

BROCKDISH PARISH COUNCIL (INCLUDING THORPE ABBOTTS)

Minutes of scheduled Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 23rd May 2024 8.20pm

WHC, Brockdish

Present: Cllr Castagnetti, Cllr Clark, Cllr Cobbold, Cllr MacKenzie, Cllr McCluskey, Cllr Russell

Public: -

In Attendance: Clerk.

1. To elect a Chair & receive declaration of acceptance of office:

Nominations were invited to elect a Chair for the coming year. Cllr Castagnetti proposed re-election of Cllr MacKenzie, this was seconded by Cllr Cobbold & unanimously agreed. Cllr MacKenzie was duly elected Chair, & signed the acceptance of office, which was countersigned by the Clerk.

To elect a Vice Chair & receive declaration of acceptance of office:

Cllr Clark proposed election of Cllr Castagnetti as Vice Chair, this was seconded by Cllr McCluskey & unanimously agreed. Cllr Castagnetti was duly elected as Vice Chair, & signed the acceptance of office, which was countersigned by the Clerk.

Welcome

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence:

Nil

3. To consider declarations of interest:

Nil

4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of 28th March 2024:

The minutes of 28th March 2024 were ratified as a true record of the meeting & a hard copy signed by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).

Proposed: AC Seconded: SM

5. The meeting adjourned for public participation:

1. Alleged antisocial issues, Brockdish reported by resident & noted i.e. dogs barking 6am each morning, dog fouling, grass cuttings are being tipped in Brook, cars parking inconsiderately. Perhaps highlight issues in our report to the next Mardler.

2. Resident concerned about swifts nesting at Empton House, Brockdish, the property currently up for sale & is likely to be restored. NWT contacted, additional levels of protection does not apply to swifts. Any renovations will need to comply with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (SNC can be made aware if any planning application is submitted).

3. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported trees overhanging pavement on verge Grove Road, Brockdish. Clerk to contact GL to trim.

4. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) proposed producing a leaflet (annually) for all residents to

inform what the PC has been doing & to ask of any concerns/suggestions that residents may have..Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) suggested holding a 'surgery' outside the village hall, Brockdish for residents to speak directly with Councillor/s, he is happy to undertake during Summer. Minutes of meetings are available on our websites & Clerk is happy to forward minutes of meetings to any residents via email.

The meeting was re-adjourned.

6. **To receive County Cllr Wilby's report - see Appendix A.**
To receive District Cllr Hudson's report - see Appendix B.
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. No further progress to report.

Applications:

2024/1118 Abbottsgate, Grove Road, Brockdish

Extension to existing garage

The PC supported this application.

2024/1120 Agricultural building south of Hilltop Farm, Hall Road, Brockdish

Prior approval for change of use & associated building works of agricultural buildings to 1 no dwelling (QA & QB)

The PC supported prior approval of this application.

2024/1163 4 Sheriffs Court, Common Lane , Brockdish

New front door (listed building)

The PC supported this application.

Decisions:

2023/2196 Land North of 23 Mill Road, Thorpe Abbotts

Permission in principle new residential development 3 dwellings

SNC refused & the PC did not support this permission in principle application.

2023/2761 Rectory Cottage, Church Road, Brockdish

Demolition of existing rear extension & erection of a new two-storey rear extension + change of use from agricultural to residential curtilage.

SNC approved & the PC supported this application.

2024/0066 Waveney Vale, Common Lane, Brockdish

First floor side extension

SNC approved & the PC supported this application.

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

1. Letter of thanks received from Redenhall with Harleston Town Council for donation to support free car parking.
2. 2024 Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards, WVfN nominated.
3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy webinar. The Norfolk & Suffolk Recovery Partnership has launched a public survey on which aspect of nature are most important to people in Norfolk. A webinar will be held on Wednesday 12th June 7pm to provide more details of the survey. Cllr Cobbold plans to attend the webinar & booking details hardcopy passed to Cllr Cobbold.

