



**Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 7.00 pm  
Meeting held at Fundenhall Church**

Councillors Present:	S Allen (Chair) J Ives (JI) R Burrige (RB) C Wood (CW) S Tyree (ST) joined after item 4 B Morris (BM) joined after item 4 Alan Arber (Clerk)
Apologies:	None Received
In Attendance	<b>District Councillors</b> Bob McClenning. (BMcC) <b>County Councillor</b> Catherine Rowett (CR) <b>Members of the Public (No.)</b>

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	No Apologies received	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b>	
	S Allen for a payment all agreed	
<b>3.</b>	<b>To consider the co-option of 2 new councillors</b>	
	<p>The 2 applicants introduced themselves to the councillors and gave a brief rundown of what they can bring to the council. after a short discussion it was agreed to co-opt both councillors to the council.</p> <p>Both new Councillors signed their Acceptance of Office forms witnessed by the clerk and after this moment they joined the meeting.</p> <p>New Councillors to complete and send their register of interests forms to elections.</p>	<b>ST &amp; BM</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meetings on 18th June 2024</b>	
	<p>The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chair as a true record as agreed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr D E Burrige Seconded: Cllr Allen</p>	



<b>5.</b>	<b>Public Open Forum</b>																													
	<p>County Councillor Catherine Rowett's sent the following report attached as Appendix 1. District Councillor Ian Spratt sent the following report attached as Appendix 2.</p> <p>Discussion ensued over a few points with both the county and district councillors.</p> <p>District and County Councillors were asked to include, updates on items most relevant to AFPC priorities in future reports, where available.</p>	<b>BMcC &amp; CR</b>																												
<b>6.</b>	<b>Planning</b>																													
	No planning applications submitted for consultation by the council.																													
<b>7.</b>	<b>Matters Arising (Where not on the agenda)</b>																													
	No matters arising.																													
<b>10.</b>	<b>Finances</b>																													
<b>a</b>	To note the following payments made since last meeting None																													
<b>b</b>	<p>To consider payment of the following:</p> <table><tr><td>I.</td><td>An Arber</td><td>June Salary</td><td>£383.94</td></tr><tr><td>II.</td><td>Npower</td><td>Street lights June</td><td>£49.75</td></tr><tr><td>III.</td><td>W Hodgson</td><td>Grass cutting</td><td>£357.50</td></tr><tr><td>IV</td><td>HMRC</td><td>Tax and Ni June</td><td>£109.80</td></tr><tr><td>V</td><td>J Bunn</td><td>Footpath maintenance</td><td>£394.63</td></tr><tr><td>VII</td><td>S Allen</td><td>Lifebuoy</td><td>£43.17</td></tr><tr><td>Vii</td><td>EE</td><td>Mobile Internet for Office</td><td>£44.44</td></tr></table> <p>VIII To note any payments received after the agenda is posted None</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Ives    Seconded Cllr Burrige</p> <p><i>NOTE: I THINK WE SHOULD NOTE ANY OUTSTANDING OR OVERDUE INVOICES HERE AND WHERE APPROPRIATE RECORD ANY REASONS / ACTIONS, WITH DUE REGARD FOR ANY NECESSARY COMMERCIAL CONFIDENCE MATTERS. Eg</i></p> <p>Invoice required for recent wood purchase required and urgent</p>	I.	An Arber	June Salary	£383.94	II.	Npower	Street lights June	£49.75	III.	W Hodgson	Grass cutting	£357.50	IV	HMRC	Tax and Ni June	£109.80	V	J Bunn	Footpath maintenance	£394.63	VII	S Allen	Lifebuoy	£43.17	Vii	EE	Mobile Internet for Office	£44.44	<b>Clerk / JI</b>
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<b>b</b>	Receipts since last meeting Mr Dring land rent	£1400.00																												



