

**Wreningham Parish Council  
Minutes of the Council meeting**

Held Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm  
in the Margaret Preston Room, Village Hall

In Attendance: Cllr M Hill (Chairman), Cllr J Lambourne, Cllr A Tancred, Cllr H Glaves, Cllr B Jarvis, Cllr L Mcdaid, Cllr K Morris.

District Councillors: I Spratt, B McClenning and J Webber.

Parish Clerk: Tina Higlett

6 members of the public

- 1 To consider apologies for absence.  
None
- 2 To receive declarations of Interest.  
Cllr Tancred declared an interest in agenda point 8. Member of school PTA.
- 3 Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors
  1. Public in attendance  
No comments.
  2. District Councillors.  
Cllr Spratt had forwarded a report through to council prior to the meeting. (appendix1)  
Advised there are still grants available to parish councils through South Norfolk.  
Concerns around the flooding on the B1113 near Swardeston. Norfolk County Council have acknowledged correspondence from District Councillors on behalf of their constituencies. Hoping for a meeting with County Councillor Graham Plant to discuss further.
- 4 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting.  
Agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- 5 Planning

Applications	Description
Applications received.	<b>2023/3836</b> Location: High Common Farm, Wymondham Road. Proposal: Demolition of existing farmhouse, erection of new house and garage, formation of access road and change of use of land to residential curtilage. Application Type: Full Farmhouse has been assessed and deemed a sound building. Council unsure as to why the building needs to be demolished. Building is not listed. It was proposed Council should take another look at plans before submitting a response. There is a separate planning application in for 5 developments on the land.
Comments agreed between meetings	<b>2023/3438</b> Location: Fairlands Top Row Wreningham Proposal: Proposed extensions and alterations to existing bungalow. Comments. There were no height details on the elevations or the upper floor plan. Council object to the submission as there's no indication if the roof height will change. <b>2023/3219</b> Location: High Common Farm Wymondham Road Proposal: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of an agricultural building to 5 dwelling houses (QA and QB) Application Type: Prior Notification – Agricultural to Residential. Planning response attached. (appendix 2).

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Applications refused / accepted by South Norfolk	<b>2023/2978</b> The Poplars Ashwellthorpe Road. <b>2023/3438</b> Fairlands Top Row. Proposal: Proposed extensions and alterations to existing bungalow. Decision: Approval with Conditions (Delegated). Date of decision: 22 December 2023.

**6 Administrative Issues**

**1. Statutory Policy Review**

Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan. The Parish Councils duty was acknowledged and initial consideration was given to the requirement of an action plan. Ideas put forward were planning applications, council owned land, encouraging residents and resources available to council. To be included on next agenda.

**2. Clerk's National Salary Award 2023/24**

The nationally agreed salary to be implemented from April 1st 2023. Council duly noted. Chairman signed payroll document authorising increase.

**3. Norfolk ALC subscription 2024/25.**

Council agreed not to renew this year but to continue with subscription to Norfolk PTS.

**7 Finance**

**1. Councils current financial standing.**

Clerk circulated third quarter accounts for 2023/24 and these were agreed.

**2. To approve payments**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Payment method</b>	<b>Amount</b>
T Higlett	Salary December	Bacs	£207.11
T Higlett	Salary January 2024	Bacs	£206.91
HMRC	Clerks taxation	Bacs	£147.60
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll	Bacs	£54.58
T Higlett	Reimbursement of cost for replacement batteries for pin reader	Bacs	£8.60

**3. To note payments raised between meetings.**

N Pink	Village Christmas tree	Bacs	£160.00
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**4. Budget 2024/25**

Clerk circulated draft budget for 2024/25. Proposed budget showed an increase of £1995 on 2023/24 figures. Part of the additional increase was to allow for legal advice and insurance in respect of the Farthings should the need arise. Other increases included clerks salary and grounds/village maintenance. Chairman proposed that parish council should reserve funding towards the building of a pavement on B1113 Norwich Road. NCC have advised this will run into double figures if council applies for funding through the Parish Partnership Scheme. It was also proposed that council need to prepare for maintenance costs should the Farthings come under the ownership of the council. Typical costs tree/ hedge management, drainage and ditch maintenance, pond management / safety including annual risk assessments. There will be income from the developer but council needs to prepare for when this comes to an end. Included in the planning application will be a S106 agreement and each agreement is unique to applications. It

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should be noted that costs cannot exceed cost stated in the S106 agreement. Council could also look towards applying for grants available for new projects however, council would have to pick up ongoing costs. Ongoing costs could be around £5,000 - £10,000 per year.

**Clerk to revisit the budget and include proposed budget headings and to include reviewing councils reserves. To be agreed at next meeting.**

8 Precept for 2024/25

Council proposed to set the precept at £10,841, an increase of 4.2% on 2023/24.

**All in Favour of 4.2% increase.**

9 Auditor for 2023/24

L Trueman was appointed to carry out the internal audit for 2023/24.

