

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: a) With reference to the minutes (items 64 (e) and 64 (h)) of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024, it was confirmed that the new drains on the north side of the church would be at two levels, with the two pipes converging at the eastern edge of the church. There will be an open soakaway. The Church Lane track will be monitored to ensure that no flooding results. An archaeologist will be present whilst the work is being carried out. The soil will be spread out across the field. The wall on the eastern side of the churchyard is to be rebuilt.

b) It was asked whether the Parish Council response to the Local Plan Consultation could be placed on the website. This was agreed by all members.

c) Concern was expressed regarding what was considered as discrimination against some graves in the churchyard with the newer part being badly maintained. The major part is in excellent condition but the unattended section is felt to be in an appalling state. The PCC couldn't afford to cut the western side as financial resources are stretched. There is also a danger of tripping over the grave curbs and a new notice warning of this has recently been erected.

d) A resident of Eastgate Street had identified a problem with surface water and was looking at the possibility of a soakaway. Mr. Rayner suggested that contact should be made with the Planning Department at Breckland Council. Mr. Bambridge recommended that the Internal Draining Board (Water Level Management Association) should also be consulted in respect of any possible ecological or engineering problems.

## **NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the**

### **MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

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#### **089 Those Councillors Present Were:**

Mr. P. Grainger, (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips (Vice Chairman), Miss A. Ferris, Mr. B. Gee, Mrs. A. Keeble and Mr. M. Rayner.

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and six parishioners.

#### **090 Apologies for absence:**

Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell and Mr. C. Smith.

## **091 To Receive Declarations of Interest:**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, should the occasion arise, interests should be declared by Councillors as soon as this was realised, and the interest should be minuted.

## **094 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024:**

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all. (Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Keeble).

## **UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **095 Land Management Matters (item 064)**

(a) Village Green Mr. Gee has restored the damaged bench. A waterproof adhesive has been used which hopefully will result in it lasting longer.

(b) Cathedral Ruins The flat areas have been mown and the banks await the annual visit by the special mower.

(c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report.

(d) Broom Green Nothing to report.

(e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Nothing to report.

(f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters Nothing to report.

(g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report.

(h) Church Meadow Please refer to “Public Participation”, item a) above.

### **096 Allotments (item 065)**

Nothing to report.

### **097 Street Lights (item 066)**

Nothing to report.

### **098 Highway Matters (item 067)**

The Chairman has taken possession of the SAM2 devices.

### **099 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 068)**

The Clerk contacted North Elmham F.C. and, as a result, the sum of £175 was duly received. This settles the fees owing for the season.

### **100 Eastgate Centre (item 069)**

Nothing to report.

### **101 Brookside Development update (item 070)**

The pile on the site has now been removed. An extra pipe has been put in after the previous flooding. The developer has put drainage into one garden and similar action is needed for two others.

### **102 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 071)**

Nothing to report.

### **103 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 072)**

Nothing to report.

### **104 Defibrillators (item 073)**

Miss Ferris said that there had been some problems with e-mails with information being sent to the previous Chairman. Details are now being received, as required.

### **105 Call for Sites update – Breckland Council (item 074)**

A communication has been received from the Chairman of Breckland Council which refers to housing targets and changes to the national planning framework. The consultation period closes in the middle of September.

### **106 Archive Group records (item 075)**

Nothing to report.

### **107 North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 076)**

The Chairman has made an introduction to the Green Party's member on Breckland Council.

### **108 Reorganisation of the Parish Charities (item 077)**

Nothing to report.

### **109 Sennowe Park Rave (item 079)**

Raving commences on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

## **110 Churchyards – current situation and future plans (item 082)**

The Chairman and Mr. Phillips had met with Sally Kimmis, Team Rector, and Catherine Newey, Treasurer of NEPCC. They confirmed that they will follow the advice of the legal service to ensure that the correct procedures are followed. The Church accounts have been provided and due consideration will be given when the next annual budget is formulated by the Parish Council. It was mentioned that two meetings had previously been arranged with the Nurture Group in respect of grounds maintenance requirements but the representative from that company had failed to turn up for either. The Clerk is to contact Nurture with a view to putting in place a suitable arrangement for all so that discussions can take place.

