

## BROCKDISH PARISH COUNCIL (INCLUDING THORPE ABBOTTS)

Minutes of scheduled Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 30th November 2023 7pm

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall

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

**Public:** 4

**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 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 26/10/2023 were ratified as a record of the meeting & a hardcopy was signed by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).

Proposed: DC Seconded: EC

**5. The meeting adjourned for Public participation:**

A. Brockdish resident (present at meeting) raised concerns re: flooding to property St. Paul's Close (outbuildings & garden surrounding property). Ditch at rear of the property which runs to Crabtree Rise has been filled in by some property owners, therefore, this contributed to flooding. Deeds state responsibility is 50/50 between property owner & farmer. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) met with resident & inspected ditches, hedges to boundary & beyond. Resident advised to contact Steve Halls, Senior Flood Risk Officer to ascertain who is responsible for maintaining the ditch. Resident reported to the NCC Flood Line, no response received as yet.

B. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported water on Scole Road, Brockdish, drain on fence line Waveney View & drain cover pipe broken in field - reported to NCC yesterday.

C. Large puddle outside Saffron House, also blocked drains from the Street to MorMor Lane, Thorpe Abbotts reported by Clerk & resident, on 25/10/23. NCC to check drains outside Saffron House have been jetted out & cleared of gravel which was blocking them, & will look at the gulley opposite to see what else they can do to stop this happening again. Eventually plan to put small raised humps at the entrance to YNot & High Peak & put more gullies to the ditch. The ditch also requires digging out. NCC will contact the landowner (legal process to follow).

D. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported a Brockdish resident has contacted her re: Footpath 1 whilst walking was informed by the landowner that not walking on the correct footpath. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to speak with the landowner & it was agreed by all

Cllrs that appropriate signage required to point the correct right of way footpath.  
**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.**

District Cllr Hudson reported that all instances of flooding need to be reported to Water Management Team at NCC by calling 0344 800 8013 or completing the online form <https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/floodreport/>. In the meantime, those after practical advice visit Mary Long-Dhonau <https://floodmary.com> a very helpful website.

District Cllr Hudson acknowledged his disappointment on the decision by the SNC to accept the commercial developers (Big Sky Ventures) bid to redevelop the ex council office site (60 properties). A blow to the community.

Pleased Brockdish Village Hall successful & awarded CAF grant re: acoustic panels.

Pride of Place Community Grants are open for applications (third round).

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

Report read to the meeting by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).

**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. Email received from Chris Bennett, SNC 16/11/23, to say there has been limited progress. 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.

**Applications:**

**2023/3184 Old P.O., The Street, Thorpe Abbotts**

Convert outbuilding to annexe.

PC supports this application noting a listed building in a conservation area & the original building structure remains.

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

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

\*Flooding - Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported the RDN sensors were installed today & will monitor water flow & level, rise & fall (website will be available).

\*Speeding through Brockdish village is an ongoing issue.

We use SAM2 & it is moved on a regular basis, shared with Needham, Cllr Cobbald

provides data. Cllr Castagnetti reported the Safety Camera Team have been present in Brockdish.

Clerk contacted Gary Overland re: criteria of 30mph sign placements after the last meeting, however no response received as yet.

\*Defibrillator, Thorpe Abbotts. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) is the guardian of the Brockdish defibrillator, Cllr McCluskey to take on the role of guardian of the Thorpe Abbotts defibrillator, registration completed.

\*The Commons/WVfN. Cllr Clark reported all is progressing well with the two Commons. Would like to create a pond/new wildlife habitat on Foredale Common, a small pond exists on the old school playing field.

Clerk contacted SNC re: ACV & was informed that schools & school land are not usually eligible for ACV, not the correct mechanism. School closed in 2016, therefore over the 5 year eligibility period. The primary function would not be met i.e. has to be like for like for future use, previously a sports field would need to be a sports field! Suggested PC could buy the field, SNC grants are available.

District Cllr Thompson to contact SNC for further clarification.

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

\*Footpath (9) behind 100th Bomb Group Memorial Museum, obstructed by wheat therefore not accessible. Clerk reported again to NCC who informed they had written to the landowner. Update received from NCC today stating 'action identified to resolve the issue'.

\*Work completed on the cleaning/refurbishment of Brockdish War Memorial. Cllr Castagnetti passed on thanks from Church Warden JC. 3 additional names to be added/inscribed. 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 to contact the Heritage Officer at SNC to seek advice as to where the names could be added on the Memorial, 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).

