 - (SO2) Mr A & Mrs MC Moll **£207.33** - Clerk Salary. Pay award to be paid March.
 - (DD) HMRC **£173.00** – PAYE Oct, Nov, Dec.

- c) Receipts – the following receipts were noted:
 - (1) Broadland District Council **£7,500** – grant for Village Hall Kitchen
- d) Quarterly Finance Review is now with MB.
- e) The budget for 2025/26 was unanimously approved with the changes agreed at the last meeting.
- f) The recycling credits claim for the Village Hall recycling banks in 2024 was noted, encouragingly the tonnage had increased in all types: paper (2.250 tonnes up from 1.270), bottles (2.820 up from 2.400) and cans (0.190 up from 0.070).

8. Correspondence

- a) Ongoing correspondence on the search for allotments was noted. The diocese had been approached but had no appropriate land to rent in the area.

9. Planning

- a) New Applications – 2024/3444 land behind 37 Chapelfield – no further comments; 2024/3521 12 Sutton Crescent – (by email) no objections.
- b) Decisions – none.
- c) Enforcements – one open case in the process of being closed.
- d) Tree Protection Order – 18 The Green, Freethorpe, was noted.
- e) Affordability/viability check for Green View Way – retain as an agenda item.

10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

- a) Speed Management- Figures are for November and December 2024. Reedham Road near the Village Hall remains our biggest concern, with 85th percentile speeds at 38mph approaching a dangerous junction where children cross. Almost half the vehicles broke the speed limit. At four of the other five locations, though, speeds were down. 95% of vehicles near the shop kept within 30mph. 85th percentile speeds

ranged from 28mph near the shop to 33mph at Chapelfield. Volumes ranged from 15,465 along Chapelfield to 26,614 past the Shop.

- b) Play Area Inspections – December inspections raised no new items requiring attention.
- c) Electronic Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) – are up and running, advertisement of facility to be explored – school, Zapmap, Nextdoor, Outlook, signpost **ACTION AM**
- d) Wickhampton Pond – a report is being drafted to present options and costs.
- e) Rampant Horse – is on the market. It was agreed to explore the possibility of extending the current Asset of Community Value registration. **ACTION AM**
- f) Village Hall kitchen – the good job done in the kitchen was appreciated and the draft Completion Report was approved to send to Broadland. **ACTION AM**
- g) Playing Field – awaiting requirements on grounds maintenance for football. The further robotic pitch marking for youth football was noted.
- h) The Pump – Beighton Builders have been asked to advise on repair work needed.
- i) Flower troughs at Village Hall and Flying Field Memorial – carry forward.
- j) Parish Partnership 2025/26 – the application for works agreed at the previous meeting was noted.

11. Other Matters

- a) PB noted the closure of Branch Road, Halvergate for resurfacing.

12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th February 2025 7PM, Freethorpe Village Hall. Apologies received from PC.

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 8:25 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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