	Proposed Cllr Ives Seconded Cllr Burrige	
<b>c</b>	<p>To receive the councils current standing The clerk produced the bank statement for the end of June and the figure was £11,414.94 and after today's payments the balance will be £11476.15. The chair duly signed the bank statement for the end of June that matched the figure detailed as £11,414.94</p> <p>The Chair signed the bank statements as a true record of this minute.</p>	
<b>d</b>	VAT Return The clerk will do the VAT return for the council at the end of July and the figure is just under £140.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>e</b>	<p>To agree new bank signatories and update contact information for Barclays It was agreed to take Alan off the bank contact details from 31st August when he is no longer employed by the council</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Updates / Reports</b>	
	To hear an update and consider any necessary action regarding the following	
<b>a</b>	<b>Speed Awareness Machines</b>	
	<p>To discuss any issues with Speed Awareness Machines and location. No issues and all working correctly.</p> <p>Clerk to obtain a lead to allow old Sam 2 download</p> <p>To review the data from the SAM 2 machine including New Road The data from the last location on New Road coming into the village was produced by the clerk and it was not great reading with one speeder caught on 23/7 at 3 pm 31/5/24 at 80 mph which is worrying and the report has been submitted to the police for their comments</p> <p>To advise PC of any comments received</p>	<b>Clerk</b>      <b>Clerk</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Thorpe Hall</b>	
	<p>There are still issues with the bill for the Parish Office and the new clerk will look through the minutes to see if the parish office was agreed.</p> <p>Investigation to be undertaken and recommendation to be brought forward to the next meeting.</p>	<b>New Clerk</b>   <b>JI with support of</b>



	<del>but it was thought it was just a verbal agreement. Questions were raised on what other use the village hall would use them for due to the sensitive items being held in the office.</del>	<b>other councillors / clerk as required.</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Footpaths</b>	
	Footpaths have been cut by Mr Bunn and will be checked by the new footpath warden	
<b>d</b>	<b>Village Maintenance</b>	
	Simon had replaced the Lifebuoy bag holding the rope and this looks a lot better	
<b>e</b>	<b>Wood Farm Development</b>	
	No Report and take off the agenda ( <i>would be good to record why this was decided?</i> )	
<b>f</b>	<b>Memorial Plaques</b>	
	To agree the date of the event for memorial plaques The plaques have been purchased and received and the event date will be arranged for a time immediately before the October meeting	<b>Unclear? Clerk / JI?</b>
<b>g</b>	<b>Grass Cutting Contract</b>	
	A discussion ensued on this and it was agreed that we would look at other quotes and the chair would hold a meeting with Omache Gardens on the prices.	<b>Chair</b>
	ST to seek to provide 'market rates' for comparison.	<b>ST</b>
<b>h</b>	<b>Website Update and Email Arrangements</b>	
	<del>To agree website update for parishioners and Gov.uk email addresses to be put in place A discussion ensued on this and it was agreed that The Gov.uk email addresses are in place and need all councillors and the clerk to uninstall theirs by the end of August</del>	
	Clerk to advise councillors how to access new .gov emails Clerk to advise CW on how to access the website in order that updates can be made.	<b>Clerk Clerk</b>
<b>i</b>	<b>Officer Roles</b>	
	The council members discussed allocation of some specific roles and responsibilities as follows: <b>Footpath Officer.</b> It was agreed J Ives would take on this role asap.	<b>JI</b>
	<b>Internal Control Officer.</b> New Councillor Bobbi Morris would take on this role asap all agreed	<b>BM</b>
	<b>Village Speeding / SAMS Machines:</b> It was agreed that Steve Tyree would take on this role.	<b>ST</b>



	<p>Clerk and ST to arrange to meet to provide access / training as necessary.</p> <p>It was agreed that the council would purchase a pay as you go cheap Samsung phone to help with the downloads</p> <p>Website: CW to take on providing content updates for the website</p>	<p><b>Clerk &amp; ST</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>CW</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Correspondence.</b></p>	
	<p><i>In future I think the minutes would benefit from a brief summary of the issues raised here</i></p> <p>Clerk has agreed to stay on till end of August to assist new clerk with full handover.</p> <p><i>I think the following items should be in the reports section, ideally with a schedule showing planned / required checks and that these have been completed as required</i></p> <p>All Defib checks undertaken Play area checks undertaken</p> <p>Concern was raised for future checking arrangements and the need for someone to be trained. Clerk and Chair to advise.</p> <p>Email from Village Hall vice chair requesting clerk's keys handed in at end of July but it was noted that he does not finish till end of August. To be considered as part of the above Village Hall action above (JI / Chair)</p> <p>Letter sent to Planning as requested in early July</p> <p>NPTS contacted on a power to give to schools and they are not convinced that there is a power to give to schools</p> <p>Emails received regarding NPTS training All council training costs received and clerk shared with councillors in their meeting packs</p> <p>EV charging points scheme sent to Village Hall chairman</p> <p><i>It might be better to have an agenda item "Policy and Governance Matters" for the following?</i></p> <p>Acceptance of office and register of interest's forms sent to new prospective councillors Policies updated in accordance with our Policies and procedures list. New NPTS Standing Orders and NPTS</p>	<p><b>Clerk &amp; New Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk &amp; Chair</b></p> <p><b>JI &amp; Chair</b></p> <p><b>clerk email local councils to see if they would like to join?</b></p>