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

*Flooding: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported RDN monitors are not yet fully operational (PC to rent the sensor monitors for 5 years), still under discussion. Flooding at St. Paul's Close is ongoing (ditches require clearing). A site meeting was held on 8th April with Steve Halls, the residents, farmer & Cllr MacKenzie (Chair). EA to price the digging out of the ditch, Saffron ditch feeds into St. Paul's ditch. Steve Halls is unable to fund, there are grants available if PC pays. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) planned to meet with Saffron, however a no show, plans to meet on 29th May (with Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to look at the ditch that Saffron should maintain as they own. Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) suggested a depth measurement pole/ruler be placed on the Norfolk side of Syleham Road, Brockdish. Clerk contacted Gary Overland, NCC. who approved & is currently awaiting supply. Clerk informed NCC that the Ford, The Street, Brockdish requires clearance of silt. NCC advised action will be taken.

*Speeding: Ongoing issue through Brockdish. Cllr Cobbold has no data to report at present. Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) has no data to report at present however, less local addresses captured by the speed camera team, hoping to arrange for the team to change times of visits i.e. early morning & early evening. Discussed email from resident re: skips, this idea is not feasible.

For information: PC has applied to NCC Parish Partnership Grant to purchase two flashing signs to assist with improving driver behaviour. Awaiting confirmation of decision from NCC (delay with funding).

Email from NCC in response to our email re: speeding was noted:- It would not be possible to move existing speed terminals & they are in an appropriate position in relation to the built up area. Physical traffic calming would only be considered if there was a speed related injury accident record, which thankfully is not the case in Brockdish, traffic calming is only considered at locations around the county where Highway Safety Team are aware that there is an issue (Police are responsible for the enforcement of the existing speed limits within the parish).

*The Commons/WVfN inc. Biodiversity (Action Plan). Cllr Clark, together with Cllr Cobbold has produced a leaflet 'Wildlife Friendly Villages', which will be delivered to all houses in Brockdish & Thorpe Abbotts. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) thanked Cllrs Clark & Cobbold for their work. Cllr Clark attended NCC recovery strategy workshop to get

ideas. Issues with open land, farm land not actively managed. Agree with the land owner to manage as a wildlife area, should be picked up by NCC.

Work by volunteers on both Common areas is progressing well. No news re: the ex school playing field. It would be great if NCC would donate to the Village would be an asset & it would fit in with the Nature Recovery Strategy. County Cllr Jane James & Eric Vardey acknowledged WVfN as stakeholders. Cllr Clark suggested writing to County Cllr James.

River Waveney water quality is an ongoing issue. EA have been contacted. Invite RWT to attend a future meeting.

It was agreed to pay WVfN annual grant of £500.

* Cllr McCluskey (Vice Chair) reported the verges around the Thorpe Abbotts Pump & Village sign are eroding. This has been discussed at previous PC meetings when it was suggested that wooden posts could be placed around the pump. Cllr McCluskey (Vice Chair) reported NCC Highway Engineer would not permit posts to be installed on the verge at this location, as they would be an obstruction to highway users. NJUG regulations would not permit excavation under the tree canopy as it would cause damage to the roots/trees. Clerk contacted Heritage Officers at SNC who confirmed that Highways have the final say, the pump area is not designed to look pristine & is a rural feature to have verges, would be detrimental to lose character (on visits to Thorpe Abbotts has never thought the verges require vast amounts of attention). Pump roof requires treating/painting, also the benches. Clerk has requested GL to undertake works (before event in August). It was agreed to ask GL to re-seed grass verges on pump area & also by the village sign/village hall, Clerk to contact GL.

*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. AS continues to update the website.

NALC website is currently being updated, minutes, agendas added, policies to be added.

* PC has vacancy for one Councillor (notifications placed in the Mardler).

