

Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton, held Monday 17th February 2025 at 7pm at Freethorpe Village Hall

Present: Nick Spencer (NS, Chairman), Paul Bacon (PB), Michael Blake (MB), Andrew Moll (AM, Parish Clerk), Grant Nurden (GN, also District Councillor).

Also present: John Fleetwood (JF, Tree Warden) and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Paul Crisp (PC), Lana Hemsall (LH), David Lake (DL, Vice-chairman), Andrea Rowlands (AR)

2. Public Forum

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – it was noted that Halvergate may be interested in a joint Neighbourhood Plan, and agreed that the subject be aired at the next cluster meeting.
- b) County Councillor Report – none. GN shared a County Council update from another County Councillor, including the confirmation that council elections will not be held. The new Family Hubs were noted.
- c) District Councillor Report - GN advised that Broadland's element of Council Tax is staying unchanged. As plans for unitary authorities in Norfolk take shape, it is important to preserve local knowledge and accountability. This will be discussed at the cluster meeting.
- d) Tree Wardens' Report - JF has reduced the overhanging apple tree at Wickhampton Play Area and protected young trees from the strimmer. He anticipated that the next Tree Warden Network AGM would be his last as Chair. Government re-organisation is threatening the future of tree wardening, which is being discussed with the Tree Council. The Broads Authority are dealing with overhanging tree complaints from the boating fraternity. JF explained the situation with Wickhampton Pond. Item 10d refers.
- e) Police – priorities of speeding and anti-social behaviour were noted, as was the date of the next priority setting meeting (6pm 13/03). NS commented on the amount of rubbish being thrown out of car windows on roads.
- f) Public items – Two items were raised: (1) resident concerns about speeding on the Common, Southwood entry; item 8a refers. (2) resident concerns at the traffic disruption from the recent road race, which took some people by surprise. AM advised that the race itself sets off from Reedham under the auspices of the Great Yarmouth & District Athletics Club, who notify the Police and local Parish Councils. We advertise the details on the website and in the Yarmouth Mercury. Provide links. **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 20th January 2025

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

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) (2d) Directional road sign cleaning request (AM) – has been logged.
 - b) (5c) Purchase Glasdon dog bin (AM) – the new dog bin has been purchased and is at the Village Hall to be mounted on a post.
 - c) (6c) Quotes for solar panels (AM) – are in progress, item 10g refers.
 - d) (6d) Voting form for NALC to become a company by guarantee (AM) – has been done.
- The new County Officer wrote thanking the Parish Council for voting.

- e) (10c) EVCP – explore advertising (AM) – in progress.
- f) (10e) Explore extension of Rampant Horse listing as an Asset of Community Value (AM) – is unnecessary, the listing remains until 2027. A link to the Register was shared.
- g) (10f) Village Hall Kitchen – send completion report to Broadland (AM) – done.
- h) Other matters arising – none.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) A letter from the County Officer, Norfolk Association of Local Councils, was noted.
- b) Representation at the Cluster Meeting at Brundall 18/02 was to be MB, GN and PB.
- c) Village Hall Kitchen Official Opening 10am 22nd March – by GN and possibly NS.
- d) Town & Parish Council Forum notes were shared. Next meeting is 4th March.
- e) Village Hall Security Lights – were upgraded immediately following the break-in. The Committee requested a Parish Council grant to cover the work, £1,944. PB and GN voted against, MB and NS voted for, carried by NS's casting vote. PB asked if the Social Club contributed to the Village Hall's costs. The Parish Council is not in a position to pick up recurring costs such as increased grass-cutting. **ACTION AM**

7. Finance

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

Income	£60,010.52	Bank balance	£34,423.70
Expenditure	£45,426.53	Forecast end year balance	£33,398.60

AM advised that the income for the year was higher than budgeted due to grants, and expenditure due to VAT paid on the grant work, to be recovered in annual VAT claim in August. Reserves target is £10,000. Forecast end year balance of £33,398 is due to CIL money received. When this is spent next year, reserves will revert to the normal level.

- b) Payments - it was **agreed** to make the following payments:
 - (1) Norse Eastern Ltd. **£188.57** – INV 1079022 pitch marking for youth football
 - (2) Glasdon UK Limited **£179.38** – INV SI904216 Fido Dog Bin
 - (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 **£0.00** – PAYE – PB & GN queried this. AM explained that HMRC are taking the direct debit on a quarterly basis, which GN understood to be standard practice.

- c) Receipts – the following receipts were noted:
 - (1) Norfolk County Council **£270.79** – recycling credits 2024
 - (2) Norfolk County Council **£94.42** - recycling credits 2024

- d) Quarterly Finance Review – MB to carry out using latest figures.
- e) The Asset Register was reviewed. It was noted that the External Auditor had asked for the asset figure to be corrected this year as it was incorrect on the AGAR last year. The basis for the revised figures and the figures themselves were agreed. The replacement values of play equipment had also been reviewed for insurance purposes and were agreed. The Asset Register was **approved**.

8. Correspondence

- a) Concern at the risk to children of speeding on Southwood entry to Freethorpe was discussed. This had previously been discussed with the Area Highways Engineer when he visited Freethorpe, and advice received that gating was not appropriate there. Further analysis of speeds was requested, and it was agreed that these would be taken from the current month's data, as the SAM machine is currently at this location.
- b) Hear for Norfolk – it was noted with interest that a number of services and clinics are available at Acle and Loddon.

Chair's initials

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9. Planning

- a) New applications – 2025/0146 60 Lower Green, no objections from email review. 2025/0428 103 Wheelwrights Closer, garage conversion – unanimously agreed ‘no objections’ with a comment from PB – is there sufficient parking provision?
- b) Decisions – none.
- c) Enforcements – one open case noted.
- d) Affordability / viability check for Green View Way – councillors want to be sure that the promised affordable housing has been delivered. There is a continuing impact of parked vehicles associated with the development, including on double yellow lines. GN asked that this should be followed up with the Broadland Liaison Officer. **ACTION AM**
- e) Custom & Self-build Housing Supplementary Planning Document consultation – was noted for individuals to respond to.

10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

- a) Speed Management- Speeding figures are for January 2025. 85th percentile speeds at Lower Green had increased from 32.4mph to 33.4mph on reduced volumes of 28,964. One in three vehicles broke the speed limit. Speeds at the Common near 111 stayed the same at 29.9 85th percentile with reduced numbers of 15,881.
- b) Play Area Inspections – no issues from February inspection.
- c) Wickhampton Pond – the experiences of various organisations were considered and it was concluded that it is almost impossible to eradicate the crassula growing in the front of the pond. The Parish Council has a duty to stop its spread. Therefore it was agreed to ask JF to embark on the steps necessary to infill the front of the pond in order to smother the crassula in the hope that it hasn’t infiltrated the reeds further back. JF kindly agreed to begin the process.
- d) Rampant Horse – none.
- e) The Pump – Brighton Builders have been asked to advise on repair work needed.
- f) Flower troughs at Village Hall and Flying Field Memorial – carry forward.
- g) Solar Panels for the Village Hall – clarification on planning permission has been received from Broadland, and an assurance obtained from the first supplier approached that the zinc roof would not be damaged by the panels.

11. Other Matters

None.

12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th March 2025 7PM, Freethorpe Village Hall.

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 8:45 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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