

BROCKDISH PARISH COUNCIL (INCLUDING THORPE ABBOTTS)

Minutes of scheduled Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11th January 2024 7pm

WHC, Brockdish

.....
Present: Cllrs Christine MacKenzie (Chair), Sarah McCluskey (Vice Chair), Derek Clark, Enrico Castagnetti & Adam Cobbold

Public: 5

In Attendance: County Cllr Wilby, District Cllr Hudson & Teresa Hines (Clerk).

1. Welcome:

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence:

Apologies received, & accepted, from Cllr Susanne Russell & District Cllr Delme Thompson.

3. To consider declarations of interest:

Nil

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting of 30/11/23 were approved after Agenda Item 9 re: WfFN amendment/addition stating 'the PC are happy to support the addition of a pond on Foredale Common, subject to permission being granted.' (Cllr Clark requested).
 Proposed: DC Seconded: EC

5. The meeting adjourned for Public participation:

A. Thorpe Abbots resident raised concerns of a meeting to be held on 12/01/24 to discuss the future management of Thorpe Abbots Village Hall. An unhelpful letter was put through doors & notices displayed around the village. Who is calling the meeting? Who is the author calling the meeting? It would have been helpful if contact details were included. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) stated she is unaware as to who proposed the meeting. Resident stated the constitution of the village hall states that a special meeting may be called at any time at the request of the committee, or not less than 25%. It doesn't seem as if the committee called a meeting. It's not democratic & acting unconstitutionally with no name or contact details on letter, who is to chair the meeting? Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) couldn't comment on the anonymous letter but would attend the meeting, although not a PC issue. She advised resident to attend the meeting to ask any questions & express his views. Resident plans to attend the meeting.

B. Brockdish resident reported concerns re: surface water on Scole Road, Brockdish. Resident felt surface water a hazard on both road & pavement & feels old land drains in the field may be the cause of the problem. Also concerned that water is splashing onto the property wall & house is in a conservation area. Discussion followed.
 Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported this was discussed at the last PC meeting. Who is

responsible? It is not an AWA issue. Has been reported to NCC who came to look & took photographs & video. Field landowner or bungalow owners may be responsible? County Cllr Wilby informed the meeting that NCC are very busy dealing with flood Issues & prioritise according to safety/danger. Steve Halls is aware & will deal with the problem.

Clerk to inform the resident of Gary Overland, NCC email address & resident to contact. Clerk to report again to NCC.

C. Grove Road, Brockdish resident reported his property, & neighbours, flooded 3 years ago. Grove Road drain appears unable to cope with the sheer volume of water, therefore driveways flooded.

SW, who represents neighbours, thought the source of the problem is the grate feeder into a pipe & requires a perforated pipe. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported a french drain has been discussed at a previous meeting & Gareth Leech would be able to complete, approx. cost £200. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) proposed GL completes this drain, Seconded by EC & unanimously agreed by all Cllrs present. County Cllr Wilby is pleased to hear the PC plans to undertake this work & hopefully it will make a difference.

Leaky dams discussed, Leaves are causing an obstruction & SW suggested a working party to remove debris when water level has dropped. It was agreed the leaky dams are effective. RDN are in place but not fully connected as yet, a meeting has been arranged with the installer & it is hoped to have a cellular system in place by the summer.

The meeting was re-adjourned.

6. To receive County Cllr Martin Wilby's report - see Appendix A.

Report delivered to the meeting by County Cllr Wilby.

To receive District Cllr Clayton Hudson's report - see Appendix B.

Report delivered to the meeting by District Cllr Hudson.

To receive District Cllr Delme Thompson's report - see Appendix C.

7. Planning (applications/decisions/updates as notified by SNC):-

At Risk Register:-

37 The Street, Brockdish

Chris Bennett, Heritage Officer, SNC previously reported the property is now being investigated by another department (a very long process).

The Community Enforcement Officer is Involved & the council do have capacity to serve an improvement notice which requires remedial works to the property that would make the property safe for occupation. The notices tackle hazards within the property & its curtilage but are not targeted specifically at the appearance of the property - however they can consequently assist in the building being repaired which is important from the heritage point of view. An urgent works notice can not be served if the building is occupied - the owner is stating & providing evidence that this is the case, even though it is in poor condition. Update - no further progress made.

Applications:

2023/3762 Willow Tree House, 34 The Street, Brockdish

Replacement shed to side of driveway.

Cllrs support this application, noting property is in the conservation area.

Application withdrawn:

2023/2744 Land North West of Thorpe Abbots Place.

Conversion of swimming pool to dwelling.

8. **Correspondence for discussion/ratification:** (sent to Cllrs upon receipt).

Biodiversity policy approved + Action Plan prepared by Cllr. Clark.

