

# GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2019 at 7.30pm  
in Great Witchingham Village Hall

## Present

Mrs P Kirby (Clerk to the Council)  
11 Local Government Electors of the Parish

**In the known absence of the Chairman of the Parish Council the meeting was to be chaired by the Vice Chairman however the Vice Chairman had recently resigned from the Council and in this respect Cllr Mrs Sandra Sanders called for Election of Chairman for the meeting.**

**Mrs Sanders was nominated and with no other nominations it was RESOLVED Mrs Sanders be appointed as Chairman of the meeting.**

## 1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present and explained the nature of this meeting.

This meeting is a meeting of the people of the parish and any matter pertinent to the parish may be discussed. An agenda has been produced however items for inclusion can be added at agenda item 5 as appropriate.

She further introduced the members of the Parish Council who were in attendance as local government electors and would request input from them if required.

She pointed out that no report would be presented this year or in future years from Great Witchingham Village Hall. Information can be accessed by attending its AGM the date of which will be set in due course or via contact with the Trustees.

## 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 10 May 2018

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## 3. Parish Council Chairman's report 2018/2019

The Chairman read the report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes

## 4. Report – Great Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity

A report had been received. The Chairman read from the report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes

## 5. Subjects for discussion

Speedwatch. Attlebridge volunteers undertake speedwatch in Lenwade and would appreciate a representative from Great Witchingham. This would be for approximately one hour per week.

The Chairman advised she would provide a poster for display in the village hall and the parish magazine.

**6. Matters discussed**

As above.

**7. Close**

The Chairman gave thanks for attending and encouraged attendance at the regular parish council meetings.

**The meeting closed at 7.43pm**

DRAFT

# GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2018/2019

Having been in the chair for such a short period of time therefore the report is short,

- 1) good news the Land Transfer to the Parish is now complete.
- 2) still seeking an answer from Mr Paul Rogers on him making a donation to the school playground fund.
- 3) traffic calming measures work to begin and be completed March/April 2019
- 4) activity at Atlas Works under investigation query if it is a breach of planning permission awaiting response from NCC this matter is being dealt with by councillor Bailey representing GWPC

*David Beaumont*

**Chairman, Great Withingham Parish Council**

# GREAT WITCHINGHAM FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY

Registered Charity No.: 210554 A/1



## Trustees' Annual Report April 2019

### Charity Report

The Charity was formed in 1811 by the provision of land under the Act of Enclosure and has provided residents of Great Witchingham, who are in need, hardship or distress, with charitable benefit in one form or another. Since that time, benefit has taken the form of a winter fuel payment in money or kind and applications for benefit are sought from September onwards. Charitable benefit is not limited to this period as need, hardship and distress has no such calendar boundaries. The Trustees will consider any written request for relief at any time.

Income is derived from the Charity's land, which is vested in The Charity Commission and governed by the Trustees. Contrary to popular belief, the land is private. Access to Charity land is, and has always been, by permission of the Trustees. Presently and for the foreseeable future, granting of that permission, by way of an annual permit, is delegated by a Management Agreement issued to the Fishery Manager.

Once the core aim of the Charity has been satisfied, The Charity Commission permits the Trustees to grant aid to groups or individuals in the Great Witchingham to satisfy a particular need, which may exist in the Parish. The Charity is not permitted to relieve rates, taxes, or any other public funds but may supplement relief provided by public funds. The Charity is also not permitted to commit to repeating or renewing benefit granted on any occasion. The Trustees will consider all individual applications upon their merit.

The Trustees were pleased to make payments for winter fuel to 42 eligible applicants totalling £12,900. In addition, £290 was donated to Great Witchingham Luncheon Club enabling the organisers to provide the final free Christmas meal and wind up the luncheon club. £470 was donated to fund the provision of play equipment and a £1000 for a glass washer for Great Witchingham Village Hall. £1000 was donated to Great Witchingham Village School for the provision of books for their library. £600 was donated to Great Witchingham PCC towards providing messy café church sessions for the year, for parishioners. £97.50 paid for a calor gas cylinder for a homeless person in a caravan. The Trustees have also indicated a willingness to support the provision of a children's playground for the village and await acceptance of their offer..