10. Payments/Transactions for approval/authorisation: APRIL 2024 MAY 2024

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT (current). Proposed: CM (Chair) Seconded: EC (Vice Chair)

Payee	Description	Amount
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance	£37.50
NPower	Streetlights electricity	£331.25
WVfN	GL re: Common cutting	£630.00
NALC	Subs annual	£250.85
R.Paternoster	Graphics re: leaflet	£40.00
BATAAA	Rotorvator vtr	£118.58
Total Expenditure APRIL		£1408.18
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance	£37.50
NPower	Streetlights electricity	£296.01
G.Leech	Grass, hedge cutting	£127.29
Leiston Press	Printing leaflets	£141.00
121	Ink cartridges	£39.59
WHC	Hire fee	£20.00
Total Expenditure MAY		£661.39
Income		
SNC	Precept	£5566.01
HMRC	VTR	£545.60
Total income		£6111.61
BAL to date c/f		£8707.76

* monies we hold: £872.53 re: Brockdish Village Sign donations

£122.67 re: Brockdish Defibrillator (funds from clothes bank)

£280.83 CIL October 2022 Hilltop Farm, Brockdish

£2155.83 CIL October 2023 Hilltop Farm, Brockdish

£5566.01 CIL April 2024 Hilltop Farm, Brockdish

** 5 years to spend CIL payments. a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an Area.

To consider a donation to Brockdish Church (ongoing repairs):

Noted: the Parish Council funding for places of Worship, the levelling up & Regeneration Bill received Royal Assent on 26/10/23, has been amended to make it clear that parish & town councils can provide financial support to churches for repairs & improvements. Therefore, PCC's are able to seek parish council funding like any other community organisation within the parish, both for the building & activities. We currently provide annual funding for both village churches (£400 each in 2023). It was agreed to pay an additional £200 re: ongoing repairs, Brockdish Church. Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to speak with Church Warden JC.

To approve the internal auditor 2024/25:

It was unanimously agreed for RB to continue as the internal auditor. PC are grateful to RB for undertaking the annual internal audit.

To approve the annual governance statement & accounting statement:

PC considered & approved the AGAR annual statement & accounting statements, which were duly signed by the Clerk & Cllr MacKenzie (Chair). Clerk to forward all documents to external auditors. Exercise of public rights noted (inspection).

11. To consider date of next scheduled meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday 27th June 7pm Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 21.15 hours.

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

Cllr C. MacKenzie (Chair)

At the Annual General Meeting of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Stuart Dark was elected as Chairman of the Council for the coming year and Cllr Tom FitzPatrick was elected vice Chairman. Stuart has dedicated his year in office to celebrating the achievements of volunteers. He said "I look forward to celebrating the remarkable contributions of our volunteers and organisations over the next twelve months, and to doing my bit to encourage more people to get involved and lend a hand. At the same meeting Kay Mason Billig was elected as leader of the council for the coming year and Andrew Jamieson deputy leader.

At the meeting on the 8th May. Cabinet agreed Norfolk County Council's Annual Review report for 23-4 as well as the new Council delivery Plan for 24-5 which sets out the priorities for this coming year. Highlights of the council's performance over the last year include. Agreeing a £600 million-plus devolution deal to bring powers and funding from Westminster to Norfolk. Spending £1.5 million per day on adult social care, including help for 11,000 people to return home from hospital. Securing £49.5 million of Government funding to improve bus services, with an 18% rise in passenger numbers. Delivering ultra-fast broadband to more than 6,900 premises, with superfast broadband now covering 97.3 % of properties. Serving more than 1.8 million library customers. Key priorities for this year include, Delivering of the devolution deal and an economic strategy for Norfolk, to boost jobs and skills. Delivering better quality, local and affordable care for children, including foster carers. Continuing to deliver supported living housing programmes for adults. Deliver of library hubs. Completing the roll-out of LED street lighting to cut costs and carbon emissions.