10 Grant for Wreningham Primary School.

The school has approached the parish council for a grant towards carrying out essential maintenance on the original school toilets; work quoted at £8,000. The toilets are not suitable for the older children in the school. There are other areas within the school which also need attention. These include the mobile classrooms dating from well before 2002 and are very tired and in need of constant maintenance. The school is very popular and has children from Wreningham and neighbouring villages. It was suggested that the PTA could similarly approach neighbouring parish councils for financial assistance. The Council agreed in principle to support the school for the toilets to the level of the current remaining CIL money. The Clerk will investigate S137 of the Local Government Act expenditure power because it would enable a sum greater than the current CIL money held by council. Also, it was suggested to wait for the response of the neighbouring councils.

9 Village maintenance and highways

1. Play Equipment Inspection 2024.

Clerk to arrange for this to be carried out.

2. SAM2 date Hethel Road and Wymondham Road

Average speed recorded on Hethel Road is 30mph. Wymondham Road 40 – 60mph. One vehicle recorded doing 70mph. It was proposed that an article should be placed in the Mardle about the concerns of speeding in the village and invite parishioners to become involved in ways to address it. Cllr Jarvis will act as lead on this for the Council.

3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dog waste bin

Clerk has contacted Norfolk County Council for approval and they would like a map showing exact location. Chairman proposed due to increase in dog waste not being disposed of correctly around Longs Wood that a third bin should be purchased for installation in the vicinity. Suggest speaking to the owners regarding councils' proposal.

4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Defibrillator

Council was advised that the owner of the Bird in Hand has agreed that a defibrillator could be installed on their premises. Chairman to make contact with the owner.

10 Village – Projects etc.

1. The Farthings

Chairman advised that notes from the meeting held in December are now on the parish council website. The parish council will be asked to feed into the planning application but need to ensure they do not include things that the developer should do. Developer has proposed a public consultation meeting which they will arrange to be held in February 2024. Envisage meeting running from 4pm to 7pm with the developer and associates on hand to answer questions. Developer will have to summarise the views of the public. All future maintenance costs of The Farthings will be discussed with the PC before application submitted. Developer has stated that he

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will not amend the plans once they have been submitted.

2. Wreningham Open Gardens 2024

Representative advised they have now agreed to the services of the Scout group for first aid. Risk assessments on the gardens are being carried out. Traffic flow and car parks are being reviewed. Advertising is being worked on with the Mardle to include a request for volunteers and additional gardens. Possibly a local estate agent will assist with advertising nearer the time.

3. Wreningham Welcome Booklet

Cllr Morris advised that corrections have been received. Once printed they will be distributed to each household. Additional copies will be held for people who move into the village.

11 Consultations

1. South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan – Consultation on Alternative Sites & Focused Changes (Regulation 18).  
Council duly noted.

12 Correspondence

1. Norwich Western Link Project update.

13 To agree the meeting dates for 2024.

Council to continue with 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of alternative months. The annual parish meeting will be held in May followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

14 General Parish Issues (for information only).

Cllr Graves passed on thanks to Cllr Tancred and Noel Course for their assistance with decorating the village Christmas tree.

15 Date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Meeting closed at 21:55.

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Appendix 1.

## **District Councillors Report -Wreningham Parish Council – 9th January 2024**

### **Grants**

Members ward grants close on 1st March. Requests are needed ASAP.

### **Hethel Planning Applications**

We understand that the Hethel Engineering Centre Phase 4 will not go to the January Development Management Committee as previously expected. Norfolk County Council continue to regard the flood risk assessment as inadequate.

The Environment Agency continues to object to the Hethel Hybrid application due to foul water drainage issues and concerns over groundwater protection.

### **National Grid – Proposed Norwich Main Substation Extension**

Your councillors attended the initial consultation meetings at Swardeston and Stole Holy Cross at the end of November. Little information was available at this stage and this can be found on the National Grid website. A planning application is planned for 2024 and construction would take around 2 years starting in 2025. The development will link power from the 3 offshore wind farms to the National Grid. The online consultation closed on 8th December 2023.

### **Greater Norwich Plan – Village Clusters**

SNC is re-consulting on the village clusters housing allocations for 8 weeks starting December 11. There are no new sites proposed for Wreningham.

### **A140 North of Long Stratton Workshop**

Jim Webber attended an online workshop organised by the County Council in late November. Most contributors were from Parish Council's bordering the A140. Congestion, economic growth and business needs, housing delivery and connectivity including sustainable transport were discussed. A report will be available in the new year.

### **Flooding on B1113**

District Councillors are still active in attempting to resolve this. We understand that a new drain is being planned to better manage run off from the site into the river. A new temporary attenuation pond is being dug to improve on site water storage while the new drainage system is being installed. As this appears to be primarily the responsibility of Highways, your County Councillor has been emailed but no response. We have also tried to contact County Councillor Graham Plant, the cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport. After 2 emails, we have received an acknowledgement.

### **Council Tax Increases**

The Government is consulting on its proposals for the Local Government Finance Settlement. It is proposing that Council Tax referendum levels are set at 3% for district councils and 5% for county councils (reflecting county council responsibilities for social care). It is expected that Council Tax increases will be close to the maximum levels allowed without a referendum.