\*Overgrown trees Scole Road, Brockdish previously reported to NCC, update received to say 'written to the landowner'.

\*Cllr Castagnetti reported overgrown trees/hedge on Church Road, Brockdish.

Clerk notified NCC again. Update received to say 'written to the landowner'.

\*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.

\*Clerk completed training (becoming a more effective Clerk) on 06/11/23, 13/11/23, 20/11/23 & 27/11/23. Clerk reported the training has been beneficial. Clerk to attend

Risk Management training on 20/12/23 (free session). Several policies require updating. It is now acceptable for Clerk to email agenda & minutes to Cllrs prior to meetings, Cllrs accepted.

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

\*Cllr Castagnetti informed the meeting that the Brockdish Xmas Light switch-on will be on Saturday 9th December & Cllr McCluskey (Vice Chair) informed the meeting that Thorpe Abbotts Xmas Light switch-on is on the same evening. It was agreed that the PC would fund the cost of Xmas trees, up to £100 each village. Xmas Trees to be purchased from John Elsden, Needham. Proposed: CM (Chair), Seconded: DC.

\*CIL payments must be spent to the benefit of the community. It was agreed to use the current CIL (total £2155.83) towards the purchase of flashing speed signs. Proposed: CM (Chair), Seconded: EC, unanimously agreed by all Cllrs.

10. Grant request discussed re: Needham & Brockdish History website. It was agreed to delay payment (if approved) after further questions raised. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair)/ Cllr Cobbold sent an email to EM & SP. Clerk contacted Needham PC who did not support grant & were informed that the WHC will fund the Needham & Brockdish History website.

#### **Payments/Transactions for approval/authorisation: November 2023**

#### **COMMUNITY ACCOUNT (current)**

Amount expenditure	payee	description
£291.63	NPower	Re: streetlights
£37.50	Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance
£157.29	G. Leech	Grass cutting, etc
£400.00	A.B.Longe & Partners	BATAAA Rental
£163.34	NALC	Website Fee
£108.00	NALC	Clerk Course
£24.95	121 Computers	A4 Paper
£1182.71	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	
INCOME		
£1875.00	SNC	CIL Payment (Hilltop Farm, Brockdish)
£8044.41	Balance to date c/f	*Inc £872.53 donation re: Brockdish sign + CIL £280.83 + £1875.00 = £2155.83 £122.67 re: defibrillator Brockdish

**11. Date of next scheduled meeting:**

To be held on **Thursday 11th January 2024** 7pm at WHC, Brockdish.

The meeting closed at 20.45 hours.

SIGNED.....DATE.....

Cllr C. MacKenzie (Chair)

**Report for meeting 30/11/23 County Councillor Martin Wilby**

**APPENDIX A**

Earlier this year, NCC announced it would receive further funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to run the Household Support Fund until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The council is receiving £13.4m from central government and adding an additional £400,000 to make the total programme of support worth £13.8m. We are working closely with district, borough and city councils, VCSE and public sector partners to identify and implement a range of support measures to meet the needs of vulnerable households. As part of the Household Support Fund, all 47 of Norfolk libraries will be offering free winter support items until the end of March 2024 (while stocks lasts). These include, Hot water bottles, Blankets, Toiletries To Go bags, Tricky Period bags, Hot drinks and Just a Cuppa sessions. All details can be found at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries) Details of the Household Support Fund are at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving)

NCC has launched 15 new school and community teams, aimed at helping schools and families whose children need some extra support with their education. The teams are part of a £100m of investment in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Norfolk and will work with parents and all of the professionals supporting children's learning, to help make sure children get any extra support they need as early as possible. It's part of the council's Local First inclusion programme, which is building on improvements already made in education for children with SEND in Norfolk. The programme aims the right support to children and families earlier. A key element of the programme is to make sure that mainstream schools and early years providers have the help they need to support children with SEND, so that more children can learn in mainstream education alongside other children their age. The Busseys family, a well known business leader in Norfolk, has partnered with Norfolk County Council to deliver a grant to support tree planting across Norfolk, in this first year, Busseys is providing £10,000 to support anyone in Norfolk looking to plant trees that deliver a community benefit. The maximum grant per application is £2,500. The Busseys community tree grant contributes towards the council's net zero target, it will enhance valuable green space for local people to enjoy. New woodland and trees outside of woodland will help to improve nature recovery, providing multiple ecosystem services such as health and wellbeing, clean air and food. The deadline for applications is January 4<sup>th</sup> and all details are available at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/)

NCC is in the running to lead music education services across Norfolk and Suffolk, after deciding to submit a bid to lead a two-county music hub. The council, which currently leads the Norfolk Music Hub, will bid to the Arts Council to be the lead organisation for the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub from September 2024. If successful, it would secure the council's role in music education in the county, with a specific focus on supporting those with special educational needs and those from more disadvantaged communities. The Arts Council England funds Music Hubs across the country, on behalf of the Department of Education. It has decided to reduce the number of Music Hubs across England from 118 to 43, including a combined hub for Norfolk and Suffolk. A decision on our bid is expected in April 2024.

Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Council leaders are urging National Grid to reconsider their preferred onshore option following findings of a recent review. The report by Horns Energy Networks reviews the options considered by National Grid, including the preferred option of a pylon line between Norwich and Tilbury. The total length of the line would be 183 kilometres. This would consist of around 158 kilometres of new overhead line supported by 520 pylons. Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, accept that the transmission network in East Anglia needs reinforcing to support the transition to net zero and provide energy security. However, they remain concerned that the need for and timing of the current proposals is uncertain and not robust. All three councils have expressed their concerns that the option of pylons will harm the local economy, environment and the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Best Wishes, **Martin Cllr Delme Thompson:**

## Report for Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Parish Council, November 2023. APPENDIX B

### Flooding

Following discussion with residents across several villages, I have asked Highways for an update on their drain clearing program and resources available to communities. I have also reached out to the Water Management officer at South Norfolk Council requesting an update on current mitigation measures in the ward and future plans. I will ensure the council is updated with any feedback received. In the meantime, I encourage all to log 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.

### Winter Pressures Grant

I have been in regular contact with SNC who have now confirmed that the Winters Pressures Grant fund is live. Community groups and Parish Councils can apply for up to £1,500 to support a wide range of initiatives. Full details can be found here: [Winter Pressures Grant – Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/Winter%20Pressures%20Grant%20-%20Broadland%20and%20South%20Norfolk)

### Business Awards

Nominations are still open for the 2024 awards. Businesses can nominate themselves for one or more awards in 10 categories **and request a marketing pack at [awards@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:awards@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) to encourage their customers to vote for them.** Members of the public can nominate and vote for their favourite 'Retailer of the Year' and 'Pub of the Year' and have the chance to win £100 of shopping and pub vouchers in prize draws.

Full details can be found on the SNC homepage.

### South Norfolk House

Following a detailed and rightly robust debate at full council on Monday 6 November, a cross party majority voted to pass a motion that:

- Confirms a Big Sky as the preferred bidder for the purchase of South Norfolk House. • Will see a *Long Stratton Community Centre Project Group* established, involving representatives of local parish councils and other stakeholders.
- Allocates funds to develop a feasibility study and site location study for a new community centre.

Having inherited this situation on my election last May, there is no mistaking the desire to ensure cultural activities and community engagement are strengthened as part of the wider regeneration planned for the Long Stratton – much of which I agree with. A cultural hub 10mins from my house would be fantastic for my family – as it would for many others. However, our duty as councillors here is to bring objective assessment under legal guidance to identify the best commercial option for sale of a council asset, whatever personal preferences we may hold. I had hoped the community bid would emerge as the clear leader in terms of commercial viability as well as community support. Clear evidence of funds and a detailed plan could have ended the discussion, swiftly, and I would wager – would have received much cross party support. Sadly, the feedback from the independent assessor was that due to a lack of information and the bidder's stance over recent months, (the precise details of which councillors are still required to keep confidential) - this bid, along with others, could not, objectively, be considered 'processable'. With significant concerns flagged, there was insufficient justification for casting aside multiple viable bids and effectively asking residents to continue funding £20,000 a month for a deteriorating building, in the hope that details which the community bid team had repeatedly failed to share, and evidence that has not been forthcoming for the last 6 months, may suddenly appear. Regrettably, it is time to move on and take a different approach.

To that end, I was pleased to join Liberal, Labour and some Conservative colleagues in supporting a motion to

establish a dedicated community working group, and ensure additional funds are allocated (on top of the funds already allocated for the regeneration) to help scope improved community resources in Long Stratton. A complex situation, which I hope all involved will learn lessons from, to best serve our communities.

**ACV Old School Field** I will continue to follow this up as per our discussion.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a merry Christmas & happy new year.

Please contact me if there is anything you wish to speak with me about.

Kind Regards

**Cllr Delme Thompson**