

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Jimmy Daniels

One Member of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs McGregor, Holloway, Griffiths and Ireson were approved. Apologies were also received from D/Cllr Thurbon and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2023.

Cllr Dye 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.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation (15 minutes maximum).

The member of public raised the plot of land at Church Close and whether the purchase was going ahead. Council confirmed that the decision as to whether to apply for a grant to help purchase the land was being decided later in the meeting. The member of public said they had spoken to a number of residents and there was support for the purchase. An orchard/wildflower area was suggested with a Volunteer Community Group to manage it.

5. County & District Councillors Reports.

In the absence of the C/Cllr, a written report was received which was noted.

There was no update from D/Cllr Thurbon.

6. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note (information only).

Council noted the following application had been dismissed.

- **APP/F2605/W/22/3302165** - Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Appeal under Section 78 – Site Address: - Lower Farm New Road - Creation of Wellness retreat facility with the erection of 3no.lodge cabin and studio (3PL/2021/1465/F).

Council noted that no decisions had been made on the following applications.

- **3PL/2022/0899/F** – Garden Plot to Chapel Cottage, off Tower Close - proposed Detached Bungalow & Garage on Garden Plot.
- **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 – amended.

b) Applications to consider.

There were no applications to consider.

c) To receive an update regarding enforcement issues.

In the absence of D/Cllr Thurbon, there was no update.

d) To receive an update regarding the campaign against the proposed ‘New Town’.

There was no update in respect of this matter.

e) To consider the Breckland Local Validation List consultation.

Council raised no issues in respect of the consultation.

7. Highways matters.

a) To receive an update re matters previously reported.

Council noted the following updates:

- Mill Lane – Open Reach vehicles parking on road and the request for land reinstatement – boundaries established and area to be cleared – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris requested to chase this up.
- New Road – flooding – Breckland asked to sweep the road again to clear leaves from drains.
- Hedge obstructing highway visibility on Mill Lane – resident requested to cut hedge back – now with C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris to deal.
- Colkirk FP15 (Raynham Road) – broken sign – reported to Highways.
- Surface deterioration on High Street – Cllr Kiddle-Morris to request a highways survey be carried out.
- Wash Lane – pothole – reported to Highways and programmed for repair.
- New Road/London Street junction – fingerpost with missing wording – reported to Highways and now resolved.
- Footpath 4 – completely impassable – reported to Highways.
- Hedge from Springwell to London St junction – the resident has cut back the overgrown hedge.

The Chairman asked that a positive report regarding the verge cutting be passed to the County Cllr as the works had been excellent this year.

b) To receive a report regarding the SAM II sign and related speeding issues.

The Chairman reported that the sign was now installed on Mill Lane. There was no data to report.

c) To receive an update regarding wildflowers/bulbs to plant on highway verges.

In the absence of Cllr Griffiths, there was no update and this item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Play Area Matters - to receive a report from the Play Area Warden (including the annual inspection report recommendations).

Council noted the recent inspection report recommendations, none of which were high risk.

Cllr Edge reported that she will be installing the bird deterrents and it was hoped the swing would also be reinstated soon.

Council agreed to obtain three quotes to repair/replace the play area fence, for consideration at the next meeting.

Cllr Edge updated Council regarding the moles on the playing field and proposed approval of a mole man to remove the moles at a cost of £5 per mole, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and unanimously agreed by Council.

9. To receive a report from the Allotment Warden, to reconsider the cutting of the allotment hedge and to consider any other issues raised.

In the absence of the Cllr Ireson, there was no report. Council noted that the hedge on Wash Lane was now accessible, thanks to Cllr Ireson, and agreed this was not the responsibility of the plot holder and Council would arrange for the hedge to be cut.

10. To receive an update from the Tree Warden and to consider any issues raised.

In the absence of Cllr Holloway, there was no update.

11. To receive a report from the Village Warden (council assets) and to consider any issues raised.

Cllr Edge is obtaining quotes to refurbish Spring Well and it was hoped to have three available for consideration at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that she will be replacing the defibrillator pads as they are now out of date.

Council agreed to request that the contractor cut the hedge the full length of the North Church Lane in line with the fence level.

12. To receive an update regarding the purchase of a plot of land at Church Close with the Community Ownership Fund as a potential source of funding.

Council noted the positive response to the expression of interest application to the Community Ownership Fund and Cllr Edge proposed that a full application be submitted, this was seconded by Cllr Daniels and unanimously agreed by Council.

13. Correspondence

Council noted the following correspondence and no action was required.

- Community Enabler Visit – Breckland Inspiring Communities
- Vattenfall Construction Update & Community Information Drop-In Events.
- Norfolk Parishes Movement for an Offshore Transmission Network Update.

14. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2024

Council noted the financial report (attached).

b) To consider the appointment of an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Cllr Dye proposed that Mrs Dann be appointed as internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2024 at a cost of £35.00, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and unanimously agreed by Council.

c) To approve the following payments and note any receipts.

Cllr Dye proposed that the following payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Daniels and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipts were noted.

Ref	Payee	Amount
PAYMENTS		
P19	Clerk (Salary/Allowance) - August	£221.36 (SO)
P22	Clerk (Salary/Allowance) – September	£221.36 (SO)
P20	Grass Contractor – July	£749.26
P21	Tree Contractor (works approved in July)	£975.00
P24	Grass Contractor – August	£749.26
P23	SLCC Membership	£26.18
RECEIPTS		
R3	HMRC VAT Return (2022-23)	£294.92

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

