

BUNWELL PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at the Village Hall, Bunwell.

Cllrs Present at the Meeting: Cllr J Chapman (Chair), Cllr R Smith, Cllr S Spooner, Cllr D Ward and Cllr R Watson

Also Present: Parish Clerk, District Cllr S Ridley and 4 members of the public.

MINUTES	ACTION
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- 1. To receive apologies for absence** – County Cllr Catherine Rowett sent her apologies.
- 2. To record declaration of interest from Council members in any item to be discussed** – there were no declarations of interest.
- 3. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 5th July 2023** - The minutes of the previous meeting on 5th July 2023, pages 467-470, having previously been circulated to all members, were signed by the Chair.
- 4. To discuss matters arising from the previous Parish Minutes** –
 - 4.1. Update on Anglian Water Sewerage System – The Parish Council had sent their comments to Anglian Water on the recent survey of residents on the efficiency of the current sewerage system in the village and invited them to send a representative to meet with members of the PC. No response has been received and a reminder will be sent. It was noted that NCC Highways had appeared to clear some surface drains and gulleys which should help alleviate flooding on Bunwell Street. Clerk
 - 4.2. Update on Defibrillator Training - Cllr Chapman had provided a training session for residents from Bunwell and other local villages on basic First Aid and the use of Defibrillators. This had been well attended and attendees reported that they now felt much more confident if they were ever called upon to provide help in an emergency.
 - 4.3. Update on painting the telephone boxes which house the defibrillators - Mr Gledhill reported that he had sanded down and prepared the telephone box on The Turnpike and this will be painted soon. Cllr Chapman has cleared out the telephone box opposite the shop and will paint this when weather and time permit. Cllr Chapman
 - 4.4. Update on renewed lease for the Playing Field – A new lease had not yet been received from Eastons and they will be reminded to provide this in due course. Clerk
- 5. To receive the County Councillor and District Councillors' Reports** – Cllr Rowett had sent her apologies for this meeting but hoped to attend our next meeting

in October. She had forwarded her report which is attached at the end of these minutes.

District Councillor, Stephen Ridley, said that he had been appointed to the new Committee, called the Stronger, Greener Economy Policy Committee, and at a recent meeting the subject of Village Cluster Planning had been discussed following the end of local consultations. The total number of new properties needed in South Norfolk in the next few years is approximately 1,200. The size of sites for new builds will be between 12 and 25 houses in some villages in South Norfolk. There is likely to be a change in Government ruling in the near future on nutrient neutrality which at the moment can be used to reject planning applications. New rules will mean that this is no longer a reason to turn down applications. It also seems likely that this overall planning decision will not need to be reviewed again until 2038, rather than on a 5-year rolling plan to review as at present. He confirmed that depending on the number of properties built on a site, if 10 or more houses are planned then the application also has to include affordable housing. If the developer does not comply with this ruling then an amendment to the original application has to be made and subsequently approved. If Central Government encourage District Councils to increase the number of houses built, then it is important that villages are consulted. It is likely that some reserve sites could be used, rather than increase the number of houses on existing proposed sites. District Councils will take careful note and ensure that the size of individual houses, and the availability of affordable housing is the correct mix for each village.

6. Resident's Questions – Two residents said that they would like to raise matters relating to items 8.1 and 8.2 on the agenda. The Chairman said it would be appropriate to give their views when these items are discussed later in the meeting.

7. To receive and discuss correspondence – emails received had been forwarded to Cllrs and dealt with as required. Details had been received from Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order to tackle vehicle related anti-social behaviour. Councillors agreed that their comments on this consultation on the proposed PSPO which covers this district from between 6pm on Thursdays to 6am on Tuesdays should be extended to include Tuesday evenings to help control the noise and speeding of motorbikes along The Turnpike from the motorbike meet in a neighbouring village.

Clerk

8. Highway and Footpath Matters –

8.1. Update on entrance of footpath from George Close to Church Lane – Two residents from George Close commented that as this is a private road, the residents are responsible for this access point. They asked if it would be appropriate for them to contact the landowner to improve the sight line and councillors agreed that this would be acceptable. They will also contact County Cllr Rowett to ask for her help in encouraging NCC Highways to provide a Concealed Entrance sign to improve pedestrian safety.

8.2. To discuss pedestrian safety along the Turnpike - a suggestion that the speed limit on this section of The Turnpike should be reduced from 40mph to 30mph had been passed to Highways Dept for their views but no reply had been received. They will be approached again asking for their help in improving the safety of pedestrians along this road, especially as many pedestrians and children cross the road from the carpark outside the Village Hall to go to the local school and also attend Church functions. The speed reminder sign on the approach to the village from Carleton Rode is not working, probably because of overhanging

Clerk

trees affecting the solar battery, and Westcotec are to be contacted to help in this matter. The possibility of setting up a Community Speedwatch Group will be raised at the next meeting.

