

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 3rd March 2025

Present: 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) (Clerk) Sophie Scott (SS) (Booking Clerk), Margaret Dewsbury (MD), Richard Elliott (RE)

112. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from John Seville (JS)

113. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None.

114. PUBLIC FORUM:

114.1 A resident mentioned that it was good to see the area of The Green was being protected with no parking signs but she wondered if anything would be done about the large area on the corner which is still being parked on – were there plans for this to be seeded etc. NK saying it has historically been parked on for a long time. NK suggested that we try to find out who owns the piece of land so we then will know if further steps could be taken. HM asking the resident whether the new signs on The Green have stopped people parking there – she confirmed that this has stopped. JH suggested getting more signs but we first need to establish who owns this land. GC will look into this.

114.2 A resident of Low Street wished to raise the issue of the plots on Low Street and the ongoing flooding. He was aware of the Council's comments in relation to the planning applications and is aware many other residents have also objected. Last week there was heavy rainfall which didn't go into the ditch and ran through the drive of number 24, it then ended up in the resident's garden. The resident asked for the councils support and for this to be an ongoing agenda item. The resident believes that the planning application could be a good thing if it comes with a proper resolution to the drainage issue. NK suggested that we add this to next month's agenda and future agendas and write to the flooding officer. GC adding that a resident had emailed pictures of the flooding last week and these had been emailed to the planning officer.

114.3 MD ran through her previously published report which included Devolution, Local Government Reform, Parish Partnership Scheme, Roads and Electric Blanket testing.

114.4 RE mentioned that Council Tax bills will be issued shortly with a £5 rise in relation to the District Council. A VE Day grant is open and he feels it is almost guaranteed that the Parish Council's application would be successful. RE explained there are some extra pilot grants to help achieve net zero. Carbon emissions have reduced from 3000 to 500 tonnes but there is still more to be done at a local level. He will circulate details of these grants

which will include funding for things such as ponds and mini forests. RE explained the help hub now includes an employability hub which is helping people with work and training.

- 115. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd February 2025.** HM noted there were a few grammatical errors and these were corrected by hand. Once these were corrected **HM proposed accepting Minutes as correct DC seconded, all agreed.**

116. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ACTIONS SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING:

116.1 Ordered the No Parking signs – JS has picked these up – have informed school that these will be going up.

116.2 Sent off our Norfolk ALC vote.

116.3 Reported the issue regarding Old Deer Barn to planning enforcement.

116.4 Contacted Highways regarding the Hospital Lane/Wymondham Road junction – no response as yet.

116.5 Chased Electrician for the toilet switch in the Hall.

116.6 Drafted Safeguarding policy and updated Equal Opportunities policy.

116.7 Emailed to obtain quote for hedge at the allotments – awaiting this.

116.8 Contacted SNC and spoke with another council re Neighbourhood Plans.

116.9 Spoke to the two Wicklewood residents on the Allotment waiting list to see if there could be an agreement reached with the community plot as the residents on the list indicated that they may be interested in a half plot. Both residents met with the resident who runs the community plot however the proposal wasn't suitable for those on the waiting list so they remain on the waiting list.

116.10 Corresponded with the providers of the Norfolk Armed Forces Grant for VE day regarding requirements.

117. FINANCE

117.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Monthly payments for March

Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk	702.18
HMRC	Month 11	29.80
Clerk's expenses	Sim, printing, mileage and stamps	32.04
Dream Team Cleaning	Village Hall Clean	360.00
Booking Clerk expenses	Batteries for Hall	4.75
Mike Amiss Signs	No Parking Signs	150.00
EDF	Electricity – DD	243.25
Wave	Water – DD	27.23
Various	Hall deposit and cancellation	248.00
Information Commissioners Office	Data Protection fee – DD (this was omitted from February's Agenda)	35.00
Tim Carver	Hedge Cut	30.00
	TOTAL	1862.25

117.2 Monthly Receipts and Payments Report

	Current	Premium	Total
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Balance b/f		2490.17	35,026.73	37,516.90
Total receipts to 25.02.25			0.00	0.00
Hall hire	1505.00			
Hall deposit	100.00			
Total payments to 25.02.25		1653.45	0.00	0.00
Inter Account Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance		2441.72	35,026.73	37,468.45

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

118. HIGHWAYS

No new issues to be raised although HM and JH discussed that there had been another accident at the Hospital Lane/Wymondham Road junction.

119. PLANNING

119.1 Applications - Variation of condition 2 of **2024/0431** Green Farm, Wood Lane – Increase in size by 6 meters – No views or comments **Proposed DC, seconded SB, all agreed**
2024/3855 – 60 High Street – Two dormer windows to side, garage conversion and new cart shed – amended– No views or comments **Proposed DC, seconded SB, all agreed**

119.2 Decisions – **2025/0127** Green Farm, Wood Lane – Extension to agricultural building for storage – Withdrawn (delegated.)
2024/2348 – Wood Farm – Change of use from Agricultural field to parking area and combined agricultural and recreational use for people (with or without dogs) on grass paths – approved with conditions.

120. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYING FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS

120.1 Booking clerk report – SS confirmed there have been no faults, bookings seem to be picking up a bit.

120.2 Hall maintenance items – None.

120.3 Playing Field inspection – Nothing to report although more table tennis balls are needed – GC can purchase these - **Proposed SB, seconded HM, all agreed**. NK enquired whether there had been any progress with the new playground equipment – HM will progress it soon.

120.4 Report from allotment and village sign inspection – DC inspected both the allotments and village sign on the 19th February and there were no issues. HM enquired whether the lights are needed at the village sign. DC isn't aware who has done this but doesn't think it is a problem – NK added it could possibly be the ladies who do the flowers. SB added it is a dark sky area. Agreed it isn't really a problem HM was just curious.

121. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

GC had circulated documents from Locality and South Norfolk District Council in relation to timescales, cost and the amount of participants needed. Some members of the council had previously met with South Norfolk Council to discuss what it would involve. SB ran over the findings from this meeting. He explained that the Neighbourhood Plan is to agree strategic priorities for the neighbourhood so that when planning applications come in they can be referred to against the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is a consideration when making planning decisions and not the sole deciding factor. It involves the neighbourhood, not solely the parish council. There has to be clear evidence that the neighbourhood has been involved historically engagement is low. They can take several years to complete. SB recalled previously being told the costs are around £30,000 with grants of around £20,000 so the council would need to fund around £10,000. DC added that the costs circulated by GC were around £18,000 with Council contributions of £1000 - £2000. Consultants are usually employed although not essential. HM enquired whether the village were asked what their thoughts were and SB said that this didn't happen as an election was called and it was unknown what a new government would do in relation to planning. RE was asked his thoughts. RE added that The National Planning Framework Document is being rewritten with the expectation that there will be more development, particularly in rural areas. A further consideration is that the current local authorities will cease to exist in a few years and this will mean a different planning authority and the strategic priorities of this new planning authority will decide whether Neighbourhood Plans are favoured or not. RE saying that he does think highly of Neighbourhood Plans but given the changes there is uncertainty about their longevity. DC asking for the timescale of reorganisation. Elections for the new shadow unitary authority are due to take place in May 2027 so the new authority or authorities will come in to place in 2028. Existing District authorities will remain until 2028. There will also need to be a new local plan in 2029. HM added that it should probably have been done years ago. DC said he felt there was too much uncertainty. NK suggested that we review it again in 6 months. **Proposed NK, seconded DC, all agreed**

122. CUSTOM AND SELF BUILD CONSULTATION

DC said that he had read through the document and felt that it was rather lengthy, confusing and he didn't feel that the document put him in a position to have a view. He felt there were some interesting points. It was agreed that individuals could submit their own responses if desired rather than providing a whole council view. **Proposed DC, seconded SB, all agreed**

123. LITTER PICK

NK confirmed that the council does own litter pickers but there wasn't a big uptake when they last organised a litter pick. NK added that a lot of the litter is in the ditches and these are dangerous to clear. JH agreed that there is a lot of debris in the ditches. DC suggested that we publicise the Big Litter Pick document from South Norfolk so we support it but not necessarily organise it. The Guides previously organised a litter pick so it could be worth

letting them know along with the school. GC will send the information to NK to add to Wicklefolk.

Proposed DC, seconded SB, all agreed

124. NATIVE HEDGE ON ALLOTMENTS/WYMONDHAM ROAD

JS had asked for GC to obtain a quote for this hedge but we haven't received the quote yet, despite chasing, so it will be added to next month's agenda.

125. PRIMARY SCHOOL

SB and HM agreed that this was positive. NK said he had spoken to the Headteacher and they are planning on reorganising the car park. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be very keen to talk to the Executive Headteacher – GC will ask for her availability and then circulate this amongst the councillors to find a mutually convenient time.

126. TOAD WARNING SIGNS

HM confirmed that all the signs are in place. HM wished to thank Chris Baines, JS, GC, MD Adam Mayo from Highways and Anthony Cook for allowing a sign on his fence and the whole of toad patrol who helped put the signs up. They will remain until around the middle of April and then will go up again next year.

127. VE DAY DANCE

GC confirmed that the Armed Forces Covenant had been applied for and they have requested a Safeguarding policy. They also informed GC that the fund is over subscribed. There is now the additional South Norfolk VE Grant for a maximum of £300. GC added it would be sensible to apply for this. Currently 10 people have emailed for tickets for the evening event. DC will order the tickets. Donna will have 50% of the tickets initially. DC suggested a further meeting of the sub group. It was agreed DC would order the tickets and GC would apply for the South Norfolk Grant. **Proposed DC, seconded HM, all agreed**

128. SAFEGUARDING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICIES

GC had circulated draft documents and added that there is some debate amongst Parish Councils as to whether a safeguarding policy is really needed given the Parish Council do not supervise children etc. It is often a document requested in grant applications so this may be beneficial for the playground upgrade. The policies were agreed.

Proposed SB, seconded DC, all agreed

129. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting will be the **Annual Parish Meeting at on 7.45pm on Monday 7th April 2025 followed by the monthly parish council meeting.** Agenda items to Clerk by 20th March.