	<p>Financial Regs sent to all councillors to approve at next meeting.</p> <p>Email from External auditor received and clerk has completed the work as requested in the timeframe given.</p> <p>Parish partnership scheme details received for 2024-2025 VAT</p>	<p>? What if any action here? ? What if any action here?</p>
	<p>13) Items for the Next Meeting in addition to noted actions:</p> <p>Parish Partnership Gov.uk emails Review and approval of new policies Bank Signatories Grass Cutting Contract</p>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b>	
<b>14.1</b>	<p>Next Meeting of the Parish Thorpe Hall 7pm on 17th September 2024</p> <p>Meeting closed at 8.37pm</p>	

### Work in Progress

The main thing I've been putting pressure on for is the revised speed limits for Aslacton, for which the TRO is about to run out. These are now scheduled to go up today (22<sup>nd</sup>) or at least this week. I believe we now have some signs for Tabernacle Lane in Forncett, but there is concern that these may be in the wrong place. I have not had any reply to my query to Highways about this so will follow up this week. I am awaiting news on the work for Furze Green. I am assured that signs are in progress.

Following a serious accident in which a child was injured on the Turnpike in Carleton Rode, I am looking into what we might do at the junction with Rode Lane where the speed limit is 60 mph despite a bend with low visibility. Unfortunately this high risk spot was not on my radar when we had the Road Safety Community Fund opportunity last year.

Work is about to start on the completely new drainage scheme for Bunwell. Our district councillor is convinced that this is all credit to me, so I am happy to take the credit. The downside is that Bunwell Street will be closed for 11 weeks so diversions will be irritating for all concerned, but the benefit for the residents who have been afflicted over the years will be huge, especially since the new future is likely to be frequent heavy downpours as global heating runs away uncontrolled.

### Norwich to Tilbury Pylons

My submission has gone in today, and many thanks to those who have assisted by offering their parish response to help me assemble useful information. I've also been able to feed into the response going in from the office of our new Waveney Valley MP.

I am requesting a pause to consider the offshore options, especially with a view to their long term value for money and contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the infrastructure; a request for a proper study of the Tas valley to establish the vulnerability of sites and habitats in the wetlands at the north of my division; and a plea for more focus on what's best, not what's cheapest.

### County Council:

Infrastructure & Development committee met last Wednesday and reviewed various reports including the proposed investment fund in the devolution deal. I've asked that the fund should explicitly focus on investment in green industries of the future, small business and small scale agriculture, not in huge polluting and offensive intensive livestock farming, blue hydrogen or other greenwash industries that destroy our landscape, but I have zero confidence that the Conservative group understand the difference or care.

On Tuesday this week we are scheduled to take a decision at Full Council about whether the County Council should continue with its plan for a "devolution deal". Since the devolution deal was offered under the previous government, and seemed attractive because of year on year government cuts to local authority funding, it is unclear whether it is still a wise thing to do or whether in fact the necessary funds for local authorities would be better obtained if we remain as we are, now that we have a Labour government. Might it be better to scrap the plans for a directly elected leader, before it is too late, and say no to the inadequate funding (but better than nothing) offer that went with it? Or should we try to negotiate a new and better deal with the new government? I would be grateful if Parishes could give me their views on this matter. We shall speak, vote and propose amendments in full council on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The Green Group's position is that a delay to see what the new government is offering would be wise. This seems to be what the Conservative administration is recommending.

At Full Council on Tuesday I shall also be asking a question about what the administration is planning to do in respect of the pylons, now that we have a new government that has opted to go for imposing energy infrastructure on the countryside without regard to local objections. I shall be asking them to write to the secretary of state to put our view forcefully.

### Info from Norfolk County Council

#### Parish Partnership bids

The information on this scheme has now come out so do consider whether you have something you'd like to do that would qualify.

## Norfolk Libraries – Summer Reading Challenge 2024

The Summer Reading Challenge is a highly successful national programme aimed at maintaining or improving the literacy of 4-11-year-olds over the long summer break. It's key to our strategy in supporting children to become more confident readers and is a tool to promote the benefits of reading to families. Find out more [here](#).

## Scrutiny Committee considers the MIG

Norfolk County Council's scrutiny committee met on 17<sup>th</sup> July to consider a report on the non-residential adult social care charging policy. There was a protest demonstration from disabled people and their networks. Much dissent was expressed against the proposal to cut the MIG, which reduces care costs for disabled people. The Green group has always argued against cuts and in favour of a proper consultation with "no cuts" as an option. It is likely that the decision will be challenged in court, if the Administration decide to proceed with cuts to reduce the income of disabled people across the county.