This financial year gave rise to a net income from the sale of fishing permits of £21762, from which a 20% share has been paid to Great Witchingham Church Lands Charity. The Charity also holds a permanent endowment in the form of COIF shares, which provides an income of approximately £1786 p.a.

It has been necessary to carry out some planned replacement and additions to our predator fencing this year. It will be necessary to continue with the program next year as some sections are coming to the end of their life. Following a profession tree survey, some tree works will also be carried out next year. The Charity maintains contingency funds to withstand a prolonged loss of income without detriment to the benefit to those people and organisations we serve. Funds could also be made available to mitigate the cost of a natural disaster affecting parishioners.

The work of our Fishery Manager continues to be invaluable to the Trustees, managing both the land and the fishery in accordance with the Trustees rules and wishes and in a wholly professional manner.

Despite a year of financial turmoil, the value of our COIF investment shares has been maintained over the last twelve months and dividend yield remains very much at a premium compared to ordinary investments.

The Trustees would like to thank all the people who give their time freely, particularly those who act as volunteer Bailiffs, without whose contributions the benefits that our charity is able to offer would be greatly reduced.

We look forward to another excellent year, which we very much hope will allow us to continue and indeed improve upon our good work in the Parish.

Our thanks to Clare Morton, Chair of Weston Longville Parish Council, for kindly carrying out the annual audit of our accounts. A copy of the Charity's audited accounts, as presented to The Charity Commissioners, is appended.

### **Fishery Report**

The fishery at Great Witchingham provides the Charity's main source of income for the distribution of benefit.

2018-19 again saw some wonderful fishing at Charity Lakes, which is arguably now one of the best mixed specimen syndicate fisheries of its type and especially for big carp in Norfolk. We saw a large increase in the number of thirty pound plus fish caught from the fishery last year, including a stunning 41lb plus common carp one of only a few to be found in this region along with another Mirror carp now close onto 40lbs. It is, however large or small, the quality of the fishing that has stood out and is what brings our members back season after season.

The quality of the fishing is improving year on year, especially with the large Carp as mentioned, but the fishery still lives up to its traditional mixed species pedigree with large Bream reported well into double figures and several huge Tench in double figures. With large catches of smaller fish, the fishery has something for everyone and an enjoyable days fishing can be enjoyed whether our members wish to come to catch a fish of a lifetime or just enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside. We plan to continue with our long-term stocking policy, which will benefit future generations of anglers.

Charity Lakes has continued to grow in stature and prominence as a top class fishery over the last few years. We will continue to develop the fishery on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide an excellent outdoor experience and most importantly, meet the aims and needs of the Charity in supporting the community and many local families who benefit from the charitable donations, which the fishery income provides. This will ensure that the Charity will have a long future in its core provision of local welfare and allow the opportunity to expand further to assist the wider community. We hope our patrons will continue to support us in this goal.

Part of the fishery is owned by Great Witchingham Church Lands Charity. Our charity administers the fishery as a whole and by standing agreement, passes 20% of the net income from fishing each year, to the Church Lands Charity Trustees for the upkeep of St Mary's Church.

Helen Rengert  
Chair of Trustees

Gt. Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity - Statement of Accounts - 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018

**INCOME**

**OPENING BALANCES**

CASH ACCOUNT £62.42 ✓  
 CURRENT ACCOUNT £675.47 ✓  
 COIF ACCOUNT £44,999.45 ✓  
 BP ACCOUNT £7,046.42 ✓

£52,783.76

**INCOME**

DONATION £20.00  
 FISHING 2017 £80.00  
 FISHING 2018 £44,400.00

£44,500.00

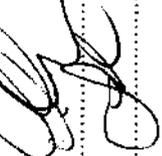
**INTEREST**

BANK INTEREST £14.27  
 COIF DIVIDEND £1,786.36  
 COIF INTEREST £243.47

£2,044.10

£99,327.86 ✓

INVESTMENTS HELD - SHARES IN CHARITIES  
 OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND (INCOME UNITS)  
 2889.84 @ £14,7690 = £42,660.05  
 995.10 @ £14,7690 = £14,685.93  
 Value as at 31/12/17 = £57,345.98

