Wreningham Parish Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting

Held Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7:30pm
in the Margaret Preston Room, Village Hall

In Attendance: M Hill (Chair), Cllr H Glaves, Cllr J Lambourne, Cllr A Tancred.

Parish Clerk: Tina Higlett

1 Apologies for absence. K Morris. Council approved.

2 Consider Co-option to the council. No candidate available

3 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest. None

4 Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors.

1. Public in attendance
   Members were advised that after the success of the Open Gardens in 2024 that it was proposed to hold further events in the Summer and Autumn 2025. Financial grants would be investigated. As before, the working party would be working under auspices of the council.

   Concerns around traffic flow in the vicinity of the school at school drop off and pick up times. Drivers are not observing the speed limit along Wymondham Road. Other concerns around traffic flow is the redevelopment of Spratt's Garage area to residential properties, with builders vehicles etc. this will exacerbate the problem. Motorists are parking opposite the hazard lines outside the school. Various buses have had difficulty on the crossroads with the poorly parked cars. There is space in the hall car park and it is possible to double park without causing too much of a problem, as people are only parking there for a short time. It was stated that an emergency vehicle would have difficulty gaining access down the roads during these periods.

   Council was asked if they were aware of the status for fibre broadband in the village. Most villagers report a reasonable service but there are a number with degraded service and extended periods of emergency calls only. Gigaclear had been reported to be providing fibre within neighbourhood areas. Council will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

   Trustees of the village hall passed on thanks to the clerk for entering a competition and winning £500 for the village hall.

2. District Councillors.
   Cllr Spratt had forwarded a report to council prior to the meeting. (Appendix 1).

5 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2025.
These were approved.

6 Matters arising from the minutes.

1. Standpipe for All Saints Church, Wreningham
   Members were advised this is unlikely to happen due to the cost implications. It would be nice for the church to have its own water supply rather than relying on people to bring their own water on site. This service would assist with community events held at the church. District councillor will see if there is any funding that could be used in conjunction with the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy funds
2. Wickes Community Fund
   No report as Cllr Morris was not in attendance to advise on progress.

7 Planning

1. Applications commented on between meetings
   a) 2024/3430 Location: The Garage Wymondham Road
   Proposal: Change of use of ground floor room from an office to residential use to revert room back to being part of Mashonaland Villa. Application Type: Change of Use. Council stated they had no objection.
2. To receive a report on plans accepted/refused by South Norfolk Council.
   a) 2024/3163 App Type: Works to TPO trees, Oak Lodge, Hethel Road. Proposal: T1- Oak- Raise canopy over church road to 5.5m, shorten a couple longer branches from 11m to 9m to balance with the crown, reduce three taller upright growths from 24m to 22m to balance the height, remove any major deadwood. Decision: Approval with Conditions (Delegated).Date of decision: 18 November 2024.
   b) 2024/2627 Lawood, Church Road. Proposal: Replacement dwelling and new double garage Decision: Approval with Conditions (Delegated) Date of decision: 29 November 2024
   c) 2024/3762 App Type: Approval of Condition Details. Location: Lawood, Church Road. Proposal: Details of conditions 3 6 & 9 of 2024/2627 - (3) surface water drainage design (6) written scheme of investigation for archaeology (9) biodiversity gain plan.

Chair stated his concerns on how the Church Road 'trod' was badly damaged by builders' vehicles and wondered if it could be written into planning conditions that they must be reinstated upon completion of the development. District councillor proposed that parish council should state this in their comments when commenting on planning applications. In a separate development on Wymondham Road a damaged verge was reinstated after the affected resident spoke to the builder concerned.

8 The Farthings

Chair advised that discussions have taken place and all up to date information can be found on the parish council website. The Farthings working party have met recently to go through the specification for the site and have sent it to FWP. The commuted sum calculation by FWP was reviewed and discussed. FWP's sum is insufficient and a more realistic figure would be nearer £110,000. Birketts solicitors are working on producing the relevant legal documentation including the section 106 agreement. Once this draft document is received, the working group will meet to consider and respond to Birketts

There have been no plans drawn up with regards to how the developer proposes to deal with the flooding on this stretch of Hethel road. Neighbouring landowners have not received any communication in respect to the ditches which run to the North of the site.

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) plan must be submitted by FWP and approved prior to the commencement. FWP must meet a 10% improvement target for the whole site. The approach and the costs associated with the BNG target have not been finalised nor shared with the Council. The planning application cannot proceed without the aspect being agreed.

Council Insurance will include Community Owned Land once it is transferred to Council ownership. Clerk has made contact with insurers regarding this.

9 Administrative Issues

1. Parish council meeting dates. There were no objections to the dates. Members

agreed not to hold an annual parish meeting this year, unless it was asked for by a parishioner.

2. Enrolment to Aerial Photography GB and Public Sector Geospatial Agreement
   This is a free service which the Chair has subscribed to on behalf of the parish council.