Clerk

- 8.3. Repair and refurbishment of fingerposts on Low Common – local residents are proposing to carry out these repairs, with the assistance of Mr Gledhill, and all councillors agreed that any reasonable costs incurred should be paid by the Parish Council. Mr Gledhill said that these costs should not be more than £300.
- 8.4. The Footpath Warden, Cllr Spooner, reported that the entrance to FP8 is still waiting for the landowner to provide wheelchair/pushchair accessibility. She will also visit the landowner at the junction of FP16 and FP17, who has complained that pedestrians are encroaching on his land rather than using the proper paths.
- 8.5. Parish Council documents – the Clerk reported that the papers removed from the PC office at Eastons had been sorted and folders containing PC Minutes had been documented before being placed with the Norfolk Records Office.

9. Defibrillators – Cllr Chapman reported that the two defibrillators situated in Bunwell and Carleton Rode Primary Schools need the cases replacing. All councillors agreed that these be purchased.

10. Playground/Village Hall – Mr Hoolahan from the Village Hall Committee, confirmed that they have agreed the details of the new fencing required and he will let the Parish Council have details of what is needed. Cllr Smith had obtained details of a new, larger noticeboard to be sited closer to the road and this will be considered when the fence is being repaired.

Mr Gledhill and Cllr Smith had inspected the play equipment following the recent RoSPA inspection and it was proposed that the Climber Box be removed as it is unsafe. Mr Goddard will be contacted to help with its removal. Mr Gledhill also suggested that the two barbecue benches on the playground are damaged and new ones would be a more cost-effective measure than stop-gap repairs. All councillors agreed with these proposals. He will also remind Action Play and Leisure to produce a quote for other repairs needed. It was suggested that another date, possibly next Spring, be arranged to ask for volunteers to help clean and clear the playground ready for next summer once repairs and repainting is completed.

11. Bunwell Planning Development Group – District Cllr Ridley had spoken in his report above on the Village Cluster Planning proposals.

12. Planning Applications – to discuss and vote on any new planning applications – No new planning applications had been received.

13. Finance

- 13.1. Payments for July and August had been circulated and councillors agreed to these transactions.
- 13.2. Cashbook balance – this had been circulated to all Councillors and was noted.

14. To receive matters of importance from Councillors – No matters were raised which had not already been discussed.

15. To receive items for the next Agenda for Consideration – To follow up items raised above, including setting up a Community Speedwatch group, and to consider celebrating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

16. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 4th October, 2023 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 9.15pm

BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT	
BALANCE AS AT 05.07.23	£0.10

RECEIPTS THIS MONTH – UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT			
BALANCE AS AT 05.07.23			18.270.24
DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
BALANCE C/FWD			18.270.24

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT					
BALANCE AS AT 05.07.23				18.270.24	
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT	PAYE
BACS	CGM	Playing Field Grasscutting Jun	323.34	53.89	
BACS	Village Hall	Hall Hire Jun	30.00		
BACS	Parish Newsletter	Defib Training Advert	12.00		
BACS	Premier Print	Pylons Banners	94.80		
BACS	Lady Mole Catcher	Destroy wasp nest on playground	110.00		
BACS	Community Heartbeat	Rescue Safety Kits	29.94	4.99	
BACS	Jason Goddard	SAM2 upkeep and move	50.00		
BACS	HMRC	PAYE Periods 1-3	193.80		193.80
BACS	M Ridgwell	Jun salary & exps	292.75		64.60
Total			1,086.63	58.88	258.40
BALANCE C/FWD				£17,133.61	

CASHBOOK BALANCE: 02.08.23

Details	CR	DR	
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward (Barclays Saver A/c & Unity Bank)	18,270.34		
Receipts this month (see listed above)			
Payments this month (listed above)		C	1,086.63
Cash Book Balance Carried Forward (=A+B-C)			17,133.71
Barclays Savings A/c balance			0.10
Unity Balance			17,133.61
TOTAL CASH IN BANK:			17,133.71

BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT	
BALANCE AS AT 02.08.23	£0.10

RECEIPTS THIS MONTH – UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT			
BALANCE AS AT 02.08.23			17,133.61
DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
BALANCE C/FWD			17,133.61

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT					
BALANCE AS AT 02.08.23					17,133.61
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT	PAYE
BACS	CGM	Playing Field Grasscutting Jul	323.34	53.89	
BACS	Village Hall	Hall Hire Jul	30.00		
BACS	South Norfolk	Dog Bin Annual Charge	701.40		
BACS	Jason Goddard	SAM2 upkeep and move	50.00		
BACS	M Ridgwell	Aug salary & exps (incl overtime)	530.00		129.40
		Total	1,634.74	53.89	129.40
BALANCE C/FWD					£15,498.87

CASHBOOK BALANCE: 06.09.23

Details	CR	DR	
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward (Barclays Saver A/c & Unity Bank)	17,133.71		
Receipts this month (see listed above)	A		
	B		
		C	1,634.74
			15,498.97
			Barclays Savings A/c balance
			0.10
			Unity Balance
			15,498.87
			TOTAL CASH IN BANK:
			15,498.97

County Councillor report, August 2023, from Catherine Rowett September 2nd 2023

August has been a quiet time at the County Council, with no routine committee or Council meetings.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylons: I was invited to add some additional input to the response that the council had already prepared to submit to the consultation by National Grid. I was largely in agreement with the overall content of the response, with its preference for an offshore alternative (with a proper distribution system for all future offshore wind on the East Coast) instead of the proposed onshore route, and a preference for underground over the overhead cables that have been proposed. The finished response, including my input in appendix 2, can now be found in the public domain, since it forms the business of a forthcoming meeting of the Planning and Highways Delegations Committee which is meeting on Friday 8th September 2023 at 10 a.m. Residents and Parish Councillors might wish to attend or watch this meeting, which is an open meeting and can also be accessed online on the Norfolk County Council Youtube feed. Details of the meeting and papers can be found here: [CMIS > Calendar of Meetings](#)

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Highways and road safety: in early August I went to the Highways depot in Hethersett for a briefing on options in relation to improvements we can make to highways, cycle paths, pavements etc. Options for funding schemes include the Parish Partnership scheme, with up to £25,000 contributed by NCC providing the Parish Council finds the funding to contribute half the costs. This scheme is for works that don't involve changes to any legal traffic order. But we also currently have access to the Road Safety Community Fund which is currently open to applications from this part of Norfolk, and does allow us to apply to change Traffic Regulation Orders if our proposal meets the relevant criteria. Any schemes hoping to access this fund need to be prepared during September if possible.

Long Stratton Bypass: I have been given a place on the Working Group and attended a meeting on 17th August. There are still a number of hurdles to pass before the road gets approved. I would be interested to hear the views of West Depwade residents and parish councils.

Committee work: I have been given a place on the Infrastructure and Development Committee. The next meeting is Wednesday 13th September. I will also get to attend as a substitute on other committees where we have a Green councillor, if the business includes something that particularly affects the interests of this Division.

Contact me: You can contact me on Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk for Council-related business, and I look forward to helping with a range of issues that people have already brought to my attention, including the anaerobic digester issue in Bressingham and the pylons, but also dangerous roads and other issues. I also have a Facebook page which will include updates on what I am working on, posts about events and opportunities relevant to residents, and a place where you can comment and leave your views on things I want to ask you about. The link is here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095138285501>

Other County Council News: A few items to mention from the County Council more generally:

Midlife MOT The Department of Work and Pensions is providing funding to offer what they call a Midlife MOT. It's designed to help people aged between 45-55 to make the best of their lives, covering work, your personal finances (including planning for being able to retire), and your health. Work - Build your confidence, learn new skills, and assess your internal progression options. Wealth - Better understand the financial implications of retirement, get help from the Money and Pensions Advice Service and make plans for how to maximise the value of your remaining years of employment. Wellbeing – Improve your health for later life, with free support to stop smoking, be more active, maintain a healthy weight and manage your mental wellbeing. It's completely free and government funded! Find out more here:

<https://intranet.norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/people/news/2023/midlife-mot>

Pension Awareness week 11th -15th September: Pension Awareness 2023 will host an entire week of live online expert shows about pensions and money. We'll be covering everything from combining pots, the State Pension, withdrawing your money, tax or budgeting...you name it, Pension Awareness has got it. There are few better ways of looking after your financial future than with focused 45-minute sessions where you can chat to other savers and feel like you're getting to grips with your future like never before. Find out more here: [5 reasons not to miss Pension Awareness 2023 - Pension Awareness Day](#)

Norfolk Bus Service Improvement Plan: Norfolk has received £30.9m of capital funding and £18.6m of revenue funding for improved bus services, to fund plans that include 17 new measures to give buses priority on the roads. These include new bus lanes in Norwich, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth and redesigned junctions across the county. New or improved travel hubs are proposed for Sheringham, Cromer, Diss and Hunstanton. These will provide better waiting areas with real-time information to help to give passengers a better experience. They will also be integrated with walking and cycling facilities. There will also be a county-wide review of bus stops with upgrades to improve access for people with disabilities, to provide more real-time information and a programme of works to reduce delays to buses.

Catherine Rowett 2nd September 2023