### **'Norwich to Tilbury' Update**

In the November Autumn Statement, the Government announced the new 'Critical National Priority' (CNP) infrastructure policy and stated that communities near new pylons are likely to be offered discounts on their bills. CNP is a kind of fast-track planning category for wind farms and associated infrastructure but it's not completely clear whether this will include the Norwich to Tilbury project.

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On the 5 December, the Government published a statement confirming further funding for the investigation of offshore co-ordination between the North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore wind farms and National Grid, potentially avoiding the need for underground cabling or pylons across Essex. This could force a rethink of the Norwich Tilbury proposal. An initial report is expected in March next year.

A recent email from the Pylons East Anglia pressure group is copied below.

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

**Councillor Contact Details**

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Cllr. Bob McClenning	bob.mcclenning@southnorfolkandbraodland.gov.uk	07769 030926

**Extracts from Email from Pylons East Anglia pressure group (<https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk>)**

Lack of transparency in consultation responses. The non-disclosure of the relevant consultation responses undermines the legitimacy of the CNP policy. It ignores widespread regional opposition, including comprehensive feedback from our campaign, from residents, community representatives, academics, and council officers, and raises serious legal concerns relating to the Gunning Principles. This opacity suggests a disregard for community voices and a potential breach of legal protocol.

Flawed CNP approach. The CNP simply magnifies and exacerbates the current fragmented, costly approach to grid development, potentially leading to an unnecessary £6 billion expense. Conversely, an integrated offshore grid solution enjoys widespread public support, as evidenced by a 27,000-signature petition, and statements from regional MPs, councils, and other statutory bodies.

Moreover, the CNP's approach significantly harms environmental habitats, including the proposed UNESCO East Atlantic Flyway Natural World Heritage Site and many priority habitats. This contradicts the Environmental Principles National Policy Statement which requires policy makers to avoid harm.

The CNP ignores a number of studies, not least the National Grid ESO's own report which set out the harms of the piecemeal approach and, significantly, the many benefits of an integrated approach.

Community Benefits – a misguided approach. The community benefits under the current proposal are wholly inadequate and trivialise the substantial losses faced by homeowners and businesses. These benefits cannot and will not substitute for true comprehensive compensation and are perceived as a nothing more than a “Band-Aid” to cover-up deeper infrastructural and environmental issues.

The alternative. An Integrated offshore grid – faster, better, and cheaper. We propose an integrated offshore grid as a superior alternative. This approach aligns with the government's environmental commitments, saves £6 billion nationally, and enjoys broad public and political support. It represents a sustainable, economically sound, and environmentally responsible path forward. We urge you to pivot towards this internationally recognised (and implemented), solution in the Autumn Statement. Choosing the integrated offshore grid will signal the UK's commitment to responsible energy infrastructure development, attracting wind farm developers and benefiting the environment, local communities, and the taxpayer.

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Appendix 2

WPC Objects to this application – Notwithstanding the nature of this planning application, the Parish Council does not consider this development to be advantageous to the village, or indeed, to the site's potential occupants.

Comments about the application, which SNC planning officers and the developers should factor into their consideration of this application:

Location – the site is well away from the main village and cannot be considered as complementary to the current housing stock. Due to distance and access practicalities, it is probable that any occupants will not become part of the Wreningham village community and will face towards Wymondham.

Transport – the nearby C-class road (Wymondham Road) to which the development will connect is single track with few passing places. We are concerned that the additional traffic will overwhelm the capacity of this road both from:

1. Construction work, and
2. Subsequent occupancy.

Access – we will expect the developer to provide a much improved access road – the current one is a potholed dirt track. Further the developer should be required to ensure that appropriate drainage is able to handle any surface water run-off.

Trees & Hedging – We do not wish the current the current situation of the tree-lined and hedging lined access road to suffer from clearance. It is forms a good basis from which to improve and develop an impressive avenue of native trees and supplementary hedging. This will be to the advantage of the local environment and to the site occupants.

Design 1 – we are not impressed by the box-like quality of the proposals. The gardens are tiny and not in keeping with the majority of the properties in Wreningham.

Design 2 – the plans are for a single storey development. But, there is no information about the roof, its height, the roof space, etc.

Design 3 – there is no provision for vehicle garaging - hardstanding is not sufficient, nor is there provision for domestic wheelie-bins.

Nearby Turkey Farm – This is not mentioned in the application. The closeness of the source of industrial odours and regular heavy vehicles to this site cannot be seen as a positive benefit for potential occupants of the buildings.

Points which WPC consistently requests SNC Planning Officers factor into their deliberations as general environmental safeguards:

1. Lighting – Wreningham is a “dark” village and we’d prefer that SNC planning officers restrict external lighting such that it has no or minimal light polluting effect.
2. Arboricultural issues – It expected that any development does not create any long term damage to the immediate green environment. We particularly wish to see developers create a positive impact on this environment for the betterment of flora and fauna and for the enjoyment of the villagers both incoming and already present.

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3. Flooding – Wreningham has enough problems with surface water flooding, and climatologists state that we can expect more severe and prolonged wet weather spells. Hence SNC planning officers must ensure that the developer takes full and proper steps to manage surface water, both at current levels and at those anticipated in the next decade, at least