Preparations for a devolution deal to bring more powers and funding to Norfolk are to be considered at the next Infrastructure and Development committee meeting. There are three reports that will pave the way for major investment in infrastructure, skills, housing and transport, subject to a vote in July on introducing a leader, elected by the public. A report to enable transfer of the Government £12.8 million per year adult skills budget to Norfolk. A report on how the county and district councils have worked on a pipeline of brownfield site regeneration projects, to develop up to 500 homes using £7 million of devolution funding. A report on how the £20 million investment fund will be administered, with involvement of district councils and other partners in advising the directly elected leader and cabinet on funding decisions.

Improvements at Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) are evident with positive progress in many areas, according to a recent report. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found NFRS had improved in five key areas since its last inspection. The report recognised the service's sound financial management, positive working culture, and the high priority it gives fire prevention. Particular praise was given for 'promising practice' in significant incident and multi-agency fatal fire reviews, which are improving outcomes both locally and nationally.

A date for your diaries is the next Open Mill day at Billingford on Saturday June 8th 12am – 4pm

My next surgery is on Saturday June 1st at HIP 10am

Cllr Delme Thompson:

Report for Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Parish Council, May 2024.

Appendix B

Council Updates:

New leader – Daniel Elmer, and Deputy leader Graham Minshull elected at Full council 20 May.

Cabinet streamlined to improve clarity on areas of responsibility.

Chair – Sharon Blundell,

Vice Chair – Deborah Sachs

Apply for it!

There is now a simplified page layout on the SNC website to help people access the application processes for a wide range of resources – whether they wish to apply for a recycling bin, find out about community grants or even job vacancies at the council. I hope councillors and parishioners find this useful. [Apply for it online – Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](http://Apply for it online – Broadland and South Norfolk (southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk))

Community Action Fund Deadline 30 June

Local District Councillors are responsible for considering and proposing applications between £1,000 and £20,000 from the CAF fund. The overall grant funding for 2024 is £150,000.

Grants page on SNC website

Couple of brief updates

South Norfolk in No Overall Control - Following By-Election Bunwell on 2 May

The ruling Conservative group have lost their majority on SNC after the recent by-election saw them lose to the Greens by just 10 votes. Suzanne Wateridge's victory in the Bunwell ward has given her party its first seat on South Norfolk Council and means the Conservatives no longer have overall control of the authority. The election was called following the death of Conservative councillor Stephen Ridley, who passed away in March following a short illness.

At South Norfolk Council's AGM, held on Monday 20 May 2024, Councillor Sharon Blundell (Lib Dem) was elected as Chair and Councillor Deborah Sacks (Lab) was elected to the post of Vice-Chair. At the same meeting Councillor Dan Elmer (Cons) was elected as South Norfolk Council's Leader replacing Lord Fuller, who has stood down from the role after 17 years.

General Election – Voting (Registering / Photo ID)

With the general election called for 4th July 2024, whichever way you want to vote, you can't vote without first being registered as an elector. If you are not already registered, it only takes five minutes online at <http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> To vote at the election you need to ensure you have an Commonwealth passport or drivers' license and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id>

Funding for Rural Community Green Spaces

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced a new £7 million Community Green Spaces Fund to help create, restore and enhance green spaces in community orchards, kitchen gardens and natural play areas.

Grants of up to £75,000 will be provided to help communities to plant fruits, vegetables and trees. Funding will also be awarded to support the expansion of natural play facilities which encourage children to spend more time outdoors

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rural-community-green-spaces-to-be-rejuvenated-through-new-government>

https://www.gov.uk/government/investments?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4f81c1bf-b5aa-4fed-a4bd-9eb3c381b291&utm_content=immediately

South Norfolk Council - Town & Parish Forum

As a reminder, the next Forum is scheduled for Monday 3rd June 1pm – 2pm. Meetings will be recorded from that date; following a number of requests..