## **111 Report from District and/or County Councillors (item 080)**

### **ELECTION REPORT - UPPER WENSUM WARD**

Breckland District Councillor Gordon Bambridge

This election, I did not get very involved, the virus that has kept me from travelling far has prevented canvassing etc, but it has not kept me from keeping up with all events and indeed Breckland matters on the internet.

In Mid Norfolk Constituency George Freeman won again with a very reasonable majority so for the moment the paths I take in bringing matters up with Parliament remain the same. The paths such enquiries will take from that point will be markedly different.

With matters of the Internal Drainage Board there is a new DEFRA Secretary of State in Steve Reed who I have not met. The internet does not give us a name for the drainage and water minister just yet, I met and was impressed with Emma Hardy who was shadow in that position last year as I wrote in my report last November.

We will have to wait a bit to see just how the change of government nationally will affect how District Councils work. Up to now Breckland has been a financially successful district which has led within the local government community in many ways, we hope this can remain so, but all local government relies heavily on the Westminster policies and support. There are suggestions of increases in council tax, ours is still the lowest district tax. We are also bound by changes in national policy not yet announced.

Major challenges specific to this ward would come from any change of policy including/regarding two key matters we have often spoken of in parish meetings:-

**1/ House building**, which has been flagged, and the proposed new town for within our ward. This had been turned down by Breckland, but now matters may be taken from our hands?

**2/ Roads matters** - the ward is directly affected by both the -

**Dualling of the A47** from Easton to North Tuddenham which is hopefully so far advanced it cannot be withheld from going ahead...

**The Western Link** which will relieve not only Norwich from rat running, but also most of the villages in our ward and of course saving millions of hours travelling time and millions of pounds in travel costs for individuals and business not to say protecting our communities.....

The new MP for SouthWest Norfolk has campaigned against both these roads, although they are not in or affecting his now constituency which has benefited from similar road improvements. I have spoken to him many times on this matter and will continue if needed.

**More general matters** including changes to taxation systems, will be affecting the whole population and of course follow the voting wishes of the people. I am happy to discuss.

It has always been my policy to be a-political within my activities except at district election times, but I am a conservative elected member.

I do however recognise that from the general population and in particular from the parish councils there are people from every shade of political stance, and I also represent you. During the election period I have dealt with dozens of enquiries including political ones from residents of Upper Wensum, and will continue to do so. I am also aware that it is many years since our conservative led district has had to work with a labour led government so I am happy to listen to your views as we go forward.

Gordon Bambridge  
9/7/2024

Mr. Bambridge mentioned the current review of car parks in the five towns in the area with people generally in favour of paying. There are likely to be some boundary changes in the area with the Breckland District to be reviewed. There are also deliberations in respect of drainage and flooding. Mr. Bambridge has a meeting arranged in Parliament in October.

## **112 Village Hall – the Parish Council to agree to evaluate two potential sites within the village for the siting of a new memorial hall and to agree a provisional budget to cover initial advisory costs. The process is to include planning consultation with Breckland Council.**

There are various buildings in the village and the proposal is for two potential sites to be considered:-

- a) The Pavilion.
- b) The area at the top of the Village Green (the western end).

It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr. Rayner would progress preliminary matters by liaising with Breckland Council. A working party would be established, (Mr. Rayner not to be a member). Mr. Bambridge is to talk to the Planning Manager at Breckland Council and suggested that visits should be considered to view other village halls, e.g. Lyng, Western Longville and Bawdeswell. A good committee was considered to be essential. It was agreed by all that this course of action, together with the early involvement of Breckland Council, would be followed. (Proposed by Mr. Rayner and seconded by Mr. Phillips).

