

## **HOCKWOLD-CUM-WILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Hockwold  
on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm

### **Councillors of Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council**

**Present:** Cllr Johns, Cllr Newman, Cllr Sismey, Cllr Royal, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Sullivan, Cllr Green

Hilary R Cox, Clerk

Borough and NCC Cllr Martin Storey

Four members of the public

### **15-minute open forum**

A parishioner spoke of her concerns with a West Suffolk planning application for a grain store near Murfitt's Ind Lakenheath site. The PC was asked to comment on the plan. The parishioner voiced concerns over the shed size and noise it will cause, adding to the current issues with noise pollution in the area.

**Members of Press and Public are invited to voice their comments and concerns in the Open Forum. However, the law does not permit members of the public and press to take part in the debates. Hilary R Cox, Parish Clerk & RFO**

**356. To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr Randall and Cllr Williams

**357. To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensation**

NONE

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

**358. To approve minutes of the Council meeting held 9th January 2023** Proposed to approve minutes by Cllr Green. Seconded by Cllr Sullivan. RESOLVED.

**359. Reports from:**

**a. RAF Lakenheath –**

*"Council Report (Covering January 2024)*

*Operational Update:*

*In addition to their continuing deployed operational commitments and the local routine training sorties required to retain currency and competency on the aircraft, which included some night flying activity this month, 48FW aircraft participated in Exercises in Italy and Portugal during January 2024. Additionally, the Station hosted a HQ USAFE Agile Combat Employment Conference in the latter part of the month.*

*Visits:*

*It was a relatively quiet month for visitors to the Station; however, the 48FW Protocol Team have been busy this month preparing for a plethora of visits that are planned for February and March.*

*Community Engagement:*

*Planning started for the 2024 Suffolk and Norfolk Shows this month. We attended the Suffolk Show Initial Planning Conference at Trinity Park on 17 January, and we've started discussing potential contributions to the Norfolk Show with the Military Village lead planner.*

*On 26 January, I delivered a presentation on my RAF Career and my role as the RAF Commander to Year 11 students at Springwood School in Norfolk.*

*Looking Forward:*

*The members of the British American Committee will be meeting at RAF Mildenhall this week – I'll provide a read out of the meeting next month. 48FW will be conducting an Active Shooter Table-Top Exercise, which will include input from the local Emergency Services, in the latter part of the month. And, finally, 48FW will be celebrating their successes and recognising their best people at the Annual Awards Ceremony later this week."*

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**b. Norfolk County Council & Borough WNKL Council, Cllr Martin Storey** - Cllr Storey updated the council on the work in progress between Norfolk Flood Protection and Flood Alliance. They are looking into the risks Norfolk faces and how we will deal with it. There is a need for MPs to get onboard as well as the EA and Anglian Water. Water levels are very high at the moment. Groups need to get together and help NCC work on these issues. NCC is not setting the balanced budget. Cllr Storey is talking to his Parishes to survey their thoughts on it.

Over 10,000 Norfolk Children have received support in times of trouble through the Children's Health and Wellbeing Programme. For more information look on the NCC website or contact NCC Storey directly.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/> OR [martin.storey@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:martin.storey@norfolk.gov.uk)

**c. Chairman** No report as it is covered in other items on the agenda.

**d. Clerk (APL)** – The action point log was distributed and discussed. All queries answered.

### **360. Matters arising (for information only)**

#### **To report progress on matters arising from previous minutes (not elsewhere on agenda)**

The dog waste bin on South Street is now being filled with someone's home dog waste.

Cllr Royal reported on the progress in the Norfolk Falls Project. He has contacted all of the local councils to discuss the project and gauge interest. Organizational issues have threatened to stop progress. Cllr Royal will keep us updated.

**361. To confirm receipt of NALC, CAN, POLICE and other correspondence** - All Councillors present received their updates and correspondence. No queries.

### **362. Planning Matters**

**a. To receive results & updates of outstanding applications** - NONE

**b. To receive new planning applications relevant to the village and make comment**

**i. 24/00100/F | The proposals are for the removal and making good of two existing roof lights and addition of two new traditional style casement windows. | Annexe At Faulkners 132 Main Street Hockwold cum Wilton THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4NB** – The application was discussed. Proposed to support the application from Cllr Green. Seconded by Cllr Newman. Agreed by all present.

