

WHISSONSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Whissonsett Parish Council held on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sally Dye (Chair)
Cllr Charles Holloway (Vice Chair)
Cllr Caroline Edge
Cllr Susan McGregor
Cllr Sian McGriffiths
Cllr Jimmy Daniels

County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris (arrived late)
District Cllr Mitchell Thurbon
One Member of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Ireson were approved. C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will arrive later in the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2023 and to receive an update regarding the availability of the Parish Council minutes as a hard copy.

Cllr Griffiths proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr McGregor and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Cllr Griffiths updated Council on the attempts to ensure everyone in the village had access to the minutes of the meeting. It had proved impossible to ascertain any numbers involved and Council agreed to display the minutes on the notice board at the Village Hall and supply upon request.

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

A member of the public requested the bird defenders for the play equipment be installed and Cllr Edge will deal with this.

They also asked that item 14 be brought forward, which the Chairman approved. The Village Hall representative informed Council that the Village Hall insurance will cover the event and it was planned to hold it on the 20th August when the weather should be fine, so no major damage would be done to the playing field. Volunteers will direct traffic in and out of the site and parking will be available at the Village Hall. There were no objections raised to this request and Council agreed that a car boot sale could be held on the Playing Field.

5. County & District Councillors Reports.

D/Cllr Thurbon introduced himself as he was new in post following the recent elections and he looked forward to working with the Parish Council.

6. Planning Issues

a) Decisions to note (information only).

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.
- **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).
- **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.

Council noted that the following application had been refused.

- **3PL/2023/0483/F** – Land adj Eastfield House, New Road – erection of 2 bed bungalow.

b) Applications to consider.

There were no applications to consider.

c) To receive an update regarding enforcement issues.

There was no update on either issue and D/Cllr Thurbon will investigate on behalf of the Council.

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

Cllr Holloway had attended a recent meeting with George Freeman, MP, who had also now involved the MP from the neighbouring constituency. The results from the recent Breckland consultation are due to be published in November. They had received over 1,700 responses to the New Town question, with just seven in favour but all of those with caveats.

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 will be 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 but some potholes have been repaired.
- Brisley Road – roadside degradation – reported to Highways and many potholes repaired.
- Wash Lane – pothole – reported to Highways and will be repaired.
- New Road/London Street junction – fingerpost with missing wording – reported to Highways and will be repaired.
- Footpath 4 – completely impassable – reported to Highways and will be cut.
- Hedge from Springwell to London St junction – the resident will be asked to cut back.

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

There was no update available.

c) To consider the purchase of bulbs to plant on highway verges.

Cllr Dye proposed a £50 budget initially, this was seconded by Cllr Holloway and unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr Griffiths will look at potential sites and a mix of wildflowers and bulbs.

d) To consider an application to the Parish Partnership Scheme.

There were no suggestions, however, the scheme is open until December so any ideas can be brought forward for consideration before that date.

8. Play Area Matters - to receive a report from the Play Area Warden.

There was no update available.

9. To receive a report from the Allotment Warden and also to consider who is responsible for the hedge cutting of the access road.

In the absence of the Warden, no update was available.

Council agreed that there is no access to the field and the path formed part of plot one. That being the case, the tenant will be asked to maintain the hedge.

10. To receive an update from the Tree Warden and also to consider a quote to clear dead wood from the Beech Tree in the Church Lanes.

Cllr Holloway updated Council regarding the fallen bough which had recently been cleared from the Church Lanes. He had requested three quotes for the remaining works set out in the tree surgeon report and Cllr Holloway proposed approval of the quote for £975, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

Cllr McGregor said that Spring Well was in need of urgent attention as some of the wood was rotten and paint is peeling off. Cllrs Daniels and Edge will obtain quotes for a full refurbishment for consideration at the September meeting.

12. To consider the purchase of a plot of land at Church Close with the Community Ownership Fund as a possible source of funding.

Cllr Holloway said the option of retaining a green space in the village, with grants available for much of the purchase price, was too good an opportunity to miss. Concerns were raised regarding the cost of maintenance but ideas for its use were also put forward; a play area for the younger children, a village orchard etc.

Cllr Holloway proposed the purchase of the land, subject to obtaining grant funding, this was seconded by Cllr Edge and agreed, with 5 votes for and one abstention.

An expression of interest application will be submitted to the Community Ownership Fund.

13. To consider adding the Play Area hedge to the cutting contract.

Cllr Daniels volunteered to cut back the hedge and Council agreed to add one annual cut to the maintenance contract @ £150 per year.

14. To consider allowing the Village Hall Committee to hold a Car Boot Sale on the Playing Field.

This matter was dealt with at item 4 above.

15. To receive an update regarding the Vattenfall Community Benefit Fund.

Cllr Griffiths had attended a recent workshop and said the fund was not likely to be suitable for any village projects in the future, although it will continue to be monitored.

At this point in the meeting, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris arrived and updated Council regarding the dualling of the A47 between Tuddenham and Easton and at Blofield, in that the judicial review preventing the works had been overturned although there was 21 days to submit an appeal. If there is no appeal, it is anticipated that National Highways will commence works this year.

He also reported that a decision was due in December regarding the Develotion Deal which would mean a directly elected Leader at County Council. Council were not in favour of the deal.

16. Correspondence

- Breckland – Mobile Deployable Surveillance Cameras/Signage Interest – Council felt there was no need for surveillance cameras or additional signage in the village.

17. Finance & Governance Matters

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

The financial report (attached) was noted.

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

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

P12	Clerk (Salary/Allowance) - June	£221.36 (SO)
P13	Clerk Reimbursement – Volunteer Equipment	£73.58
P14	Grass Contractor – May	£749.26
P16	Clerk (Salary/Allowance) – July	£221.36 (SO)
P15	Tree Contractor (process broken bough and make good)	£200.00
P17	Play Area Annual Inspection	£158.40
P18	Grass Contractor – June	£749.26

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

19. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.54pm.

Signed:

Date:

YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 2023					
BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2023/24	To date	% Spend		
PAYMENTS*				Bank Reconciliation	
Admin	2,495	774	31%	Community Account at 01.04.2023	12,365.11
Salary	2,809	845	30%	Plus Receipts at 31.05.2023	6,039.40
Grass Cutting**	5,241	1,499	29%	Less Payments at 31.05.2023	2,255.84
Play Area	500	-	0%	TOTAL	16,148.67
Open Spaces (inc maintenance)	1,900	594	31%	Bank Balance at 31.05.2023	17,152.53
Donations	100	-	0%	Less any outstanding payments	1,003.86
TOTAL	13,045	3,712	28%	Plus any outstanding receipts	-
				TOTAL	16,148.67
RECEIPTS			Received	including £100 Allotment deposit	
Precept	12,000	6,000	50%	Allotment deposit	100.00
Allotments	210	-	0%	Open Spaces	1,000.00
Grants	-	-		GENERAL RESERVE	£15,048.67
HMRC Refund	-	39			
TOTAL	12,210	6,039	49%		
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(835)	2,327			

**includes payments as listed on agenda.*
***payments include £749 relating to 2022/23 budget*