## 113 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a) Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-

17/7/24	Npower (street light electricity from 1/6/24 to 30/6/24)–(d/d)	£352.80
28/7/24	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 29/6/24 to 26/7/24) - (d/d)	£61.25
19/7/24	E-on Next (pavilion from 5/6/24 to 30/6/24) – (d/d)	£83.11
7/8/24	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for July)	£137.28
7/8/24	Mandrake (June payroll)	£27.72
7/8/24	Mandrake (July payroll)	£27.72
7/8/24	Nurture (grounds maintenance – June)	£959.58
7/8/24	Playsafety Ltd (annual RoSPA report)	£201.60
7/8/24	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for July)	£826.64
7/8/24	HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk’s pay)	£244.58
7/8/24	K. Webb (A. Simnor – providing new personal e-mails )	£30.00
7/8/24	J.R.G. Fletcher (key keeping – June and July)	£62.50
7/8/24	J. Duffield (work in Cathedral Ruins)	£425.00
7/8/24	Anglian Water (pavilion from 20/4/24 to 19/7/24)	£26.04
7/8/24	ALCC (annual membership)	£50.00
22/7/24	K. Webb (quarterly computer allowance) – s/o	£20.00

(Expenditure approved by all members; proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Miss Ferris)

a) Schedule of Income:-

4/7/24	Pavilion lettings	£50.00
17/7/24	Pavilion lettings	£10.00
23/7/24	North Elmham F.C. (hire of facilities – seven games)	£175.00
1/8/24	Rural Payments Agency – Basic Payment Scheme	£733.64

Balances (at 5/8/24):- Current a/c - £55,989.29, Business Premium a/c - £44,483.13  
(Cambridge Building Society - £80,197.04)

## 114 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) **Applications**

- i) Campton Cottage, 93 Eastgate Street – TRE/2024/0132/TCA – tree work.
- ii) Flint Cottage, 87 Eastgate Street – TRE/2024/0133/TCA – tree work.
- iii) 5 Boars Hill, Holt Road – TRE/2024/0136/TPO – tree work.
- iv) Oakleigh Garden Shop, 25a Station Road – Mr. Mark Williams – 3PL/2024/0263/F – change of use from dual use shop/dwelling to dwelling and proposed internal alterations and extension (amend site address from 25 to 25a – garage omitted) – no objections.
- v) Elle Findlay – dwelling on land at The Chapel, County School – 3PL/2024/0571/F – resubmission.
- vi) 75 Eastgate Street – TRE/2024/0143/TCA – tree work.

An e-mail had also been received regarding a planning application for a dwelling on land at The Chapel, County School – 3PL/2024/0571/F. This property is in Bintree and is, therefore, outside our area. Mr. Bambridge is aware of this application and is to visit the site in the near future to meet with the applicants who will be advised by the Clerk of the position.

**b) Determinations**

- i) Campton Cottage, 93 Eastgate Street – TRE/2024/0132/TCA – tree work – no objection.
- ii) Flint Cottage, 87 Eastgate Street – TRE/2024/0133/TCA – tree work – no objection.
- iii) 5 Boars Hill, Holt Road – TRE/2024/0136/TPO – tree work – TPO work consent.
- iv) The Longhouse, 46 Eastgate Street – TRE/2024/0150/TCA tree work – no objection.

## **115 Correspondence**

- 1) E-mail from Norfolk County Council confirming the continuation of the Parish Partnership scheme for 2025/2026.
- 2) Request to support the campaign on the safety of lithium-ion batteries and their disposal – unanimous decision to take no action.
- 3) Letter from Breckland Council confirming dates for filling the current vacancy on the Parish Council. (Last date for a requested election is 16/8/24)
- 4) Breckland Council survey on open space and playing pitch provision.
- 5) Invitation to apply for free tree packs from the Woodland Trust.
- 6) Breckland District offering grants to fund the planting of community orchards.
- 7) E-mail from parishioner regarding the current state of the graveyard (see Public Participation above)

## **116 Any Other Matters (for information only)**

None

## **117 Agenda items for next meeting:**

None

## **118 Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, 4th September, 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