**ii. DC/23/0388/FUL | Planning application - agricultural building for grain storage | 1 Hiss Farm Cottage Station Road Lakenheath Brandon Suffolk IP27 9AB - West Suffolk Planning Application** -

- Industrialization of Rural Areas
- Loss of Character and Heritage
- Visual Impact on the Countryside
- Vermin Population Increase
- Negative Effects on Roadways
- Poorly Maintained Roads
- Traffic Congestion and Noise Pollution
- The council would ask that if this application goes forward that no HGV/Lorry or contractors use Main Street in Hockwold. It is a very narrow street that goes through the heart of the village. It passes our village primary school which sees many young children and families crossing and parking. The village cannot safely handle this increase in traffic.
- Noise pollution from loading and unloading activities, especially during peak harvest seasons, could adversely affect the quality of life for our village residents.

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- Noise Emissions from Grain Dryers
  - Noise and Light
  - Biodiversity Considerations and planned mitigation strategy
- Proposed to object to this application with these concerns. Proposed by Cllr Sismey. Seconded by Cllr Morgan. Agreed by all present. Clerk to submit comments to West Suffolk Planning Department.

c. **Gypsy and Traveller Potential Sites and Policy Consultation, January 2024** - The council asked the clerk to find out how many existing pitches are currently on this site. (GT42) and report back to the council at the EXORD meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**363. To consider a grit bin for Blackdyke Road** -The council discussed the grit bins in the parish, the requested location on Blackdyke Road, and the state of the current bins. It was proposed to not place a bin on Blackdyke Road, and for the clerk to email the resident. Proposed by Cllr Johns. Seconded by Cllr Sullivan. Agreed by all present. NCC Storey and Cllr Newman volunteered to survey the current bins. Cllr Storey volunteered to empty the bins and dispose of the refuse. After which, the clerk will report to the council to have then refilled.

**364. To discuss the resident request regarding signage on Church Lane** – Church Lane residents informed the council that they would contact the NCC Highways Department directly and enquire if they can pay for official signage and have it installed. No further action required by the council at this time.

**365. To discuss unauthorised cutting on the Lode Common** – The cutting was discussed in detail. Cllr Johns reported that she had done a risk assessment of the cut areas and there are no issues with safety. The PC received a report on what was done and it has been recorded in the PC incident log.

**366. To discuss the various issues with Nursery Lane** – The issues with large vehicles, flooding and sewage in the ditch were discussed. The clerk to report the smell in the ditch to EA.

**367. To hear an update and discuss Church Lane bridleway request** – This to be placed on a future agenda when Mr Moss has an update.

**368. To discuss a draft plan to commemorate D-Day 80 anniversary on 6th June** – Cllr Sismey gave an update on the current plans. It will be an evening event starting at 18.30 and going until 21.15. It was proposed to approve up to £250.00 for the community event. Proposed by Cllr Sullivan. Seconded by Cllr Royal. Agreed by all present. The clerk informed the council that invoices and receipts will be required to be paid.

**369. To discuss the Community Emergency Leaflet** – The clerk sent the draft leaflet to Cllr Johns to do design and formatting. The draft is complete. It will be approved at the EXORD meeting in February.

**370. To approve and adopt the vexatious complaints policy** – The draft policy was distributed previously. It was proposed to adopt by Cllr Morgan. Seconded by Cllr Royal. Agreed by all present.

### **371. Finance**

a. **To agree payment of January's invoices - Proposed** to approve BOA by Cllr Newman. Seconded by Cllr Sullivan. Agreed by all.

b. **To discuss Parish Council Streetlighting** – The responsibility to repair the lights under the PC maintenance was discussed. The repair/replacement needed, and the cost were both discussed. The clerk to get a letter from the County Officer explaining this. It was proposed to approve the payments for the repair/replacement of the streetlight by Cllr Sullivan. Seconded by Cllr Royal. 1 Councillor abstained. Proposal passed. Clerk to make arrangements and monitor progress of the replacement.

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c. **To discuss replacement pads and battery for defibrillator** – Clerk explained the need for new pads and new battery for the defibrillator. The PC made a commitment to replace batteries but has proposed to pay for both this time. Proposed by Cllr Sullivan. Seconded by Cllr Sismey. Agreed by all present. Clerk to put on the next full agenda the proposal to commit to replacement of both the batteries and pads.

**372. Items for the next agenda**

- **Commitment to both replacement of batteries and pads for the community defibrillator**
- **Grit bins update and discussion.**
- **Streetlighting report**
- **APA report**
- **AGAR**
- **Confirm ordinary meeting schedule for 2024-2025.**

**373. To confirm date and times of the Annual Parish Assembly on 12th March 2024 starting at 7.30.**  
**Meetings take place in Hockwold Village Hall, Main Street IP264LW**

**Distribution:**

**One copy to each Councillor. Copies to Mr M Storey Norfolk County Councillor, & Cllr Lawrence District Councillors, Squadron Leader Geary RAF Lakenheath and one copy for the website.**

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