

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 4th March, 2024

Present: John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Richard Goodings (RG), Danny Clarke (DC)

In attendance: Helen Frayer (HF) Parish Clerk, Margaret Dewsbury (MD) County Councillor, Richard Elliot (RE) District Councillor, Sophie Scott (SS) Booking Clerk

129. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from John Hipperson, Stephen Brown and Hilary Matthews

130. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Richard Goodings declared interest in agenda item 9.3

131. PUBLIC FORUM:

131.1 The resident who had requested that the Neighbourhood plan be on the agenda attended and was accompanied by the Chair of Hingham council who are near the completion of their plan. He said he would be happy to answer any queries about the process.

131.2 Resident asked about the grant for the air source heating and what the final quote was. This is an agenda item

131.3 Resident asked for an update on the Church Lane hedge. No update available

131.4 Resident said the new allotment holders on plot 12 had already done a lot of work and got it looking good

131.5 MD had sent in a full report which will be published alongside the minutes. She updated on the highlights: - The budget had been agreed for £528m. The fire service are holding electrical safety events on March 5th – 7th. Highways programme agreed including £10m for maintenance and £4.51m for road resurfacing. DEFRA awarded NCC £150,000 to reduce flooding in north Attleborough

131.6 RE reported SNC has set budget with a 3% increase in council tax which is well below inflation. District Direct scheme to reduce time people spend in hospital and free up beds has been successful and has been extended. Flooding – SNC has secured a surplus over expenditure and was able to set aside money to support communities affected by flooding. Additional support is to be provided for hard pressed families

132. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER. JS pointed out that the date of the next meeting was incorrect. This was corrected. **NK proposed accepting Minutes as correct, DC seconded, all agreed.**

133. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ACTIONS SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING: HF reported that all actions had been carried out but no further updates.

134. CORRESPONDENCE:

134.1 Stop Wensum Link Campaign Group – noted

134.2 Request to consider Neighbourhood Plan – on agenda

135. FINANCE

135.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: including late invoice

Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk	602.42
HMRC	Month 11	108.80
Clerk's expenses	Mileage, Items for hall kitchen, leaving gift, door handle, job advert on Indeed	186.69
Dream Team Cleaning	Cleaning village hall	324.00
Anglian Insulation	Cavity wall insulation	1,848.00
Finn Geotherm	Deposit for Heat Pump installation	10,312.98
Various	Return of hall deposits	120.00
	TOTAL	£13,502.89

Resolved: That all accounts as presented be paid. Proposed DC, seconded NK, all agreed

135.2 MONTHLY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS REPORT

	Current	Premium	Total
Balance b/f	4,873.97	45,974.00	50,847.97
Total receipts to 25/2/24	2,490.00	0.00	2,490.00
Hall hire	2,378.00		
Hall Deposit	112.00		
	7,363.97	45,974.00	53,337.97
Total payments to 25/2/24	1,877.72	0.00	1,877.72
	5,486.25	45,974.00	51,460.25
Inter Account Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance	5,486.25	45,974.00	51,460.25

136. HIGHWAYS:

136.1 RG reported that the faults he had previously reported to Highways were actually the responsibility of Anglian Water and he had reported to them.

136.2 It was reported that the drains in Church Lane and from the windmill down to Church Lane are full of debris and need sucking out. **HF to report to Highways**

136.3 Trees have been planted on the verge on Milestone Lane. Not known whether this was done by Highways or whether by a landowner. This verge is maintained by the parish council. **HF to enquire with Highways**

137. PLANNING:

137.1 Applications: 2024/0368,0369,0370 – 49 Low Street – No views or comments

137.2 2024/0431 – 54 High Street – No views or comments

- 137.3** 2024/0310 – Green Farm, Wood Lane – No views or comments
- 137.4 Decisions:** 2023/1923 – Springmere, The Green – Refusal - noted
- 137.5** 2024/0073 – Rosewall Barn, The Green – Approval with no conditions – noted
- 137.6 Village Clusters Consultation** – The council agreed that they need to be prepared for the next stage. There may be a further consultation but not imminently
- 137.7 Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chair of Hingham Council was invited to update re their experience. He stated it was on track to be completed within 3 years of starting and they had been able to access plenty of grants towards the costs. They had received a whole council briefing from the team at SNC that supports neighbourhood plans. He also pointed out that if there was a neighbourhood plan then the parish share of future CIL money would increase. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for a full briefing so that the council would be better informed to make their decision. **HF to arrange briefing**

138. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYING FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS

- 138.1 Report from Booking Clerk:** SS reported that she had completed her first month and all was going well. All monies received. There had been two parties and a family get together and no ad hoc bookings
- 138.2 Maintenance items in hall:** JS reported that when the cavity wall insulation had been done, a further area of damaged brick had been identified that needed replacing. **HF to get quote to replace.** JS reported that when the cavity wall insulation had been done, it had filled up the air vent in the store room. **HF to contact company to resolve**
- 138.3 Playing Field Inspection:** NK reported all was in order. Grass is very long but very wet.
- 138.4 To agree quotes to clear ditch and scarify playing field:** Quotes had been received from Brian Clarke to fully clear out the ditch at the end of the playing field and to scarify the field now that the grounds maintenance people have said they no longer do it. **NK proposed accepting quote, DC seconded, all agreed.** Brian will liaise with Mr Hipperson re timing of ditch work as access is required from Mr Hipperson's land
- 138.5 Report from allotments inspection:** RG reported that the dog sign has gone and an area at the far end was flooded. Everything else in order. It was considered that there was already sufficient signage re dogs so would not replace.

- 139. REVIEW HALL HIRE RATES:** JS had prepared a spreadsheet showing hall income and expenditure. He suggested a 50p per hour increase over all the rates. This would still keep the hall rates competitive against other local venues. **DC proposed 50p per hour as from 1st April, NK seconded, all agreed.** DC suggested that the hall hire rates be publicised on the notice board. **HF to arrange**

- 140. UPDATE RE PLAY AREA:** HF updated that the sub group had met with one supplier who had produced a plan incorporating all suggestions for approx. £26,000 incl VAT. If successful with the grant application that would cover £20,000. Will need 2 more quotes. The layout was discussed. JS said the proposed plan needed amending as it was important to keep the area directly beside the hall clear so that a marquee could be erected on occasions and the

access gate to the bowls club needed to be kept clear. There is also drainage going through that area.

- 141. UPDATE RE AIR PUMP HEATING INSTALLATION:** JS reported that the paperwork has now all been received from Finn Geotherm. Final quote was slightly less than previously at £25,782.46. The Government grant of £7,500 had been approved. To arrange work to begin asap as the oil tank light was now flashing.
- 142. UPDATE RE NEW CLERK RECRUITMENT:** HF reported that 52 applications had been received. It was agreed that the interview panel would be JS, NK and DC on a Monday evening, date tba in March. NK will do the initial shortlisting.
- 143. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** HF reported that she had been approached re a possible interest to use the playing field for football at the weekend. Awaiting more details
- 144. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING:** The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting at **7.00** on Monday 8th April, followed by the monthly parish council meeting. Agenda items to Clerk by 28th March