

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held on Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

A minute's silence was held prior to the meeting in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Charles Holloway (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jimmy Daniels
Cllr Susan Dayment
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Tristan Ireson

Three Members of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To note the Council vacancy and to consider the co-option of applicants to the post.

No applicants had yet come forward and Council agreed to approach anyone they felt may be interested.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2022.

Cllr Holloway proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

Members of the public raised traffic safety issues, particularly on Raynham Road, the junction with Mill Lane and London Street. There is currently a high level of traffic, with many HGV's, even early on Sunday mornings. Council agreed that the roads are not suitable for such vehicles but that this is a problem all over Norfolk. Council agreed to relocate the SAM II sign and Cllr Dayment will once again try to find volunteers for a Speedwatch team. It was also agreed to write to the haulage firm responsible for many of the HGV's.

Parking at the Village Hall was raised as an issue, with vehicles regularly parking there and leaving no spaces for anyone attending events at the Hall. Cllr Dye proposed that quotes should be obtained to

surface the overflow car park at the Playing Field, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr Edge will obtain quotes for consideration at the next meeting.

Highways will be approached to see if it was possible to have double yellow lines on London Street which would leave a route along one way, allowing vehicles to pass, which is often not the case currently with larger vehicles not having enough space to get through.

Drug related crime taking place in the village was also raised and members of the public were advised to report anything to the Police.

6. County & District Councillors Reports.

A written report (attached) was received from C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris.

7. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following applications remained undecided.

- **3PL/2021/0274/CU** – Caravan, Back Lane, Stanfield - change of use of agricultural and brown field land to residential caravan use for an extended Traveller family. A maximum of two static caravans and three touring caravans to be stationed on the land, on either a temporary or permanent basis (Retrospective).
- **3PL/2022/0355/VAR** – 5 Durrant Close - variation of Condition 2 on 3PL/2019/1416/D - Revised design for plot 2 (to include rooms in the roof) and Garage.
- **3PL/2022/0315/F** – Small Holdings Farm, London Street - conversion of existing agricultural barn to one residential dwelling with annex. Part demolition of existing agricultural lean too building.
- **APP/F2605/W/22/3290105** - Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Appeal under Section 78 - Site Address: - Land adjacent to West End, Raynham Road - three self-build detached dwellings (*Application reference: 3PL/2021/0981/O*).
- **3PL/2022/0899/F** – Garden Plot to Chapel Cottage, off Tower Close - proposed Detached Bungalow & Garage on Garden Plot.

Council noted the following applications had been approved.

- **3PL/2022/0319/VAR** – The Cottage, New Road - variation of Condition 2 on 3PL/2020/0004/D - To approve revised landscaping scheme (601/2021/601/DOC and 601/2021/601 Plan) as these have superseded the original Approved drawings/plans.
- **3PL/2022/0435/VAR** – Lower Farm, Lower Farm Barn, New Road - variation of condition 2 on pp 3PL/2017/1041/F - alterations to provide annexe usage for garage block and discharge of condition 8 (drainage).

b) Applications to consider.

There were no new applications for Council to consider.

8. Highways matters.

a) To receive an update re matters previously reported.

Council noted the following updates on highway matters.

- Mill Lane – Open Reach vehicles parking on road and the request for land reinstatement – boundaries established and area to be cleared.
- New Road – flooding – solutions being investigated by Highways.
- Faded Street Signs – Rectory Road/School Road – reported again to Breckland.
- Footpath 3 – Bridge – reported to Highways and works programmed.
- London Road – flooding – works programmed and now completed.
- Hedge obstructing highway visibility on Mill Lane – resident requested to cut hedge back but no action to date and this will now be referred to Highways.
- Broken repeater sign post at New Road/Colkirk Road junction – will be reported to Highways.

b) To receive a report regarding the SAM II sign.

Cllr Dye agreed to take responsibility for the sign and would return it to the suppliers as it did not appear to be working correctly, despite being recently repaired.

9. To consider any issues in respect of the Play Area including any matters raised in the annual inspection report.

Cllr Dye reported that the swing is safe as concerns had been raised regarding the fixings which, although they appeared unsafe, were correctly fitted. Replacement parts will be obtained for the zip wire which is currently out of use and a step on the climbing apparatus, which appears to have been wrenched off, is being reattached.

The fence repairs continue and other minor matters in the report are being addressed.

The litter bin in the play area is not being emptied and this has been reported to Breckland.

10. To receive an update regarding planting a Jubilee tree in the churchyard and plaque.

Cllr Dye proposed a budget of up to £100 to purchase a Jubilee tree, this was seconded by Cllr Hollway and unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr Edge volunteered to purchase a 'native crab apple' tree.

Cllr Ireson will provide a suitable plaque.

11. To consider any maintenance or other issues relating to village areas.

A deep, dangerous pothole on the Brisley Road will be reported to Highways.

12. To consider a request from the Village Hall Committee to put a small notice board in the bus shelter to advertise events.

Council approved the request to put a small notice board in the bus shelter from the Village Hall Committee.

13. Correspondence

The correspondence was noted and no action was required.

- Breckland Local Plan (Partial Review) Regulation 19 Consultation.
- The Hedgehog Highway Project Enquiry.
- Offshore Wind: Norfolk Parishes Movement for an OTN - Update
- Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Pre-Submission - Invitation to make representations.

14. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2023.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2023.

Cllr Dye proposed that Mrs Dann be appointed at a cost of £35.00, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously agreed by Council.

c) To consider the option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.

