

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

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Hockwold  
on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm

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

**Present: Cllr Randall, Cllr Johns, Cllr Newman, Cllr Williams, 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**

Parishioner informed the council that a longboat is tethered to the Lode on the river. EA towed and tethered it there temporarily. The owner has been out to the boat.

A parishioner enquired into the two walls that are down. One on Nursery Lane, and the other on Main Street. The clerk will look into the erection of a replacement fence in Nursery Lane and consider if any further investigations need to be done.

A strange smell coming from the ditch at the top of Nursery Lane was reported. The clerk informed the resident that EA is the agency that would deal with this. The clerk to email contact details to the resident.

An increase in large lorries on Nursery Lane was reported to the council. The resident could not give any details as to whom they belong to or where they were going.

Clerk tasked with putting Nursery Lane issues on February's agenda.

**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**

**338. To receive and approve apologies for absence.** The clerk received and approved apologies from Cllr Royal and Cllr Sismey.

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

**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.** NONE

**340. To approve minutes of the Council meeting held 12th** Proposed to approve minutes by Cllr Newman. Seconded by Cllr Green. **RESOLVED.**

**341. Reports from:**

**a. RAF Lakenheath** - Community Relations Adviser Victoria Quamina attended to introduce herself and explain her position as the point of contact for the community events and volunteer opportunities for RAF personnel. She would be who we contact to invite RAF military personnel and the Wing Commander to community or council events. Squadron Leader Geary reported that in addition to the continuing operational commitments and the routine training sorties required to retain currency and competency on the aircraft, 48thW aircraft participated in Exercise Atlantic Trident in the UK, conducted an Exercise in Ghedi, Italy and participated in the Dubai Air Show. RAF Lakenheath continues to attract a plethora of visitors. During November and December, our visitors included the UK Minister for Defence Procurement, the US Deputy Secretary of Defence, the Czech Air Force and the United Services Organisation – The US

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leading charitable organization in serving active-duty service member and military families – who brought a group of celebrities, including Penn and Teller, to engage with and perform for 48<sup>th</sup> W personnel.

48W supported over 25 events across Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire over the Remembrance weekend. The 48W will be conducting night flying activities for two weeks starting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Finally, I will be leaving the RAF Commander job in the Spring to take up an appointment at RAF Marham.

**b. Norfolk County Council & Borough WNKL Council, Cllr Martin Storey** - Cllr Storey informed the PC that he has £3000.00 remaining of his Members Allowance. He invited the PC to contact him with any relevant projects.

NCC had a cabinet meeting this week. Changes to the Shortbreaks initiatives are being discussed to possibly extend it to siblings and parents. There are discussions on increase in millions for Norfolk Fire and Rescue. Ringfenced funds for NCC Highways Travels has approved 24/7 free bus travel from 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2024. It was found that Christmas 2023 was the busiest time for Norfolk Social Workers. They are also considering increasing from 3 preferences to 4 with applying for places in schools. Approximately 97% got a place in one of the preferences last year. This change would hopefully work towards 100% of students getting a place in their preferred schools. For more information look on the NCC website or contact NCC Storey directly. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/> OR martin.storey@norfolk.gov.uk

**c. Chairman** Nothing to report that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

**d. Clerk (APL)** - The clerk updated the council on the GOV.UK domain application for Norfolk ALC. Cllr Morgan expressed frustration at the length of time since the PC heard back on the last noise survey. The Chairman to write to Liz Truss MP on this subject.

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

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

The Annual Parish Assembly for 2024 was discussed. Cllr Newman reported that she is making contact with Mr Cooper of Forestry England that is within the Forestry Commission, hoping that he will come and speak at the APA. Cllr Newman to pass on the contact information for Mr Cooper to arrange details of the event. Cllr Randall to work with Daren Morgan on the advert/flyer for the APA and arrange printing.

Cllr Randall informed the PC that a parishioner reported an electric fence along Mill Lane, that was not signposted. Cllr Randall to do further investigation.

