

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 17th April 2024 at 7.00
pm Meeting held at Thorpe Hall Ashwellthorpe

Present: C Leggett (Chair)

S Allen

C Wood

Alan Arber (Clerk)

District Councillor Bob McClenning

One member of the public
in attendance.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies received by J Ives, M Williams, S Engamba and R Burridge All agreed to accept.

2) Declarations of Interest.

None

3) Minutes of the Meetings on 19th March 2024

2 items brought up and minutes need amending by the clerk

The time of the start of the meeting on the minute's needs changing to 7.30pm

It was also noted that the council did agree to minute their apologies to the parishioner and as such this is noted as the formal apology to the parishioner as agreed by councillors. This is to be taken as the minuted apology and will be sent by the end of April 2024.

The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Leggett Seconded: Cllr Allen

4) Public Open Forum

County Councillor Catherine Rowett's sent the following report attached as Appendix 1 District Councillor Ian Spratt sent the following report attached as Appendix 2

Further to the discussion at March's meeting when a parishioner asked for a retraction of comments made by the Parish Council in a planning application response, the parishioner expressed at this meeting that he felt the subsequent letter sent to the SNDC still had inaccuracies and requested it was amended. An updated letter will be sent regarding this by the end of April 2024. It was also asked that we put a comment on the old website detailing the new website address. The clerk will do this asap

5) Planning

2024/0971 Supported by the Parish Council. No issues

2024/0926 Supported by the Parish Council. No issues

6) Matter Arising from previous Minutes.

No matter arising.

7) To hear an update and consider any necessary action regarding the following

To discuss any issues with Speed Awareness Machines and location.

SAM 2 machines are located at each end of the street but need turning round asap to face other way.

8). Finance

a) To note the following payments made since last meeting

b) To consider payment of the following:

I. An Arber	March Salary	£373.82
II. Npower	Street lights APRIL	£66.77
III. W Hodgson	Grass cutting	£345.00
IV HMRC Tax and Ni	March	£172.48

V NPTS Essential Seminar	£108.00
VI EE Mobile internet for office	£41.18
VII To note any payments received after the agenda is posted	
None	

c) Receipts since last meeting

HMRC VAT refund	£451.67
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d) To receive the councils current standing

The clerk produced the bank statement for the end of March and the figure carried over is £7676.32 After today's payments we will have £7128.60 as the bank figure.

The Chair signed the bank statements as a true record of this minute.

e) To receive the year end bank reconciliation

The clerk produced the year end bank reconciliation and after many stressful hours he at last got it to balance and the figure agrees with the bank statement of £7676.32

The clerk reported that he has filled the forms for the planning application and this will be submitted with the necessary documents asap.

f) To receive and agree Section 1 of the AGAR Annual Governance Statements The clerk took the councillors through the statements one by one and all agreed they were correct and the form was duly signed by the chair and witnessed by the clerk as correct

Proposed Cllr Legget	Seconded Cllr Wood
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g) To receive and agree Section 2 of the AGAR Accounting Statements The clerk took the councillors through the statements one by one and all agreed they were correct and the form was duly signed by the Chair and witnessed by the clerk

Proposed Cllr Allen	Seconded Cllr Leggett
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9) Update on Thorpe Hall and other issues.

a) Blacksmiths Lane Still ongoing

b) Footpaths

The maintenance of the footpaths is due soon and the clerk was asked to contact Mr Bunn to get this work done asap.

c) Village maintenance

Parishioner requested we cut the small green at the entrance to Knyvett Green.

d) To review the data from the SAM 2 machine including New Road

The data from the last location on The Street facing from Fundenhall was a little better although we did have one speeder at 70 mph on 24/3/204 at 4 am.

e). Wood farm development

No Report

e) To agree the date of the event and the wording on the memorial plaques Carried Forward

h). To agree the new grass cutting contract

The clerk was asked to contact Omache Gardens to arrange this asap

10). Correspondence.

