

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 7th October, 2024

Present: John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Richard Goodings (RG), John Hipperson (JH) Danny Clarke (DC) Stephen Brown (SB) Hilary Matthews (HM)

In attendance: Gemma Creasey (GC) Parish Clerk Sophie Scott (SS) Booking Clerk, Margaret Dewsbury (MD) County Councillor and Richard Elliott (RE) District Councillor

67. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

68. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: NK declared an interest at agenda item 9.9 and 9.10, JH declared an interest at agenda item 8.1.

69. PUBLIC FORUM:

69.1 A resident noted that it was on the April agenda to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan – she wondered what had happened with this. JS explained that some of the PC had had a meeting with South Norfolk Council to discuss this– JS explained that it was apparent there was a lot of work in relation to this. It was put on hold due to the upcoming election and waiting to see what the new government introduce for National Planning Guidance.

69.2 A resident raised the application 2024/2278 – Land west of Green Lane – saying that he hoped the Parish Council would support objecting to this application.

69.3 Another resident also raised the Green Lane application stating that the raw facts are the same as they were with the first application.

69.4 A resident then said that it seems the Parish Council don't have any powers in relation to planning. JS stressed that this was the case and was a common misconception – the Parish Council can't refuse planning, only give comments on material considerations. The resident then enquired if there was any update about the hedge in Church Lane – JS confirming it is our understanding this is still with the Highways Authority legal department although it has been several years.

69.5 MD had sent in a full report which is on the Parish Council website but included information on stop smoking Stoptober, library service survey, road safety for older drivers, bicycle light scheme for children, the Fire Service obtaining a longer ladder and a million trees at half price. There was also a Norfolk County Council report which had been put on the Parish Council website including things such as devolution, National Grid pylon scheme, solar farms and celebration of Norfolk towns. MD mentioned that they still don't know how much money will be in the budget from the government as yet. JS raised the issue of the

trees asking what instructions do the council send out with these, i.e. how close to plant to verges etc. This has been a problem on Milestone Lane. MD will look into this.

69.6 RE had sent a report which will be on the Parish Council's website. In summary it contained informed on a public realm consultation regarding Wymondham, employment help, a new newsletter for residents who would like additional contact and grants for EV chargers and solar PV. JS adding that the previous clerk, Helen, had looked into EV charging and as the council does not have general power of competence it isn't something that the Council could install even if wanted. There aren't grants for just solar PV – it has to come with EV chargers. JS asking in relation to the Green Lane issue, if RE could ask it to go to committee, RE saying this is something he could do but only if it is refused under delegated authority.

- 70. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd September 2024.** HM noted it should refer to PAT testing, not PAC testing but everything else was correct. **DC proposed accepting Minutes as correct, HM seconded, all agreed.**
- 71. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ACTIONS SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
- 71.1** Contacted George Freeman MP regarding Martyn's Law and had circulated the response – it should now only apply to venues with 200 or more people.
 - 71.2** Contacted a resident about an overgrown hedge.
 - 71.3** Reported all Highways issues to the Highways Rangers.
 - 71.4** Reported the pumping station smell to Anglian Water – they will look into this.
 - 71.5** GC had also asked Anglian Water whether the pumping station would have sufficient capacity if the VCHAP Village Clusters became reality – no response as yet.
 - 71.6** Submitted responses to the VCHAP Village Clusters consultation.
 - 71.7** Submitted comments to the planning committee regarding the potential lack of affordable housing on the Church Lane application.
 - 71.8** Contacted the school to see who cleans their play equipment but had no response.
 - 71.9** Contacted TSSR regarding the costs of additional cuts to allotment and playing field – they are not providing quotes for next year until after the budget in October.
 - 71.10** Obtained a quote for guttering.
 - 71.11** Looked into any legal avenues that could be pursued if the requirement for social housing is removed from the Hackford Road application for 9 dwellings – ultimately a judicial review could be considered by this is very costly and only applies if there was a procedural error, if so this error could be rectified then resubmitted.
 - 71.12** Informed that the village sign has been taken down, JS will paint the post JH said that he can help with the metal work on the sign. RG's Daughter in Law can probably help with the repainting but not until November and not sure of costs at this point.
 - 71.13** Playground quotes etc should start up in November once HM is available.
- 72. FINANCE**
- 72.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Monthly payment report for October.

Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk	675.14
HMRC	Month 6	28.20
Clerk's expenses	Mileage, Sim, Ink, stamps, gloves, radiator key	43.87
Dream Team Cleaning	Cleaning village hall	405.00
Tim Carver	Cutting verges – invoice 5 & 6	250.00
South Norfolk DC	Dog bins -DD	324.00
TTSR	Playing field and allotment cut	424.86
EDF	Electricity – DD	40.98
Various	Hall deposit returns	100.00
J Seville	Woodstain for Village Sign oak post	21.55
Duffields	Emptying of septic tank and carpark gullies	180.00
	TOTAL	£2493.60

Resolved: That all accounts as presented be paid. Proposed HM, seconded SB, all agreed

72.2 MONTHLY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS REPORT FOR OCTOBER

		Current	Premium	Total
Balance b/f		2892.19	33,276.38	36,168.57
Total receipts to 25.09.24		5007.36	122.06	5129.42
Hall deposit	200.00			
Hall hire	845.00			
Precept less loan	3400.00			
FIT receipt	154.72			
Bowls club utilities recharge	407.64			
Total payments to 25.09 .24		1844.94	0.00	1844.94
Inter Account Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance		6054.61	33,398.44	39,453.05

72.3 Half year budget noted. DC asked that currently the budget for electricity is £2000 but only spent £383 so far – is this accurate? GC saying that we have been on a cheaper rate until 1st October so electricity cost will go up and with air source heat pump more electricity will be used going into winter so she imagines this is why £2000 was put in. We are invoiced monthly now for EDF. NK saying there doesn't seem to be any areas where there will be a massive overspend. JS adding the village sign repairs weren't budgeted for although costs are unknown at present.

72.4 GC explained previous internal auditor was cutting back but had found another one - costs are £17 per hour and he expects it shouldn't be more than £50. Last year was £50. **HM proposed to accept this seconded by RG, all agreed.**

72.5 SS unable to sign employment contract due to a broken arm so this will be added to a later agenda.

72.6 Barclays form to add SS on to account in a view only capacity (can't make payments out.) There are two forms for this – one GC and JS can sign and one for Sophie to

sign. JS and GC duly signing. SS will complete/sign the other form when able and go to Barclays with ID to be added.

- 73. HIGHWAYS:** JS noted that the rangers had been out and they had moved the sign in relation to children's play area. NK noting some repairs had been done today and SB saying the Hospital Road sign is still missing.

74. PLANNING:

74.1 Applications: 2024/2278 – Land west of Green Lane – NK stating opinion has not changed to the previous applications. JS said highways issues need to be stressed and it is out of context with the area. HM suggested asking the public – residents said that highways weight had been taken away but this was under the false impressions that there was traffic going to stables and horses which hasn't been there for many years. NK adding we need to be mindful that there are 2 plots on the site although this application is only in relation to 1 plot. HM raising the issue of security light issue as it is on a hill and Wicklewood is in a designated dark zone. GC will draft a response using previous comments and residents' comments and circulate to councillors before sending **NK proposed this SB seconded, all agreed.**

74.2 2024/2348 Wood Farm, Wymondham Road, Crownthorpe, Change of use from agricultural field to parking area as well as combined agricultural and recreational use on grass paths – no views or comments.

74.3 2024/2770 Whitehall Farm, Crownthorpe – Agricultural general purpose building to store farm implements and crops from surrounding fields – no views or comments.

74.4 Decisions: 2022/0899 – Land at former nursery, High Street – outline – demolition of existing nursery buildings following relocation and erection of up to five new single storey dwellings – approved with conditions – noted.

75. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYING FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS

75.1 Booking clerk report – SS said not much to report. JS added new thermostat should have new instructions shortly and then a sign should be put up for hirers. SS mentioned the emergency lighting on the committee room not being connected to the main hall circuit as she can't test it then. JS will look at this. JS also mentioned the defib light might need new batteries as the light isn't on.

75.2 Leaky guttering – GC has contacted someone who says that the fittings on the guttering need replacing and this should help the guttering sit better – his cost will be £89. There is an additional part of guttering to the left of the hall that possibly needs adjustment – GC will ask him to look at this and fix too. **NK Proposed, DC seconded, all agreed.**

75.3 Committee Room Thermostatic valve – outer casing of this has gone so needs to be replaced. JS and GC will look into this and purchase – **HM proposed, RG seconded, all agreed.**

75.4 Car in car park – JS saying a car has been in the village hall car park on several occasions with no lights or front number plate. The car was a blue Land Rover Discovery,

BL02 YMJ. GC reported this to the police who are looking into it but said to ring 999 if it is driven in the dark. Hackford and Deopham Parish Council had contacted us about a car that was something to do with Deopham but this car apparently had no wheels. GC asked if the car moves or whether it is always here – we need to check this. HM suggesting invoicing a daily amount or putting something under the windscreen if it doesn't move – if nothing happens then it could be clamped. Needs to be monitored.

75.5 Play area clean: JS has done some of this and it took just over an hour to do which suggests quotes were high for the work involved. NK saying it is cleaner. GC had got an extra quote of £365 in addition to the other quotes of £294 and £540.

75.6 Playing Field Inspection: NK said everything was fine although play area will need a paint next Spring so this will need to be added to the budget. HM suggesting we might be able to get this incorporated into the new equipment quote. JS added that Richard Clarke couldn't cut the corner of the hedge as a car was there – he will try again. If not, Tim Carver might be able to do this – **DC proposing this, NK seconded, all agreed.** In relation to playing field cuts JS suggesting that we have an extra cut next year at the start of March. GC will ask for this when they requote for next year.

75.7 Amount of allotment cuts JS says that he believes the general consensus is to stick with 4 cuts a year – when re quoting we will specify when we want the cuts doing and also will ask for notification that they have been done or will be done so these can be checked. NK suggesting adding contingency in the budget for an extra cut if needed. **DC proposed this, HM seconded, all agreed.**

75.8 Report from allotments inspection: DC checked on 27th September – sign has been updated to ask all enquiries be directed to the Clerk. DC checked around the orchard – grass around trees has been cut back and some trees trimmed.

75.9 Review allotment leases cost – Last year increased from £24 to £27 to factor in the cuts around allotments following a request from allotment holders and removing it from the allotment agreements, thus distributing costs across all plots. These cuts are £50 a cut so £200 a year. Last year increase brought in £72 in addition income towards this. JS suggesting an extra £3 increase to £30 as the full cost of the cuts last year wasn't recovered and costs of cuts will go up again next year. HM pointing out this is more than inflation. SB clarifying that the extra cost is being covered by the precept in which case that is a justification for increasing the cost of the lease as otherwise the whole village is subsidising a small section of the village. It was decided a £3 was appropriate although a difficult decision and the reasoning behind this increase should be communicated with allotment holders. **DC proposed, HM seconding, all agreed.**

76. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting will be at 7.45pm on Monday 4th November 2024. Agenda items to Clerk by 25th October.