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

**344. Planning Matters** All updates were read out.

### **a. To receive results & updates of outstanding applications**

i. 22/02066/F Hockwold cum Wilton - Land N of Lode Cottages and W of Lode House Church Lane Hockwold cum Wilton Norfolk - RETROSPECTIVE: siting of two polytunnels, welfare unit, and associated works, Application Permitted, 20 December 2022, Delegated Decision

ii. 23/01946/F Hockwold cum Wilton - Land North of Lode Cottages Church Lane Hockwold cum Wilton Norfolk - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR; The provision of a track, at the southern end of our retained agricultural field, to provide access both to our land and to the two lots of arable land. Application Permitted, 20 December 2023, Delegated Decision

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

i. NONE

### **345. To discuss Community Orchard initiative**

The council discussed the previous ideas and the investigations. It was decided not to take this further.

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**346. To discuss emergency planning** – Chairman Randall welcomed Barry Moss. Mr Moss explained the possibility of emergency events in the parish. He gave an overview of the possible support needed in such events, and what could be in an Emergency Plan “to ensure the village has the capability to help itself until emergency services arrive. “ The PC discussed the information provided. The Borough and NCC would be an additional source of information on the topic. It was decided to create a TFG to discuss this and come back to the PC at a later date. TFG volunteers are Cllr Green, Mr Moss and Cllr Williams.

**347. To discuss receive feedback on A Village Christmas 2023** - Mixed results for Village Christmas Year No 3. The reps from local organisations worked well together and the layout of the event calendar was completed quickly. Once again thanks must go to the Village Hall Committee, who waived any booking fees for the events, Daren Morgan for designing the calendar and the volunteer deliverers round the village.

Less response to some events, but the Christmas Catchup Cuppa for Hockwold's senior citizens went down really well. There's quite a lot of time and effort goes into organising the whole Village Xmas and it's disappointing when events aren't supported, but maybe the format needs to change this year.

It is a Parish Council event and thanks to the Country Fair Committee there is ringfenced monies to use for community events. This year, with £60 raised from tables at the Fair, less £21.22 spent on the hamper for the winners of the Xmas Treasure Hunt, another £38.78 has been added to the ringfenced monies.

**348. To discuss noticeboard update** – The clerk distributed the final render and dedication wording to the PC. The Village Hall has approved the design and the dedication. Clerk to move forward with the sign and the installation. Further updates will be provided as they unfold.

**349. To consider vexatious reporting and policy** – The clerk distributed an information sheet on vexatious policy. The PC discussed it and proposed to create a TFG to create a draft and bring back to the full PC. TFG volunteers are Cllr Green, Clerk and Cllr Newman.

**350. To consider a grit bin for Blackdyke Road** – The resident request for a grit bin on the curve on Blackdyke Road was discussed. The need for a map of the current grit bins locations, and the upkeep of the South Street bin was discussed as well. It was decided to have the clerk acquire the bin locations and put this on February's agenda to be discussed as a whole. Clerk to report the need for new grit on the South Street bin, and email Cllr Storey with details on the bins for possible funding from the Members Fund.

**351. To discuss Woodland Trust's free tree and shrub packs** – The council were sent the information on this previously. This initiative to be added to the next LAC agenda, and the APA 2024 agenda. This would allow the PC to apply for the November delivery.

**352. To discuss the Community Emergency Leaflet** – Cllr Johns to do the final design and bring it to the PC for February's meeting.

**353. To discuss Church Lane bridleway request.** The PC reviewed the request. The clerk contacted NCC Highways previous to the meeting to get advice on the legality of approving signs. Mr Wallace of NCC Highway informed her that he did not have that information, but has forwarded the request to David Mills as he deals with these complex rights of way issues. The clerk to chase the information, and put this on February's agenda.

### **354. Finance**

**a. To agree payment of January's invoices** Proposed to approve BOA with the letmeRepair invoice added by Cllr Green. Seconded by Cllr Morgan. Agreed by all.

**b. To consider adding third signatory on the PC banking** – Cllr Morgan volunteered to be the additional signatory. Clerk to get the necessary paperwork.

**354. Items for the next agenda**

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- **Biodiversity**

Apologies were given by Chairman Randall for February's meeting. Vice Chairman Johns to chair the meeting.

**355. To confirm date and times of the Parish Council Meeting on 13th February 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.**