Asset register has been updated

Planning application 2024/0971 received

Planning application 2024/0926 received

Emails from parishioner regarding last meeting

Pride in place clean it and bloom event attended

Year end paperwork received from PKF Littlejohn

Year-end almost complete and will be submitted to Internal auditor in the by end of the month

All Defib checks undertaken

Play area checks undertaken

Letter regarding go fund me page being set up by Parishioner on extra play equipment on play park

Email from Village Hall to say they own the part of land on the right as you enter and they will maintain it

Gov.uk email addresses almost complete

Notification of CIL payment to Council at end of April of £1448.10

Training booked for Charlotte with NPTS

Free King Charles Portrait received

Request to Cut green near Knyvett green received from Parishioner

CIL Report Today completed.

11) Items for the Next Meeting:

Year-end Internal auditors report

Road sign on Whipps lane to be reported

Anglia in bloom grant to be spent.

Memorial Plaques event

Grass cutting contract

13) Date and Place of the Next Meeting:

Annual Meeting of the Parish Thorpe Hall 6.30pm to 7pm on 21st May then

Annual Parish Meeting at Thorpe Hall starting at 7pm

Meeting closed 19.40pm

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall pc DC Report 16th April 2024

Grants

Applications for member ward grants for the 24/25 period and will reopen on 6th May. Applications for larger Communities Action Fund grants (£1,000 to £15,000) also open on that day.

Leadership of South Norfolk Council

Following his elevation to the peerage, Lord Fuller has resigned as leader of the Conservative Group of Councillors and has announced that he will stand down as Leader of the Council. Cllr. Elmer has been elected leader of the Conservative Group and is expected to be elected leader at the May Council meeting.

Play Areas

Matthew Yates has recently joined the Community Assets team at South Norfolk and will be dealing with play areas. He intends inspecting all of the play areas under his remit in the near future. Ian Spratt is meeting him on Wednesday 17th April at the Knyvett Green, play area.

Greater Norwich Local Plan

The plan has now been adopted by all parties and is now influencing planning decisions. GNLP Policy 7.5 is expected to lead to an increase in small scale self-build and custom build applications (up to 3 units) within or close to the edge of settlement boundaries. Applications would still have to meet other planning policies.

Food Waste Collection

The Council is required to introduce a weekly food waste collection service by end March 2026. Some areas may start before this date. In Broadland a food collection service operates already; South Norfolk expects to follow a similar operating model: homes receive a small caddy for use in the home and a larger bin put outside for collection. While some Government funding is being provided, this will not cover all set up and operating costs and there are expected to be financial implications for the Council. Options and costs for the service are being developed; there may be implications for development of the Ketteringham site.

Fly Tipping

At the recent Cleaner, Safer Environment committee meeting, it was stated that there were 780 reported fly tips in South Norfolk in 2023. Cllr Ian Spratt suggested consideration be given to the introduction of Community Skips placed close to identified 'hotspots' to encourage the public to responsibly dispose of larger waste items. This system has worked in London Boroughs. Feedback on the idea would be welcome.

Long Stratton by-pass

Work has now commenced.

Flooding on B1113

To date we have still had no response from either County Councillor Daniel Elmer or Graham Plant, cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Staff from Orsted, and its contractors, gave an update on drainage plans to Swardeston Parish Council on 11 April 2024. Orsted is currently seeking approvals for a temporary drainage solution from the Orsted site; a permanent solution is being planned. In both solutions, water is retained on site (tanks and a lagoon) and then released at a controlled flow. Orsted accepted that they were responsible for some of the early problems last year, and stated recent problems are down to issues with drainage from the surrounding fields and the A47 and the lack of drainage on the B1113. It appears that the B1113 situation requires Council action.

South Norfolk Community Awards

Nominations for Community Awards are now open until 19th May 2024,

[South Norfolk Community Awards 2024 Broadland and South Norfolk](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.ov.uk)
southnorfolkandbroadland.ov.uk

Pride in Place Awards

The third and final round of awards has now closed. Over the 3 rounds over £1 million has been allocated to communities across Broadland and South Norfolk. Consideration is now turning to a possible replacement scheme.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The formal consultation for this project opened on 10th April and closes on Tuesday 18th June. Full information can be

found on the [National Grid's consultation website](#).

