Wreningham Parish Council
Minutes of the Council meeting

Held Tuesday 14th May 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.

District Councillors: I Spratt and B McClenning

Parish Clerk: Tina Higlett

6 members of the public

1 To elect a chairman for the forthcoming year and receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office. Michael Hill was elected unopposed. Michael signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

2 To elect a Vice Chairman.
Members decided to leave this as an action for each meeting when the chair was absent.

3 Apologies for absence. B Jarvis, K Morris and L McDaid were noted.

4 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest. Nil.

5 Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors

1. Public in attendance. No comments.
2. District Councillors. Cllr Spratt had forwarded a report to council prior to the meeting. (Appendix 1).

6 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2024. These were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

7 Matters arising from the minutes. Nil.

8 Planning

1. Planning applications for response:
2024/1135 Location: Land South West of Hethel Road, Wreningham. Proposal: Construction of 2 bungalows & 1 chalet bungalow, along with 4.09 acres of land transferred to the Parish Council for Community Owned Land
Application Type: Full Planning Permission. **Comments by 22nd May 2024**
Council duly noted application.

2. To receive a report on plans accepted/refused by South Norfolk Council.
Application 2023/3690 Cha-am, Mill Lane, Wreningham. Proposal: Change of use of land to form additional residential curtilage and the erection of an oak framed two bay cart lodge and concrete pad for caravan parking. Decision: Approval with Conditions (Delegated).

9 Administrative Issues

1. Insurance. Council is insured through Gallagher Insurance. The renewal noted and agreed at a cost of £976.91.

2. Statutory Policy Review
Draft Standing Orders had been circulated and were agreed.
Draft Financial Regulations had been circulated and were agreed.

10 Finance

1. To consider the Internal Auditors report for year ending 31 March 2024
   Recommendations were duly noted. Council will ensure statutory documentation is published on the parish website whilst also being available from the clerk. It was also noted that the budget had not been approved ahead of the precept being set. Going forward council will discuss budget and set ahead of precept.

2. To consider and authorise exemption from external audit 2023/24
   It was noted that as the Council's income and expenditure for the year was under £25,000 Council could exempt itself from an External Audit. This was considered and agreed. Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

3. To consider and authorise the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
   This was considered, the form completed and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign on behalf of the Council.

4. To consider, approve and authorise the Accounting Statements 2023/24
   This was considered and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign on behalf of the Council.

5. To note council's standing at end of financial year 2023/24.
   Bank statement as at 31st March 2024 - £28697.54

6. To approve payments

The Play Inspection Co	Playing Field Inspection	£216.60
T Higlett	May Salary	£221.04
Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance	£976.91
L Trueman	Internal Audit 2023/24	£50.00
T Higlett	Printer Ink	£17.22
HMRC	Clerks taxation May	£52.60

7. To note payments raised between meetings.

T Higlett	April Salary	£221.04
HMRC	Clerks taxation April	£52.60
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll provider	£73.73
I Withey	Parish planters	£96.14

8. The following receipts since the last meeting were noted.

South Norfolk Council	1st half precept	£5420.50

9. Budget 2024/25
   Council agreed the Reserves for future projects and Budget was unanimously approved.

10. Quotation for dog waste bin (Church Road)
    Council unanimously approved quotation of £215.40 and requested clerk to order. South Norfolk Dog Waste Emptying Service to be advised of additional bin once installed.

11. Approval Clerks mileage claim
    Audit delivery/collection Mattishall, Dereham. Claim submitted £18.00. Duly approved.

11 Village – Maintenance and Highways.

1. PROW signpost reinstated at Church Road.
2. Wreningham FP6 part of Kett's Country Walk. Steps have been programmed for infill

to reduce trip hazard.

3. Gravel Pit Hill – Blocked drain. Advised by Highways the problem has been made safe and will arrange repair or where necessary report it to the relevant authority or organisation for their investigation. A work order had also been raised to cleanse the gully at this location.

12 Village – Projects etc.

1. The Farthings – Chairman advised that a Statement of support had been requested by the developer. Also reminded residents that the application can now be found on the South Norfolk Planning portal and people should make their comments.
2. Wreningham Open Gardens – 14 gardens have now signed up to the event. Eighteen people have volunteered to assist on the day and would welcome more people, especially to assist with car parking at the church. Roadside banners advertising the event will be erected once the Wreningham Church Plant sale has passed. An A5 12 page brochure will be produced and this will include advertising space. Any revenue from the advertising will offset printing costs of roadside banners and brochures. There will also be an article going into the Eastern Daily Press.

13 Consultations

1. Norwich to Tilbury Pylons consultation – response closing date 18th June 2024. Council duly noted.

14 Correspondence

Concerns around the installation of planters around the village. One has been installed at the front of the Village Hall. Council was advised that in its current location it is a trip hazard particularly in the dark. Chairman asked about options to reduce risk to those entering/exiting the main entrance to the Hall. Two other planters have been installed in front of the village noticeboards at Penny's Green and Top Row.

15 General Parish Issues (for information only).

Clerk has made contact with grass cutting contractor advising that both the playing field and the Reading Room are in desperate need of cutting.

16 Date of next meeting: 9th July 2024

Meeting closed at 21:00

Appendix 1.

Wreningham PC Report 14th May 2024

District Cllrs Report, including AGM statement.

Following the success of Ian Spratt and Jim Webber in the May 2023 District Council elections and with Bob McClenning elected in the subsequent By-election later in the year we have been working collaboratively throughout the Ward of Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross to represent all of our parishes in the most effective way. We will continue to employ this approach as we move forward. Please feel free to contact either/all of us should you have any issues or concerns relating to your community.

Grants

Applications for member ward grants and for larger Communities Action Fund grants (£1,000 to £15,000) have now reopened. Contact your District Councillors for further information.

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 20th May South Norfolk AGM meeting.

Hethel Planning Applications

The application for a new roundabout, road layout and outline approval for new production and office facilities for Lotus was placed before the DMC on 6th May. Cllr Jim Webber spoke on behalf of Bob and Ian stating that we were broadly behind the concerns expressed by Bracon Ash & Hethel Parish Council, in terms of value for money, the safety of Wymondham Road in Hethel and future shift hours on the site. We recommending the decision was deferred until more detailed information was available. The application was however passed with numerous conditions to be agreed with the planning team; this stage is expected to take several months.

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 an update on drainage plans to Swardeston Parish Council on 11th 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. District Cllrs are also endeavouring to establish the purpose of the tall building under construction on the site following concerns expressed by many residents.

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.

Nutrient Neutrality Update
The Norfolk Environmental Credits company is now set up and started trading with credits of around 600 homes to date. The next big deal to be introduced is large septic tank conversion, with financial help offered to people to convert septic tanks into private treatment plants. The installer is converting a tank a day. Cost of conversion is dependent on-site size.

Nature Recovery Plans
South Norfolk Council is promoting a community lead scheme pioneered by Harleston Town Council. The initiative is described as follows:
"*Nature recovery is all about how we restore habitats, protect wildlife and combat climate change. It's about building resilient landscapes for the future through natural restoration.*
Small actions taken by ordinary people, added together can make a difference. The collective size of gardens in England is greater than the size of the nature reserves. Our actions at home do count."
Link for further information

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Flood Prevention Conference
CPRE are promoting a flood prevention conference targeted at Parish Councils. This will be held in Dereham on Wednesday 22nd May.
Link for further information.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update
The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) has recently published a thoughtful report entitled "GREENING THE GREAT GRID UPGRADE. A new vision for landscapes and communities in East Anglia" which is **available here.** One of the key recommendations is that work on the Norwich Tilbury project:
"***should now be paused for review whilst need, timings and alternative solutions are investigated more thoroughly. An offshore solution (a second subsea link) or HVDC undergrounding is strongly preferred to the proposed overhead line.***"

The formal consultation for this project closes on Tuesday 18th June. Full information can be found on the National Grid's consultation website.

There is one remaining consultation event in Norfolk:
Diss, Football Club **Wednesday 15 May 1-6 pm**

There are also a series of on-line webinars at 6pm in the evening. Registration links follow: the webinar on 29 May covers the proposed route of the pylons in North Suffolk and Norfolk; while the webinar on 12 June is an overview session.

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

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to develop their campaign against the pylon proposals and have put together some high-level 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

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