9. **AOB/Updates/Matters Arising:-**

*Flooding: As discussed at the last meeting St. Paul's Close, Brockdish resident has been contacted by Steve Halls, NCC. Riparian rights apply to 50% of ditch, with the landowner responsible for the other 50%. Riparian letters need to be sent to residents. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to approach the landowner.

*Speeding: Ongoing issue through Brockdish.

We use SAM2 & it is moved on a regular basis, shared with Needham, Cllr Cobbold reported Needham would like to have full ownership of SAM2, however this is not confirmed by Needham PC. Cllr Cobbold provides data & there has been much improvement. Cllr Castagnetti reported the Safety Camera Team has been present during December, 8 tickets were issued, 4 of which were local residents. Unable to operate from private land due to possible retaliation. Cllr Cobbold to suggest Church Road/Scole Road junction at specific times. Cllr Cobbold would like more residents on the speeding committee & will include details in the Mardler, would also like the village 30mph reduced to 20mph. District Cllr Hudson suggested Cllr Cobbold contacts Gary Overland NCC & County Cllr Wilby for advice.

For information: PC has applied to NCC Parish Partnership Grant to purchase two flashing signs. NCC will notify PC if the bid is successful in March 2024.

*Defibrillator, Thorpe Abbots. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) is the guardian of the Brockdish defibrillator, Cllr McCluskey to take on the role of guardian of the Thorpe Abbots defibrillator & defibrillator will be registered in her name, awaiting registration.

*The Commons/WVfN. Cllr Clark has prepared Action Plan re: Biodiversity Policy & feels the PC should complete some of the work i.e. local community publicity in order to become a wildlife friendly village to conserve & enhance biodiversity. Traffic calming is also part of & assists Biodiversity, perhaps more members for the speed committee, PC to take the lead. Cllr Clark conscious that Thorpe Abbots gets little mention, however, this will change in the future. Volunteers doing extremely well on both Commons (500 hours voluntary work completed).

River Waveney water quality is an issue. Cllr Clark suggests EA or AWA could come along & talk to us! Brockdish resident involved with the River Waveney Trust & takes samples regularly.

For information: District Cllr Thompson continues to follow up the school field/land. County Cllr Wilby has spoken with Eric Vardey who fully acknowledges WVFN as

stakeholders

* Brockdish Village new sign. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to arrange a meeting in the new year to discuss new sign ideas submitted.

* Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) proposes litter pick for Brockdish on Saturday 16th March Meet 10.30am village green.

* Work completed on the cleaning/refurbishment of Brockdish War Memorial.

3 additional names to be added/inscribed. Inscriptions must be the same style (like for like) as those already on the memorial & carried out by qualified stone masons (i.e. Bierton & Woods).

The War Memorial Trust does not recommended items to be fixed to war memorials i.e. plaques & if separate/not fixed would affect the setting (SNC Planning confirmed this). Requires listed building consent as grade II listed. Clerk has contacted the Heritage Officer at SNC to seek advice as to where the names could be added on the Memorial & awaits response.

* Village website. Annette Sweeney continues to update the website. Clerk has forwarded Annette dates of 2024 scheduled meetings & minutes of previous monthly meetings forwarded to Annette for inclusion on the website.

This website does not satisfy the Transparency Code (looked at by IT Officer at NALC). It will also need to satisfy the accessibility requirements that local PC's must comply with. Clerk has contacted NALC & website in progress.

* Clerk completed Risk Management training on 20/12/23 (free session). Several policies require updating/reviewing.

* PC has vacancy for one Councillor (notifications placed in the Mardler). Clerk contacted election services & we are able to co-opt.

10. Payments/Transactions for approval/authorisation: Dec 2023 Jan 2024 (11/01/24)
 COMMUNITY ACCOUNT (current). Proposed: CM (Chair) Seconded; SM (Vice Chair)

Payee	Description	Amount
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance	£37.50 Dec 2023
CPRE	Annual Subs	£36.00
NPower	Streetlights	£337.42
John Elsden	Xmas Tree Thorpe Abbots	£48.00
John Elsden	Xmas Tree Brockdish	£90.00
TH	Ink Cartridges	£52.55 Jan 2024
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlights	£37.50
Total Expenditure		£638.97
Balance to date c/f		£8044.41* (£4893.38)

*Balance includes monies we hold: £872.53 re: Brockdish Village Sign
 £2155.83 CIL re: speeding monitors
 £122.67 re: Brockdish Defibrillator (funds from clothes bank)

To consider & approve precept request for 2024/25.

Cllrs unanimously agreed to increase precept by 5% (same as last two years). Clerk to submit request to SNC by 12/01/24.

11. To consider date of next scheduled meeting:

To be held on **Thursday 29th February 2024** 7pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall.
 The meeting closed at 20.55 hours.