## UK Government policies

### Kings' Speech

On 17 July 2024, King Charles III set out the new Labour government's legislative plans for the forthcoming parliamentary session in the [King's Speech](#) which included 40 Bills and Draft Bills. These Bills are not guaranteed to become acts of law but do set out the new Government's intentions in terms of policy. These include a considerable number of promising initiatives and priorities and some that are really problematic. A selection that seem relevant to us are:

### English Devolution Bill

This Bill seeks to deliver more devolution agreements, transferring more power out of Westminster into local communities, as part of the government's plans to empower local leaders to deliver change for their communities. Ahead of the King's speech, this Bill was known as the Take Back Control Bill.

### Planning and Infrastructure Bill

This Bill aims to "speed up and streamline the planning process", to build more homes of all tenures, and to accelerate the delivery of major infrastructure projects. Effectively it seeks to override local objections and impose building in places where it would not currently be allowed, removing the right of local people to protect their local area from inappropriate industrialisation.

### Great British Energy Bill

This Bill will establish a publicly owned energy production company, to accelerate investment in clean energy projects, including green hydrogen and offshore wind. GBE will own, manage and operate clean power projects across the country and will help make the UK energy independent.

### Rail Reform Bill and Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bills

These Bills will deliver legislative changes to reform the rail sector. The **Rail Reform Bill** will bring together the management of the network and the delivery of passenger services into a single public body, Great British Railways (GBR). The **Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill** will bring rail services back into public ownership.

### Better Buses Bill

The Better Buses Bill aims to deliver improved services across the country and support local leaders to create the *transport networks that are right for their communities*. The government also says that local leaders can decide to introduce better bus networks, at pace, to meet the needs of the local communities.

## Contact me on

[Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) for Council-related business. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

*Catherine Rowett*

*22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024*



## Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall PC Report 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

### Grants

Applications for member ward grants have now reopened. Contact your District Councillors for further information.

The new parish partnership scheme has been launched with bids due by 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024. A full explanatory letter has been sent to parish council clerks.

### Flooding on B1113/Latest progress report from Orsted.

To date we have still had no response from either County Councillor Daniel Elmer or Graham Plant, cabinet lead for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport. A full progress report has been issued by Orsted, this document has been sent to the parish council clerk.

### Supplementary Planning Document - Design Code

Following adoption of the Greater Norwich Plan, work is starting on the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document to be entitled the South Norfolk Design Code. This will provide a set of illustrated design requirements that provide parameters for the physical development of a site or area. The draft document is planned to be available for public consultation in April/May 2025. **There is an online workshop for Town and Parish Councils on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2.30 to 4.30 pm.**

### Other Supplementary Planning Documents

Three further supplementary planning documents are soon to enter the preparation phase. **The Self and Custom Build SPD** is for building outside of development boundaries and is planned for public consultation in February/March 2025. **The Green Infrastructure SPD** is planned for public consultation in June/July 2025. In future major developments will need to include a Sustainability Statement and a **Sustainable Communities: Sustainability Statements SPD** will be drafted for next year for public consultation in November/December 2025.

### Self-Build Custom Register

South Norfolk Council is required to maintain a register of individuals wishing to self-build in the district, and to ensure enough sites become available to meet demand from those with a local connection. At present, there is no charge to join the register and no local connection test. The Council is proposing to change this from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. The [on-line consultation](#) on this proposed change closes on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

### Town & Country Forum

The Council provides a monthly online update for Parish Councils. The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. The main topic will be "Natural Flood Management", featuring speakers from a recent conference. **An in-person event is planned for 9.30 am -12.30 pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.**

### Glass bottle recycling scheme

A glass bottle recycling adopter scheme is to be introduced by South Norfolk Council. A survey is to be sent to parish councils in the next few days to establish interest in the scheme.

### 'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

As a result of the announcement of the General Election, the consultation period for National Grid's proposed electricity transmission network has been extended until Friday 26 July 2024.

Full information can be found on the National Grid's consultation website. Finally, documents can be inspected at Long Stratton Library and Norwich Library.

At the Norfolk County Council Planning and Highways Committee Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June, the Council agreed to object to the Norwich-Tilbury proposal.

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to develop their campaign against the pylon proposals and have put together some high-level advice for Parish Council's wishing to object to the Norwich Tilbury proposal. For further information visit <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>

**Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber**

	<b><u>Councillor Contact Details</u></b>	
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