Signed:  Treasurer  
 Signed:  Chairman

Dated: 12-11-19  
 Dated: 26/12/19

**EXPENDITURE**

DISTRIBUTION £16,557.50  
 ADMIN EXPENSES £146.97  
 BAILIFF GRATUITIES £971.80  
 CHURCHLANDS PAYT £4,028.31  
 INSURANCE RENEWAL £605.00  
 KEYS & LOCKS £418.00  
 LEGAL EXPENSES £150.00  
 MAINTENANCE £8,146.96  
 MANAGEMENT FEES £7,718.60  
 REFUND £847.00  
 STOPPED CHEQUE £290.00  
 TOILET HIRE £1,816.14  
 VAT ON GOODS AND SERVICES £1,627.16

£43,323.44

**CLOSING BALANCES**

CASH ACCOUNT £290.45  
 CURRENT ACCOUNT £410.36  
 COIF ACCOUNT £48,242.92  
 BP ACCOUNT £7,060.69

£56,004.42

£99,327.86

I HAVE EXAMINED THE BOOKS AND BANK STATEMENTS AND CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENT REFLECTS A TRUE RECORD OF THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTS.

Signed:  Auditor  
 Dated: 27/1/19

Dear Ray

David Mills is quite correct that the correct line of the footpath cannot be lost through lack of use and passing of time.

If it has fallen out of use because people find the Wensum Way alternative route preferable, the owners of the land over which the Definitive route runs might arrange with the owners of the land over which the permissive route runs to apply to the County Council for a diversion of the Definitive path onto the permissive route. This could not be done automatically, and there might be sufficient objections for the diversion not to be agreed.

Another issue concerning Footpath 1 is that at its east end (TG 0962 1826) it does not start on a public road or other public path. It starts on what is now called Common Lane. In the 1950s this was called Common Road and may have lead to the assumption by the parish that it was a public road, and so did not need to be entered on the Definitive Map. Neither the Rural District Council nor the County Council seem to have corrected them on that matter, by suggesting that Common Road should be registered.

To safeguard the access to Footpath 1, the stretch of Common Lane at least from the footpath to the main road needs to be claimed as a public right of way of one status or another. If it is going to be done with the aid of historic documents it needs to be claimed by the end of 2025.

At the moment the Land Registry does not show any registered owner. It was presumably called Common Road because it was access to Great Witchingham Common which is shown on old Ordnance Survey maps as being next to the River.

Yours sincerely

Ian Mitchell Ramblers Norfolk Area Footpath Co-ordinator

**From:** Public Rights of Way  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 5:10 PM  
**To:** Ray  
**Cc:** Parish Clerk - Great Witchingham ; Ian Mitchell  
**Subject:** RE: GW Footpath 1

I am not aware of the reasoning behind the decision of the Norfolk Trails Team to use a section of concessionary path instead of the official right of way for this section of the Wensum Way.

Regardless, FP1 is a legally registered route and is consequently protected in law. While it may not get used while the concessionary path is promoted, it remains protected as a public footpath and can be reopened at any time. There is a common misconception that paths unused for 20 years are lost but this is not the case. A legal procedure is required to formally extinguish a path and it would need to demonstrate that there was no longer any public need for the route. The need for a route in this vicinity is demonstrated by the concessionary route, if this was withdrawn then the use would no doubt transfer back to FP No1.

Regards,

**David Mills, Countryside Access Officer (West)**

Community and Environmental Services

Tel: 01553 778043 | Dept: 0344 800 8020 | Mobile: 07774 216882

West Area Office, Poplar Avenue, Saddlebow, King's Lynn PE34 3AQ

**Subject:** MHCLG LGPS: Consultation on changes to the local valuation cycle and management of employer risk

**From:** "Mark, Nicola S" <nicola.s.mark@norfolk.gov.uk>

**Date:** 24/05/2019, 08:48

Dear colleague,

**Latest MHCLG consultation: 'LGPS: consultation on changes to the local valuation cycle and management of employer risk'**

The Ministry of Housing, Councils and Local Government (MHCLG) has opened another important LGPS [policy consultation](#) which could have a significant impact on you as an employer in the scheme.