SIGNED.....DATE.....
 Cllr C. MacKenzie (Chair)

County Cllr Martin Wilby report for scheduled meeting 11/01/24 APPENDIX A

Almost 15,000 people will be able to get free bus travel in Norfolk earlier in the day from February 1st. Norfolk County council has announced that people living in the county, who hold a disabled concessionary bus travel pass and eligible companions, will be able to travel within Norfolk for free at any time, seven days a week. Up until now, those concessionary pass holders had to wait until after 9.30am on weekdays before they could travel for free, apart from those people registered blind or visually impaired. This ensures they have access to work, education and leisure and helps to combat the risks of social isolation which can be associated with having a disability.

A multi-million-pound proposal to modernise fire service buildings has been agreed at NCC in a bid to recruit more women. The proposal is part of ongoing infrastructure work to help improve the inclusivity of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) buildings and standardise the layouts of its buildings. Norfolk has the lowest proportion of female firefighters in England and “the provision of adequate facilities to support women into the profession is a key step in improving the situation. It is clear fire stations are important buildings in their local communities with pride and care taken in them by fire crews.

An extra £9m to tackle Norfolk potholes has been awarded to NCC for the next 2 years – with a total of £141m to be spent over the next decade. The government has said NCC will get this money from funds redirected after scrapping the northern leg of the HS2 high-speed rail line. The Department for Transport (DfT) said Norfolk will get £141.2m over the next 11 years to 2034 and Suffolk will get £107.6m. The government said it is up to local authorities how to spend the maintenance funding, but part of the reason for the increase in funding is so they can “improve the quality of road surfaces in the future” rather just focus on fixing existing potholes.

NCC have revealed plans to change the number of preferences parents can list when applying for school places. The number is to increase to four from the existing three and will be available for school applications made from 2025. This change comes after more than 300 families missed out on one of their top three preferences for the current academic year.

Preparation work has started on the Long Stratton Bypass with clearing the route ready for construction work to start in the spring.

NCC will set its budget for the financial year 2024/25 at the full council meeting to be held on Tuesday 20th February

Best Wishes

Martin

District Cllr Clayton Hudon's report for scheduled meeting 11/01/24 APPENDIX B

Good evening, Chairman, Cllrs Happy New Year Well done to everyone or anybody who volunteered at events to make the month of December & Christmas a special time.

Helping Communities bloom Local communities can now apply for grants of £300 to help beautify villages. South Norfolk Council Clean Up & Bloom grant can be used by Parish Councils to purchase flowers, shrubs, trees or pay for landscaping. More information here

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/385/helping-communitiesbloom> Wet Winter continues. Reminder all instances of flooding need to be reported to Water Management Team at Norfolk County Council by calling 0344 800 8013 or filling out the online form

<https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/floodreport/> Following storm Babet ~20 October 2023 and the disruption and damage caused in both South Norfolk and Broadland by flooding, the Government has allocated funding to help residents and businesses recover. More information here

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/397/grants-to-help-following-storm-babet>

South Norfolk Council's budget consultation An opportunity for residents and businesses to contribute to the discussions and the Council would encourage all South Norfolk residents to spare a few minutes to complete the survey. Although the average Band D Council Tax for residents in South Norfolk in the current financial year is £2,153.48, South Norfolk 's share of this is only £165. The consultation runs until 17 January 2024. South Norfolk Council is permitted to increase its share of Council Tax by up to £5, each £1 rise generates approximately £53,000 to support services. What level of Council Tax rise would you support for South Norfolk Council in 2024/25? <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/SNC-Budget-Consultation>

Still no decision made re: planning application 2023/2196.

Clerk has contacted SNC several times, decision pending. Case Officer left in December.

Cllr Delme Thompson:

Report for Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council, January 2024. APPENDIX C

Christmas Community Events

Firstly, I would like to note our thanks to all who invested their time and energy to plan and host a number of events across our villages over the Christmas period. It was lovely to see people enjoying a range of school fairs, quizzes, Crib and Christingle services in addition to the usual social calendar. These events are hugely important for community spirit and well-being.

SNC Budget Consultation open until 17 January

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/SNC-Budget-Consultation>

I encourage all councillors to share their views through the survey available on the Council homepage. Details discussed include the Council Tax

Customer Service Survey still open

[Customer Satisfaction Survey \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)

£300 Community Bloom Grant

If you have not already done I would urge the council to secure your £300 Clean Up & Bloom grant which can be used to purchase flowers, shrubs, trees or pay for landscaping. It can also be used to hold litter picks, in fact, anything that helps the district to 'Clean Up & Bloom.'

[Helping communities bloom – Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)

Town and Parish Forum

Along with this report I am attaching the presentations from the Town and Parish Forum held on Weds 10th Jan in case anyone has not received them. Should you have any follow up questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Flooding

As ever, we continue to encourage residents to log all issues via the County Council website.

<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysdefect/?s=road&t=flood> to ensure the true scale of local issues is registered – and kept front of mind.

Kind Regards

Cllr Delme Thompson..