A TEAMS presentation to Council members took place today. Your three District Councillors attended. When Simon Pepper of National Grid was questioned about alternative methods of delivering energy to Tilbury, such as offshore or underground, he stated that National Grid are governed by National Policy and the 'Pylons' option was the method they have to pursue.

There are three consultation events in Norfolk:

Ashwellthorpe, Thorpe Hall Thursday 9 May 1-6pm

Tibenham, Community Hall Friday 10 May 1-6pm

Hall

Diss, Football Club Wednesday 15 May 1-6 pm

There are also a series of on-line webinars (sign up [here](#)) at 6pm in the evening. Those on 17 April, 29 May and 12 June (all Wednesdays) are most relevant to people living locally.

Finally, documents can be inspected at Long Stratton Library and Norwich Library.

There are few changes to the 2023 consultation, but the following may be of interest:

- 6 pylons immediately to the South of the Norwich substation have been moved westwards to higher ground, increasing the visibility of the 50m high pylons but avoiding the proposed battery storage facility near the substation; and an alternative to pylons for the Waveney Valley is being consulted upon to mitigate the landscape, heritage and recreational amenity effects of the pylons. This would involve underground cabling for 2km and new CSE compounds at either end of the underground section to connect to the pylons.

The consultation does not consider the viable alternative of underground HVDC cables, which was considered in the recent ESO Report.

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to develop their campaign against the pylon proposals and have put together some highlevel advice for Parish Council's wishing to object to the Norwich Tilbury proposal. For further information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/.actions>

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

Councillor Contact Details

Cllr. Jim Webber	jim.webber@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07394 323215
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Cllr. Bob McClenning	bob.mcclenning@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	07769 030926

16th April 2024

Nominations now open for the Flourish Awards 2024

Norfolk County Council has announced the return of the Flourish Awards for 2024 — with nominations now officially open. Hosted by the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance (CYPSA), the awards recognise the people, projects, teams and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to help children and young people in Norfolk Flourish.

The Flourish Awards welcomes nominations for individuals, teams, and organisations that have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to progress in their respective categories. Any project, team or organisation can be nominated by members of the public or a professional, with the winners being decided by a panel Of children and young people (CYP), made up of members of Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards and other CYP groups, and parents.

The eight nomination categories are: Family and Friends, Learning, Opportunity, Understood, Resilience, Individuality, Safe and Secure, Healthy.

For further information and to nominate, visit the official Flourish Awards website [here](#).

Getting Ready for School - support for National Offer day

National Offer Day is the day when families find out which school their child will be attending, if they are starting school in September 2024. Tuesday 6 April is the day this year.

Parents and children can collect a Getting Ready for School bag from Norfolk libraries from Monday 15 April. The bags contain a selection of books PUT together to help make the move to school as smooth as possible. For more information, visit your branch and speak to staff.

Local Enterprise Partnership integration into Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils

Key functions and employees Of the "New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership" (LEP) transferred to Norfolk and Suffolk on 1 April 2024 as part of the Government's "devolution" process. LEP functions include business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery Of government programmes.

Business support will continue to be provided by New Anglia Growth Hub — which delivers the LEP's business growth programme, including the administration Of grant schemes.

National Government things

New registration requirements for bird keepers

On 19 March the government announced [new measures to help protect the poultry sector from bird flu](#) which say that all bird keepers must register their birds and update records annually. The new rules cover owners Of backyard flocks, birds Of prey and pigeon fanciers, but do not affect caged pet birds inside your own home (excluding any poultry species). Keepers are encouraged to register their birds ahead Of the legal deadline on 1 October 2024.

