

# *Wickmere with Wolterton Parish Council*

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held in the Village Hall, Regent Street, Wickmere  
On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00 pm

## **Present**

Parish Councillors: Lesley Ash (Chair) Richard Hembling Phillida Hurn  
Georgina Madeley Vanessa Tomczynska

## Also in attendance:

District Councillor John Toye  
Ros Calvert, Clerk to the Council

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Barry Markham

Saul Penfold (NCC member for North Walsham West & Erpingham division)

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – no declarations of interest or requests for individual dispensations were received**

## **3. MINUTES – the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were circulated agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

## **4. ADJOURNMENT – To receive reports from NNDC & NCC and comments from members of the public and those members with a disclosable interest in Agenda items.**

### **1. NNDC Councillor John Toye reported on recent activities**

Councillors had received his November Newsletter and he highlighted a few issues arising from his recent work.

These included:

- SERCO - the unnecessary use of sprays including glyphosates by SERCO when they were not needed.
- Anglian Water – the challenge of outflows of untreated water and sewage into the river systems and that spread on agricultural land.
- BT – Could not maintain their exchanges and were moving over from copper to fibre optic. All landline phones would be discontinued to be replaced by WiFi. There would be provision of emergency cover for users not connected to the internet and/or those who do not have mobile coverage. Customers would be contacted in advance.

There were no further comments.

## **5. CLERKS' REPORT & MATTERS ARISING - matters arising from the previous meeting and those not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda**

1. CPRE - it was agreed not to become a member of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

2. Councillor Training – As none of the members had recently attended any training it was agreed to explore the possibility of receiving training for the whole Council in the Village Hall.

## 6. FINANCE

1. The bank reconciliation was received, approved and signed. There was a balance of £29,407.82 as at 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
2. The following receipts and payments were noted and payments approved (see table below)

Date	Payee	Description	Receipt	Payment	Balance
<b>BACS, DD, SO or Transfer</b>					
<b>15-08-23</b>	<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>82</b>			<b>28,491.95</b>
13-09-23	R Calvert /HMRC	Salary, HMRC & Expenses		593.50	
12-09-23	British Gas	Final Bill		2.59	
26-09-23	Anglian Water	Jube – Sept		18.34	
26-09-23	NNDC	Precept	1,750.00		
<b>29-09-23</b>	<b>Bank Statement</b>	<b>84</b>			<b>29,627.52</b>
19-10-23	Community Heartbeat	Year 2 of 4		162.00	
19-10-23	Octopus Energy	Electricity September		37.23	
19-10-23	NNDC	Uncontested Election		20.47	<b>29,407.82</b>
<b>For Approval</b>					
15-11-23	R Calvert /HMRC	Salary, HMRC & Expenses		404.00	<b>29,003.82</b>
15-11-23	R Calvert	Land Search x 2		12.00	<b>28,991.82</b>

## 7. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2024-2025

1. The half year financial report and year end forecast was received and approved.
2. Reserves were noted and may be revisited at the year end.
3. No future projects were discussed. This would be put to the electors for their suggestions at the parish meeting in March 2024.
4. The draft budget was reviewed.

**It was agreed** to set the precept at £3,500 for 2024-25

## 8. VILLAGE HALL

1. Trust Deed and Lease - Copies of the Village Hall Trust Lease and Trust Deed had been circulated and comments were received.
2. Following approval from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee membership of CAN had been transferred from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee

to enable Community Action Norfolk (CAN) to offer further advice to the VHC if required

3. VH Advisory Working Group - It was agreed to set up an Advisory Working Group to explore the requirements and possible future flexibility of the Lease. The Parish Clerk was asked to arrange and attend the meetings and report its findings to Council at its next meeting.

Members would include the following Councillors and /or members of the VHC Lesley Ash, Richard Hembling, Phillida Hurn and Barry Markham Barbara Shaw (VHC Secretary and Treasurer), Terry Shaw and Alison Davidson members of the Village Hall Committee would be invited to attend.

4. Social Events - Future Village Hall social events were discussed including the lighting of the Christmas Tree and a community Cheese and Wine evening.
5. Grass Cutting - Cllr Madeley offered to chase up an outstanding invoice

## 9. HIGHWAYS

1. Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative – it was agreed that there were no current projects partnership that required support
2. The grit bin at the junction of Church Road and Regent Street had been badly damaged when the hedges were cut. It was agreed to order a new bin when all the grit had been used and, in the meantime, to temporarily protect the contents from the rain.
3. There was discussion on the recent work carried out on the groups and their sometimes doubtful efficacy in reducing flooding on the roads.

## 10. PLANNING

1. The recent withdrawal of planning applications at Wolterton Hall was noted.
2. It was commented that the Council no longer received information on planning applications submitted for properties outside the parish but close enough to have an impact on the community. Cllr John Toye offered to make enquiries.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no matters arising from correspondence circulated

## 12. LATE CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS REFERRED TO NEXT MEETING

None received.

## 13. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next ordinary meeting would be held on

**Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7.00 in the Village Hall**

***Note change of date***

## 14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the chair closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**