10 Finance

1. The third quarter accounts showed councils current financial standing as £28,451.94
2. Payments
   a) T Higlett January salary £229.56
   b) HMRC January £55.00
   c) K Nunn – winter planting £40.24
   d) N Pink – Christmas tree £85.00

11 Village – Maintenance and highways.

It has been noted that there are a few potholes around the village. These should be reported on the NCC Highways maintenance portal. The gullies around the village have recently been dug out. Near to Long's Wood car park on Wymondham Road, a tree on the left hand side, is in need of a branch removing before it falls onto the road, it is quite visible. Clerk will report on NCC Highways portal.

12 Correspondence

1. South Norfolk Town and Parish Council recruitment campaign.
2. Draft NCC Emergency call out protocol for street lighting.
3. NCC – 'Share your thoughts about the place you live' Survey
4. Community Action Norfolk Newsletter
5. CPRE Norfolk – Council proposed not to subscribe to CPRE Norfolk.

13 General Parish Issues (for information only)

Council received notification of TPO on two oak trees on Hethel Road and one field maple on the western side of the Farthings site. This has been forward to FWP for information.

Cllr Tancred noted that a conifer tree on the playing field is quite large. Chair noted that the regular tree inspection did not report any issues with this tree or nearby similar trees.

14 Date of next meeting: 11th March 2025

Meeting closed at 21:00

Appendix 1.
District Councillor Report

Grants

Member Ward Grants for 2024/25 have been used on local projects. Requests for future support with small projects (up to £1,000 usually) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors. Grants for 25/26 will be available from April 25.

South Norfolk has been awarded c£510,000 for 2025/26 from the Shared Prosperity Fund, around 30% less than last year. Some of this is likely to be available to support larger community grants in 25/26. Details will be available later in the year.

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation

Just before Christmas, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper outlining an ambitious

program to devolve power to Mayoral Strategic Authorities and to reorganise two-tier areas such as South Norfolk, so that services managed by County and District Councils are managed by a new combined authority.

The County Council has confirmed its interest in joining the Devolution Priority Programme and has requested deferral of the May 2025 County elections. The final decision on elections is expected from Westminster in January. It is possible that the first Mayoral election will be in May 2026. Whether one combined authority will be the outcome for Norfolk remains to be seen. Plans for reorganisation are required no later than Autumn this year for areas in the priority program.

Mental Health Awareness in the Community – Mulbarton 21st January

A free training course is being delivered by NHS Talk Therapies at Mulbarton Village Hall from 1pm – 2.45pm on Tuesday 21st January. The course will give an overview of mental health conditions, how to manage stress, how to start a conversation and where to signpost people for help. This course also contains some content on suicide awareness. This is part of South Norfolk's "Mindful Towns and Villages"programme.

Places can be booked here: https://forms.office.com/e/tQasbwdFn9.

Recycling & Bin Collection

A variety of options are being considered to manage the cost of collections (including food waste from 2026) and to improve the rate of recycling in South Norfolk from 42% to 50%. This may include weekly on-demand collection for textiles and small electricals to most properties, ending side-waste collections (extra waste left next to the bin) and reducing black bin collections to three-weekly. and reduce the level of contamination of recycled items.

South Norfolk Budget Update

Lower-tier councils like South Norfolk have been disadvantaged by the Government's financial settlement for 2025/26. Initial budget estimates for SNC assumed an increase in funding, the proposed settlement is for a £0.5 million reduction in cash funds leading to a shortfall approaching £1 million. This has been more than offset by a guaranteed income of at least £2.1 million in 25/26 for packaging

Extended Producer Responsibilities, much higher than earlier estimates. This is a new charge on business which is aimed at encouraging bigger companies to reduce packaging waste and improve recycling. Longer term financial pressures are expected as this income stream is expected to reduce.

Planning Consultation – Self-Build and Custom Build SPD

Cabinet is being asked to approve starting a 6 week consultation on a proposed Supplementary Planning Document on Self-Build and Custom-Build Housing. The Greater Norwich Local plan introduced opportunities for this type of housing on the edge of existing settlements outside of development boundaries. This document is important as it seeks to provide further guidance on where such applications may be approved.

Landscape Impact of Energy Infrastructure Projects

South Norfolk has commissioned a report on the landscape impact of new energy infrastructure. The report is expected to form the basis of a further Supplementary Planning Document which may help better manage the sprawl of infrastructure across our District. The initial report is scheduled to be discussed at a meeting of the Council's Planning & Economic Growth Committee later this month.

Rooftop Solar – CPRE Campaign

South Norfolk Council supported a Liberal Democrat motion to support CPRE's rooftop solar campaign. The objective of this is to both increase the use of rooftops and reduce the need for the loss of farming land for

Solar Farms.

Norwich to Tilbury Update

National Grid has recently announced that it will be taking forward the pylon option for crossing the Waveney Valley. This decision reflects “environmental policy, planning policy and cost”. The recent newsletter confirms that the application for a Development Consent Order will be made in 2025.

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals. For further information visit https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions