

BUNWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MILL HOUSE, LENWADE MILL, NORWICH, NR9 5QA
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Clerk: Mrs Margaret Ridgwell,
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MINUTES of Bunwell Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2024 at the Village Hall, Bunwell.

Cllrs Present at the Meeting: Cllr R Smith, Cllr M Booty, Cllr M Crouch, and Cllr D Ward.

Also Present: Parish Clerk, County Councillor Rowett, District Councillor Wateridge and 4 members of the public.

MINUTES	ACTION
1. To receive apologies – apologies were received from Cllrs Chapman, Spooner and Watson. In the absence of Cllr Chapman, the meeting was chaired by Cllr Smith.	
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 held on the 3rd July 2024 - The minutes of this meeting on 3 rd July 2024, pages 538-540, having previously been circulated to all members, were agreed and signed by the Chair.	
4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	
4.1. Update on signposting on Low Common. Mr Smallwood had written to say that the work on the two new signposts was now completed and also included photos of the signs. He said that unfortunately it had been necessary to purchase newly fabricated letters and numbers where the original signs had been lost which had been very costly. He also included the costs of other materials used with the overall cost amounting to £965.10. Councillors discussed the amount of reimbursement to send to Mr Smallwood and his neighbours who had contributed their time to this restoration work. It was unanimously agreed that approximately 50% of the total cost should be sent to Mr Smallwood, together with thanks for the excellent work the residents had done.	Clerk
4.2. Update on purchase of dog bin for Bunwell Street opposite Rectory Lane. A new dog bin had been purchased and erected and would be added to the dog bin emptying route. It was suggested that the District Council be contacted to see if they supplied stickers for bins and posts encouraging dog owners to clear up after their pets. Residents to be reminded that it is an offence to allow their dog to foul public spaces and they will be prosecuted if they allow fouling. Not only is this a health hazard to children and other animals, but it also severely detracts from the many pleasant footpaths and walks around the village.	Clerk
4.3. Update on Village Emergency Plan – this will be discussed at the next meeting.	Cllr Crouch
5. To receive the District and County Councillors' Reports	
5.1. County Councillor, Catherine Rowett, had sent a full report which is attached to these minutes. She said that she is in contact with Highways Dept concerning a	

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number of issues and it was confirmed that a new Speed-Activated Limit Sign had been erected on the approach to Bunwell on The Turnpike coming south from Tacolneston. She is also meeting with the officer in charge of the Norfolk County Council energy plan, to discuss future plans for onshoring power from new windfarms off the Norfolk coast.

- 5.2. District Councillor, Suzanne Wateridge, reported that South Norfolk Council had joined County Councils in calling for a pause in August on the decision to be made concerning the construction of Pylons across our area. The new MP Adrian Ramsay raised the subject in his first PMQs in July and said that he will continue to fight for a pause to consider the offshore grid option and represent his constituents fully on this matter. She confirmed that her application to the Community Action Fund had been successful in obtaining a grant towards the cost of upgrading the fuseboard in the Village Hall. Applications have reopened for householders to apply for solar panels and benefit from a group buying discount scheme through the council. The following website gives more information <https://solartogether.co.uk/south-norfolk/home>. She drew attention to the grants that are available to Parish Councils and Village Halls to erect solar panels and Electric Vehicle Charging Points. Information will be passed to the Village Hall Committee for their consideration.

Clerk

- 6. Resident's Questions** – A resident asked if Highways Dept could be requested to address the issue of serious potholes and verge erosion down Ugate Street, particularly now that this road is being used more frequently due to the closure of Bunwell Street. The matter will be raised on the NCC website.

- 7. To receive and discuss correspondence** – emails received had been forwarded to Cllrs and dealt with as required.

- 8. Working Groups** – to receive updates from:

8.1. Planning Development Group – there are no updates to report at the moment

- 9. Highway & Footpath Matters** –

9.1. Update on NCC Highways Department drainage system work – Although there had been delays to this work, due to old AW uncharted pipes being found, work is now progressing. Highways have had to redesign their plans and carry out more pilot holes to try to avoid further delays. Councillors recognised that this work is very disruptive for residents but was necessary to ensure that flooding of properties in the future would not be a problem. It was hoped that once the work is completed, no further flooding of Bunwell properties would occur and that the increase in insurance premiums and devaluing of property values which had already arisen, would no longer be a problem for affected properties. AW are aware of the flood outside Harveys but are unable to repair this at the moment as it requires the road to be shut and will have to wait until Bunwell Street is reopened. It was noted that the 'Children Crossing' sign on The Turnpike is obscured by tree branches. Cllr Crouch agreed to advice NCC Highways through the website and this would be followed by an email from the Parish Council if necessary.

Cllr
Crouch

9.2. The Footpath Warden has been collating Historical Usage Forms for the footpath from Greenways to Barhams Lane and would be asked if she needed more. Cllr Smith agreed to cut the long grass along the footpath from Greenways to Bunwell Street and would arrange for the brambles to be trimmed.

Cllr
Smith

10. Playground/Playing Field –

- 10.1. Mr Gledhill had been in touch with the original suppliers of the adult outdoor gym equipment at the Playing Field to get a quote for any work which is required. It was felt that the equipment is not used very extensively, and any cost of repairs would need to be carefully considered in light of the amount of use it gets. The matter will be discussed when the cost of repairs is received.
- 10.2. The Clerk had been in touch with the current grasscutting contractors to try to ensure that they fulfil their obligations for the rest of this year's contract. They agreed that they had mistakenly removed Bunwell from their cutting schedule and had agreed to offer a free cut as compensation as well as carry out the rest of the cutting for this year. The Clerk had contacted 4 other local contractors and asked them to quote for grasscutting, strimming etc. from April to end October 2025. The quotes were carefully considered, and it was agreed that the quote from Graeme Hunt from Low Common was reasonable and he is to be offered the contract for next year.

Clerk

11. Planning Applications – to discuss and vote on any new planning

applications – No applications had been received since the last meeting. However, there is an application on the South Norfolk website for a property on Bunwell Hill which has not been forwarded to the Parish Council for their comments. The Clerk will contact the Planning Dept to request that they send the details for consideration.

Clerk

12. Finance

- 12.1. Payments for the month had been circulated and councillors agreed to these transactions. Two invoices from Nurture Landscapes and South Norfolk District Council had been received after the payments list had been drawn up and all councillors agreed that these additions be included in the payments for the month.
- 12.2. The Cashbook balance was noted.
- 12.3. A half-year Position Statement had been produced by the Clerk and was forwarded to all councillors.

13. To receive matters of importance from Councillors –

- 13.1. Cllr Crouch had been in touch with Anglian Water following recent outages and they had explained that new pumps had been fitted at New Buckenham which had caused fluctuations in pressure leading to water main leaks. The new pumps should alleviate any future problems. However, it was felt that AW should have been better prepared and contacted residents to alert them to the possibility that they might be without water. Cllr Crouch will monitor the situation.

Cllr
Crouch**14. To receive items for the next Agenda for Consideration –** To follow up items raised above.**15. Date of next meeting –** Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7.30pm

As this was the last meeting to be attended by Cllr Bob Smith, he was thanked by everyone for all his hard work on behalf of Bunwell residents over the previous 11 years as a Councillor and invited to return if circumstances changed.

16. Meeting Closed 9.35pm

MINUTES	ACTION
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UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT

BALANCE AS AT 03.07.24	£21,782.68
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RECEIPTS AS AT 03.07.24

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
BALANCE C/FWD			£21,782.68

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT

BALANCE AS AT 03.07.24			£21,782.68		
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT	PAYE
BACS	Norfolk PTS	Training M Crouch & M Booty	100.00		
BACS	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	252.00	42.00	
BACS	Village Hall	Hall Rental July	30.00		
BACS	Nurture Landscapes	Playing Field Grasscutting Apr, May	354.00	59.00	
BACS	Nurture Landscapes	Playing Field Grasscutting, Aug	323.33	53.89	
BACS	Glasdon	Dog Bin and Fixings	194.51	32.42	
BACS	South Norfolk Council	Dog Bin Annual Charge	764.40	127.40	
BACS	Jason Goddard	Charge & Move SAM2 Machine	100.00		
BACS	M Ridgwell	July Salary & Exps	308.75		68.60
BACS	M Ridgwell	Aug Salary & Exps	287.40		68.80
	Unity Trust	Service Charge	18.00		
		Total	2,732.39	314.71	137.40
RECEIPTS					
BALANCE C/FWD			£19,050.29		

CASHBOOK BALANCE: 04.09.24

Details	CR	DR	
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward (Unity Trust Bank Current Account) A	£21,782.68		
Receipts this month (see listed above) B			
Payments this month (listed above) C			2,732.39
Cash Book Balance Carried Forward (=A+B-C)			19,050.29
Unity Balance			£19,050.29

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Work in Progress

I am currently chasing a number of problems with Highways: the village gates which have never arrived for Fornsett, the misplaced lorry signs on Tabernacle Lane, the request for a vehicle activated sign in Burston. I'm meeting Adam Mayo in early September to look at the Tabernacle Lane problem and the place on the Turnpike where there was an accident in Carleton Road.

I'm checking in with the officer who is in charge of the Norfolk County Council energy plan, to see what we can do about the future plans for onshoring power from new windfarms off the Norfolk coast. I am trying to set up a meeting for two of us from the Green Group to get a sense of whether they have a good idea how to deliver the grid upgrades needed in a future proof way without destroying everything in the process, and to ensure that demand-reduction is on the agenda and not just increasing supply.

I'm working with residents on a number of issues where feelings are running high due to concerns about planning permission and licensing in particular places. These are mainly district council issues, but where they impinge on County Council responsibilities I have been able to raise queries with the officers concerned. I am also trying to find out who can explain the absence of wild flowers on the A140 roundabout at Tivetshall to see if we can have flowers there too.

County Council:

Infrastructure & Development committee meets on 11th September. Full Council meets on 24th September.

Info from Norfolk County Council

Get out and about on foot or by bike:

Our Norfolk Trails, along with their associated networks of short circular walks and itineraries, is a great way of exploring our beautiful county.

Take a look at our [Norfolk Trails web pages](#) which are sure to provide inspiration - whether you're looking for [cycling routes](#), the opportunity to discover [coastal treasures in the north west of the county](#), or the [beauty of Breckland](#) with a collection of short and longer routes.

And if you're looking for sustainable ways of travelling when you're out and about, don't forget to check out our [Travel Norfolk](#) website with its fantastic journey planner which is designed to help you choose how you want to get from A to B in the county.

Contact me on

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

Catherine Rowett 23rd

August 2024

Bunwell District Councillor Report September 2024

General

After a quiet July following the General Election, there's been a flurry of activity in August from the council which I wanted to update you on and remind you about some council schemes and initiatives.

I also spoke at full council towards the end of July, seconding a motion made by Chris Brown, the Lib Dem Group leader, to support the Climate and Nature Bill. This was introduced by Caroline Lucas in Parliament in 2020 and our Green MPs will certainly be readdressing it in the weeks to come. Sadly, the Council did not vote to pass the motion, despite the fact that they would not need to actively 'do' anything if they did, other than show support in protecting biodiversity in our environment. However, I plan to revisit this when it comes up again in Parliament.

Pylons Consultation

As you know, the final consultation period finished at the end of July. South Norfolk District Council joined the County Councils in calling for a pause in August, and now we will wait to see what happens next (which according to National Grid is submission of a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate next year). You may have heard our new MP Adrian Ramsay bring up the subject in his first PMQs in July <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3qwyn2vqnp0> and of course he will continue to fight for a pause to consider the offshore grid option and represent his constituents fully on this.

Community Action Fund

Following a very short application window, I managed to submit two applications for the Community Action Fund: one was for refurbishing the toilets in Carleton Rode Social Club and the other for upgrading the fuse board in Bunwell Village Hall. The former was eligible but sadly there was not enough money in the pot to go round this time, so we will try again next year. Happily, the Council were able to fund the fuseboard project with fund-matching from the Parish Council, and I believe this work has now been carried out.

It's worth taking a look at the other successful applications to start thinking about the sorts of ideas you might want to fund next year. Applications will open again in April.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/475/council-announces-150-000-for-community-projects>

The relaunch of Solar Together

Applications have reopened for householders to apply for solar panels and benefit from a group buying discount scheme through the council. Do visit the website for more information if you're interested <https://solartogether.co.uk/south-norfolk/home>

NB householders now pay 0% VAT on solar panels until April 2027, rather than 5% as previously

Grants for EVCPs and Solar PV Systems

While we're on the topic of solar panels, parish councils should have been sent details of the EVCP and Solar PV grants, whereby parish councils and community groups can apply for grants of up to

£20k to install both systems, or up to £10k to just install the vehicle charging points (however, you can't install the solar panels without the charging points!)

You might argue that rural village halls don't need to provide electric charging points for cars that most people would generally charge at home overnight, but if you apply for the solar panels also, you can then benefit from free electricity within the village or community halls at the same time with the additional energy that's generated.

I do encourage you to take a look at the scheme – closing date is 29th November but if you wanted to use the Norfolk County Council Dynamic Purchase System, giving you access to a pool of vetted suppliers, you need to apply by the end of this month

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/car-parks/electric-charging-points/2>

Village Clusters

The Council has just released its addendum to the Village Clusters Plan and residents are invited to comment before 7th October. I am currently cross-referencing the original submission last year with the changes suggested and I'm sure that parish councils and residents will be doing the same. This is the link you need to follow <https://southnorfolkandbroadland.oc2.uk> and documents can be viewed in person at the Council offices, the Millennium Library, The Octagon in Mere Street in Diss, and other local libraries.

And finally...

Over the summer, one of the excellent Parish Councillors in Great Moulton, Mo Negm, kindly agreed to feature in a promotional video to encourage South Norfolk residents to step up and become Parish Councillors. They were particularly keen to emphasise diversity and as Mo is Muslim, I thought of him immediately. I will let you know when this goes live but I know he will come across really well and put Bunwell on the map!

Cllr Suzanne Wateridge

Member for Bunwell Ward, South Norfolk Council

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