Council agreed not to opt out of the current arrangements.

d) To consider a monthly standing order for salary/office allowance payments.

Cllr Dye proposed that a monthly standing order be approved, with effect from October, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council. The contract of employment will be amended accordingly.

e) To consider approval of an Allotment Policy and appoint an officer responsible for the allotment site checks.

Cllr Holloway proposed approval of the policy, this was seconded by Cllr Dayment and unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr Ireson volunteered to carry out the site checks.

Council noted that people were using the allotment field as a footpath and that the land is not open access. Cllr Dye proposed that appropriate signage, Allotment Holders Only' be purchased.

f) To approve the following payments:

Cllr Ireson proposed that the following payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council.

• Clerk (Salary/Allowance – Aug/Sept)	£358.40
• HMRC – PAYE	£37.40
• Play Area Inspection	£144.00
• Grass Contractor (June)	£726.78
• SAM II Repairs	£970.80

15. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

Council agreed to add 'Community Speedwatch' to the next agenda.

16. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 14th November 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

Signed:

Date:

**WHISSONETT PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023
FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022**

BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2022/23	To date	% Spend
PAYMENTS*			
Admin**	1,979	1,442	73%
Salary	2,345	1,127	48%
Grass Cutting	5,042	2,180	43%
Play Area	500	120	24%
Open Spaces (inc maintenance)	2,000	265	13%
Donations	100	50	50%
TOTAL	11,966	5,185	43%
RECEIPTS			
			Received
Precept	12,000	6,000	50%
Allotments	170	50	29%
Grants	-	-	
HMRC Refund	-	20	
TOTAL	12,170	6,070	50%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	204	885	

*includes payments as listed on agenda.

**budget adjusted to include SAM II repairs of £809.

Bank Reconciliation	
Community Account at 01.04.2022	8,623.77
Plus Receipts at 30.06.2022	7,314.77
Less Payments at 30.06.2022	4,056.73
TOTAL	11,881.81
Bank Balance at 31.07.2022	11,881.81
Less any outstanding payments	-
Plus any outstanding receipts	-
TOTAL	11,881.81
including £100 Allotment deposit	

Norfolk County Council
Member for Necton and Launditch
Report: September/October 2022

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan:

The County Council has published the Pre-Submission version of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (NM&WLP). This document has been published to allow representations on the soundness and legal compliance of the document to be made, over a six-week period, between **9am on 28 September to 5pm on 11 November 2022** (inclusive). The NM&WLP has been through two public consultation stages; the Initial Consultation in 2018 and the Preferred Options Consultation in 2019. The NM&WLP includes the forecast quantities of sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand that need to be planned for during the period to 2038. Two sites are allocated for silica sand extraction, one site for Carstone extraction and 16 sites for sand and gravel extraction within the NM&WLP along with the policies to be used to determine planning applications for mineral extraction and associated development.

The NM&WLP contains policies which will be used to determine planning applications for minerals developments and waste management facilities in Norfolk and will cover the period up to 2038. When adopted, it will replace the existing Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Specific Site Allocations documents.

Full details of the allocated sites and policies are contained within the publication document. The publication document, background documents and a downloadable and printable representation form are available on Norfolk County Council's website at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf on the "Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review" page.

Where possible the County Council would prefer representations to be made directly to <https://norfolk.oc2.uk/> however, responses by post and email will also be accepted. Any representations that you make will be published on Norfolk County Council's website.

All representations, using whatever method, must be made by 5pm on 11 November 2022.

Budget:

The Council is working hard to produce a balanced budget for the 23/24 financial year. The current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had already identified that £60m of savings are required from next years budget. There are additional pressures on the budget for next year which are also having to be taken into account:

- A £5m overspend in the current Children's Services budget (this does not include wage inflation).
- Assumed 3% wage increase for staff which is predicted to be exceeded: each 1% increase increases the budget requirement by £3m.
- Non pay inflation currently running at around 18% but expected to increase.

Additionally, although a council tax increase of 1.99% and an adult social care increases of 1% for next year has been assumed it is not clear whether the referendum limit of 2% will be raised or lowered. Also, the assumption in the MTFS that the 1.25% increase in national insurance contributions would eventually help pay some of the Adult Social Care budget has had to be amended in light of the chancellor's autumn statement.

The budget for 22/23 is being discussed at the Cabinet meeting on the 3rd October. Full details can be viewed under agenda item 18 on page 571 of the papers, which can be viewed on the NCC website.

Investment Zone.

In the autumn statement it was mentioned that Norfolk is one of the areas that government are in early discussions with about establishing Investment Zones. NCC were invited to express an interest in being part of discussions going forward.

The Government has said that they will deliver Investment Zones in partnership with Upper Tier Local Authorities and Mayoral Combined Authorities in England. This will require working with our district colleagues and the ones that could be in the frame as things currently stand, South Norfolk and Breckland, are fully aware and supportive of what's going on. This will be an ambitious package and has been described as going beyond the existing Freeports model and offering considerable opportunity for attracting investment and unleashing growth. The specific interventions in Investment Zones could include:

Lower taxes – businesses in designated sites will benefit from time-limited tax benefits.

Accelerated development – there will be designated planning sites to build for growth and housing. Where planning applications remain necessary, they will be radically streamlined. Planning sites may be co-located with, or separate to, tax sites, depending on what makes most sense for the local economy.

Wider support for local growth – for example, through greater control over local growth funding for areas with appropriate governance.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.
5th September, 2022.