At the moment, all English and Welsh LGPS funds, including the Norfolk Pension Fund, have a statutory requirement to be valued and health checked every three years to ensure a fund has sufficient assets to meet its liabilities (referred to as the 'triennial valuation'). The valuation establishes the current pension funding position (solvency) of each employer in the Fund, and this is then used to set your employer contribution rates payable for the next three years. A wide range of factors (for example the performance of fund investments since the previous valuation, the profile of your membership), can mean your contributions increase, decrease, or remain static, in order for the fund to reach its funding objectives.

The Government is now proposing to move LGPS funds from a three yearly to a four yearly valuation process from March 2024, in line with other public sector funds.

To ensure that the longer valuation cycle does not increase risk for pension funds scheme employers, the Government is also proposing measures to allow LGPS funds to act between valuations and address any issues as they arise, specifically:

- A new power for LGPS funds to undertake interim valuations. This would allow LGPS administering authorities to act when circumstances change between valuations and undertake full or partial valuations of their funds.
- Allowing LGPS administering authorities more power to amend an employer's contribution rate in between valuations, so that contribution rates can be adjusted following the outcome of a covenant check or where liabilities are estimated to have significantly reduced.

The proposed new measures are intended to help funds manage their liabilities and ensure that employer contributions are set at an appropriate level. The consultation is seeking views from scheme employers on these measures and what LGPS funds should put in their funding strategy statements regarding the proposals.

Another significant issue for some employers is the cost of exiting a scheme, which can be prohibitive. Current regulations require that when the last active member of an employer leaves the scheme, the employer must pay a lump sum exit payment calculated on a full buy-out basis. The consultation is therefore asking employers for their views on two alternative approaches that would reduce the financial impact faced by employers upon exit:

- To introduce a 'deferred employer' status that would allow funds to agree with certain employers to defer an immediate exit payment and to continue to pay contributions to the fund on an ongoing basis.
- To allow an exit payment calculated on a full buy-out basis to be recovered flexibly, over a period of time. This would be useful if an administering authority does not feel that granting deferred employer status would be appropriate, but that some level of flexibility would be in the interests of the fund and other employers.

MHCLG are also seeking views on an amendment to the LGPS Regulations 2013 which was introduced in 2018. This allowed payment of 'exit credits' to scheme employers in surplus at the time their last active member leaves the scheme. In practice this amendment caused some issues where an LGPS employer had outsourced a service and used contractual arrangements to share risk with their contractor. The consultation is therefore asking for

employers to comment on a proposal to amend LGPS Regulations to allow exit credits to be reduced to nil where a pass-through arrangement is in place.

Finally, significant changes in the higher education and further education sectors have taken place in recent years. The Government is therefore proposing to remove the requirement for further education corporations, sixth form college corporations and higher education corporations in England to offer membership of the LGPS to their non-teaching staff. Instead, reflecting their status as non-public sector, autonomous organisations, it's proposed that each institution will determine whether to offer the LGPS to new employees or not. Under the proposals, current active LGPS members and those eligible for active membership in employment with a further education corporation, sixth form college corporation or higher education corporation in England would have a protected right to membership of the scheme.

**The consultation close date for responses to the proposals is 31 July 2019.**

More detail can be found in the full policy document which can be viewed [here](#) and is also available on the [scheme consultations](#) page of [www.lgpsregs.org](http://www.lgpsregs.org).

I hope that you find this information useful. Please remember that we're always available to help, so if you have any questions on these new proposals and what they may mean for you as an employer, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Younger on 01603 222995 or at [alexander.younger@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:alexander.younger@norfolk.gov.uk).

We will also make sure that this topic is on the agenda at our next Employer Forum, which will provide a useful opportunity to talk through the proposals and any questions before the consultation close date on 31 July 2019.

The next Employer Forum is on 10 July 2019 at The Space Roundtree Way, Norwich, NR7 8SQ. Please email [elaine.otway@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.otway@norfolk.gov.uk) or call 01603 222139 to reserve your place.

Kind regards,



Nicola Mark MBE  
Head of the Norfolk Pension Fund

+ Norfolk Pension Fund, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Lawrence House, 5 St Andrews Hill, Norwich, NR2 1AD

( 01603 222171 Fax 01603 228898

: [nicola.s.mark@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.s.mark@norfolk.gov.uk)



Norfolk Pension Fund

[www.norfolkpensionfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionfund.org) or helpline 01603 495923

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