Defra Report on levelling up for rural areas

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published ["Delivering Rural Opportunity - The Third Report on Rural Proofing"](#) which is a report on the Government's progress to address the needs and challenges of rural areas under what they call "levelling up". It includes stuff on transport and broadband and on rural hardship and isolation etc. Worth reading to decide whether they deserve a pat on the back or not?

Disability Confident guide for managers

A new version of the Disability Confident guide for managers, helping them recruit, retain, and foster the progression of disabled people and those with health conditions in the workplace, has been published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The updated guide is available [here](#).

Contact me on

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk for Council-related business. See also my facebook page [here](#).

Cader'ne Rewett

12 Apr 2024

Councillor report April 2024, from Catherine Rowett

15/04/2024

Work in Progress

In theory we have progress on a number of things I've been trying to get done, though sadly you may not yet have seen the results in reality. We've got speed limits approved (but no sign of them implemented yet, of course) for Bressingham and Fersfield. I asked for speed limits for Bunwell but it was refused, so I have commissioned a feasibility study for making a safer crossing on the Turnpike. I've been chasing and got promises for action on the speed limit (long approved but never installed) on Pottergate Street in Aslacton. I've ordered, and will fund or partially fund, various signs, paint and chevrons for some of the roads with problems

Of dangerous bends and misleading junctions, and I'm co-funding with Councillor Wilby a solution for the unmarked and neglected Furze Green Hamlet that crosses two parishes/divisions and highways officers. I've also commissioned the designers to come up with signs to stop long lorries from using Tabernacle Lane in Forncett.

I believe we have some work going on to solve drainage problems in the Street in Bunwell. There's also been a lot of work going on at the environment agency to come up with natural flooding solutions for the feeder tributaries for the Tas and for the area around Shelfanger. I'm also looking into better signage at the very steep and deep Ford in Forncett where vehicles regularly get into trouble.

Several parishes have been concerned that the grips to let water run into the ditch are not cut right through but only part way. In other cases they are allowing water to flow from the ditch to the road. These cases are hard to deal with because the water level in the ditch should be lower than the road, not higher, and if this is not so, there is sometimes something more fundamentally wrong with the capacity of the ditches and ponds, due to silting up of pipes or ponds, or run off from the fields. Since SNDC has now appointed a riparian obligations officer, there may be some progress with improving drainage where the obligation to clear the ditches falls to farmers and other landowners.

I've been pestering the footpaths officers with various issues, particularly cases where enforcement is not happening, such as in Gissing. We now have a decision from the Council on approving the new route for the FPO in Gissing and once statutory time for objections is over we can put pressure on to get the new route opened up. I very much appreciate the work that parishes do to help by using their own teams of volunteers to keep footpaths and drainage in good order, and to help residents with issues they have locally. I am also seeking an appointment with the Buses officer to address our issues relating to bus timetables for Dickleburgh and Pulham.

Norfolk County Council Climate Change Strategy

Troublesome wet weather and coastal erosion/rising river levels are among the growing consequences of global climate change. On 13 March 2024 the Infrastructure and Development Committee discussed the third tranche of Norfolk County Council's strategy for actions to deliver the climate change strategy. The actions will support low carbon transport, climate adaptation, and decarbonisation of local business and industry. Initiatives include:

- A pilot to develop a sustainable and viable seaweed industry in Norfolk - the project will work with partners in the Netherlands, already implementing sea farms.
- Supporting the development of nature-based solutions to help secure Norfolk's long term water resilience. • Further walking and cycling improvements in places including King's Lynn, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and Dereham.

Read the Infrastructure and Development Committee report or watch the meeting [here](#).

In addition the County Council Climate Policy which encapsulates the key parts of the strategy came to Council in March and was approved.

May County Council meeting

I plan to bring my speed limits motion to Council and hope to get it discussed and voted early next month. I shall also be raising a number of questions to the leader and cabinet portfolio holders. Please let me know if there is an issue you would like me to raise a question about. It is also possible for members of the public to submit questions, and this can sometimes be more powerful and effective than an opposition councillor raising the issue. Let me know if you WOULD like advice on how to do that. Norfolk things: