

Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton, held Monday 18th November 2024 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), Andrea Rowlands (AR).

Also present: John Fleetwood (JF, Tree Warden), Iolo Jones (IJ, Broadland District Council) and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Paul Crisp (PC), Lana Hemsall (LH), David Lake (DL, Vice-chairman).

2. Public Forum

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – IJ had been invited to outline the benefits and processes of Neighbourhood Plans, which are in essence a greater say in the parameters to the planning process and a higher proportion of CIL money to the parish. The first considerations for the next meeting are the area of a plan (Freethorpe/Wickhampton or jointly with Halvergate or others), and the feasibility of establishing a core group to produce it. Effort and commitment need to be taken into account. Grants are available to cover most of the costs of £10,000-£20,000. NS thanked IJ for attending.
- b) County Councillor Report – a letter from LH regarding fly tipping was noted.
- c) District Councillor Report - GN encouraged nominations for Broadland Business Awards. GN shared details from the A47 start of works ceremony. He also gave contacts for possible grant funding associated with the scheme. GN referred to the incident with a vehicle at Halvergate Act of Remembrance, which those at the event felt had been misreported. GN
- d) Tree Wardens' Report - JF updated on further investigation regarding Wickhampton Pond. It appears that no site has yet managed to fully remove crassula. A hedge would be preferable to fencing which is cost-prohibitive. A hawthorn hedge could be put in, but the line of the boundary needs to be confirmed. **ACTION AM**
- e) Public Items – Emma Covington, Labour candidate for our County Council ward in 2025, was invited to introduce herself. She invited suggestions for her manifesto.

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 21st October 2024

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

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) (5c) Write to Broadland with comments on fly tipping at Wickhampton (AM) – done, but noted further correspondence from a resident about the rubbish still on Low Road.
- b) (10d) Costings for fencing Wickhampton Pond (JF) – done, item 2d refers.
- c) (10i) Pump repaint and repair quotes (AM) – proposal has been sought.
- d) (10j) Flower troughs – consider options (AM/AR) – carry forward.
- e) Other matters arising – none.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) The Act of Remembrance took place at the War Memorial on 10th November and was well attended. PB laid the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b) The dedication of new church doors in memory of Janet Church is on 23rd November.

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- c) It was **agreed** to invest in a Bleed Control Kit to place at the Village Hall.
- d) It was noted that 30mph signs at Palmers Lane are scheduled to be replaced.
- e) It was noted that the anniversaries of VE & VJ Day fall in 2025.
- f) The annual Rough Sleeper Count for 13th November was returned as nil.
- g) It was unanimously **agreed** to oppose operating or attending meetings remotely (online) in response to the government consultation. **ACTION AM**
- h) The map of dog bin locations was discussed. PB added a bin at Youngs Crescent to the list. While there was some disappointment that people continue to put dog waste in the general bins at the Village Hall when there are dog bins nearby, it was **agreed** to apply for a new one near the recycling banks. **ACTION AM**
- i) A green energy survey for the Village Hall was noted.
- j) Volunteering opportunities were noted.
- k) Invitation to nominate for Broadland Business Awards 2025 was noted.

7. Finance

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

Income	£52,545.77	Bank balance	£47,776.23
Expenditure	£24,518.25	Forecast end year balance	£37,498.22

- b) Payments - it was **agreed** to make the following payments:
 - (1) Playdale Playgrounds Ltd **£17.40** – underpayment on INV 49908
 - (2) Freethorpe Village Hall **£150.00** – hall bookings 2025
 - (3) Norse Eastern Limited **£1608.94** – grounds maintenance INV 1075931
 - (4) Moulton Nurseries **£23.37** – Clean-up & Bloom INV 1796
 - (5) Joe Dix Foundation **£120.00** – bleed kit
 - (SO1) Calica Computer Solutions **£30.00** - Speed machine management
 - (SO2) Mr A & Mrs MC Moll **£207.33** - Clerk Salary

And on completion of the work and presentation of invoice in December, cheque to be written and signed by authorised signatories:

 - (6) Broadland Hoardings Ltd **£17,700** – fixed price kitchen works
- c) Receipts – the following receipts were noted:
 - (1) Broadland District Council £20,372.26 – 75 The Green
- d) Quarterly Finance Review is now with MB.
- e) National pay award was dealt with under item 14.
- f) The recommendations in a decision paper on the budget for 2025/26 were accepted, with the following adjustments: (1) MB proposed, and it was agreed, to increase cemetery maintenance budget by £60 per cemetery, i.e. £180. (2) Item 6h refers to the additional annual cost of a dog bin, i.e. £91. (3) GN proposed, and it was agreed, to earmark reserves for neighbourhood planning, £1,000 p.a. in the next two years. On the basis of these revisions, it was **agreed** to approve the budget and demand a precept of £17,931. The increase is 3.56%. However, the impact on the parish element of council tax will be less than this as the tax base increases in 2025/26.

8. Correspondence

- a) None.

9. Planning

- a) New Applications – 2024/3365 extension of reservoir – just in, consultation not opened.
- b) Decisions – approval of BA/2024/0240/LBC 2 Church Farm Cottages Wickhampton, 2023/37056 39 Chapelfield garage, 2024/1912 69 The Green new boiler - were noted.
- c) Enforcements – two open cases, unchanged, were noted.

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- d) Planning constraints – a Housing Needs Survey will require a social housing organisation with firm interest in a significant development in the parish.
- e) Design Model – consultation closed on 11/11/2024.
- f) Affordability/viability check for Green View Way – retain as an agenda item.

10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

- a) Speed Management– figures for October 2024. On the Common coming in from Southwood, 85th percentile speeds were up by 1mph to 32.8mph, with 16,174 vehicles, only 73% of drivers kept within the 30mph limit. On School Road, 85th percentile speeds were down by 3mph to 24.7mph. 99% of the 3096 vehicles kept within the 30mph limit.
- b) Play Area Inspections – the latest inspections raised no significant items requiring attention.
- c) Electronic Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) – have been installed, markings to be added to complete project.
- d) Wickhampton Pond – item 2d above refers.
- e) Rampant Horse – no update this month.
- f) Clean Up & Bloom – positive comments received from Broadland were noted.
- g) Village Hall kitchen – work in progress was noted.
- h) Playing Field – awaiting requirements on grounds maintenance for football.
- i) The Pump – Beighton Builders have been asked to advise on repair work needed.
- j) Flower troughs at Village Hall and Flying Field Memorial – carry forward.
- k) Parish Partnership 2025/26 – the Area Highways Engineer visited earlier to meet with AR, PB & AM to discuss plans and priorities to reduce speeding in Freethorpe. The outcome of that meeting were shared with the Parish Council. The following proposal was unanimously **agreed as the Parish Partnership Bid 2025/26**. Installation of gateways on the main road through Freethorpe, near Freethorpe Village Hall and at the entry to the village on the Moulton / Acle Road, with associated signage and road markings. In each location, a pair of gates 2.3mtr high and 1.5mtr wide with cross panel, and either a 30mph roundel or welcome notice on the front and a blank cross-bar on the back. Lining of 30mph roundel or 'SLOW' marking on the highway and white edge lining to give the impression of the road narrowing. Cost £5,200 funded 50% by Norfolk County Council if approved, with £2,600 from CIL reserves.

11. Other Matters

- a) GN advised that the next Cluster Meeting is at Brundall on 31st January. AM was asked to prepare a draft Freethorpe report to be agreed on 20th January. **ACTION AM**

12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda

PB showed the Area Highways Engineer the flooding problem at the Southwood entry to the Common. As a result, further work on drainage is being scheduled.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th January 2025 7PM, 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 9:25 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	Date
	Nick Spencer	

Chair's initials