

# Great Witchingham Parish Council

## Meeting of the parish Council – Minutes

Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm  
Great Witchingham Village Hall, Great Witchingham.

Present: Rowan Banks – Chair (RB)  
Peta Banks (PB)  
Peter Collingsworth (PC)  
Paul Williamson (PW) after item 6.  
Sally Acloque (SA)  
Tracy Buckenham (TB)  
Dawn Clarke Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council

7 Members of the public and Ali Pridmore Community Protection Officer

### Minutes

#### 1 Welcome by the Chair and to consider apologies for absence.

Councillors were introduced and residents welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

The Chair noted Roger Middleton's resignation and thanked him for all his work over the past year and noted the subsequent casual vacancy.

The passing of Herbie Burton was acknowledged. The former Vice-Chair and Councillor of the Parish Council was remembered for his friendly nature and active participation in village life, details of his funeral were shared.

#### 2 Minutes.

The minutes for the meeting held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, were hand amended then approved as a true record of the meeting and signed.

#### 3 Declarations of Interest.

- 3.1 Councillors are invited to declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda.
- 3.2 To consider any dispensation requests.

Councillor Sally Alcoque owns land adjoining 'Rogers Yard' and is a Trustee of the Fuel Allotment Charity that shares the same road.

#### 4 To receive updates on any matters not elsewhere on the agenda

None

## **5 Public Participation and Reports.**

- 5.1 County Councillor Greg Peck
- 5.2 District Councillor Peter Bulman
- 5.3 Members of the Public.
- 5.4 Any update from Norfolk Police.

5 None

5.1 District Councillor Peter Bulman (DPB), with respect to the business noise on Common Lane DPB contacted the business owner and with Councillor Rowan Banks (RB) met with the owner of the site and had a discussion regarding the issues that local residents have. Unfortunately, the owner intended to attend but has been delayed but sent apologies. Ali Pridmore (AP) was invited to explain the breadth of any possible response that could be applied. AP explained that the current operating licence is quite old and would not be granted in such a way if applied for today – however the yard is operating with a licence and very well established. As the owner is unable to attend, another meeting was suggested whereby all parties could discuss ways to minimise the situation. Much of the issues surrounds reversing alarms. AP explained the different options available to operators to reduce reversing noise, and suggested this would be a relevant option to discuss along with the operation times, methods of working and layout of the yard to reduce the amount of reversing needed. By looking at working times, number of vehicles and possibly moving tasks to other times of the day, noise could be reduced. He noted that the business was investing in the site.

A resident spoke about the length of the working day. The constant reversing alarm noise and felt that the business was successful but had possibly out grown the site.

A resident spoke about the different users and how they had changed over time, the most recent scaffolding yard being 4-5 years. It was suggested that the class of licence should be confirmed.

A resident stated there were 100's of vehicles passing down the road. Residents claim there is speeding and note that there is littering. Resident was asked to keep a diary of the time and type of vehicle. For submission to Environmental Health/ Broadland DC.

A resident notes that the reversing noise has increased significantly in the last year. They also note that the area that is used as a yard has expanded greatly and that the lights are on very long hours, what 'seems to be all nights' – it was suggested that this could be a planning issue or light overspill that may be due to poor installation. The resident notes that the (unadopted) road has become seriously damaged and it can be seen that the damage is at the upper end.

AP suggested that the Council should check that the licence is appropriate for the site and type of work, and if there were compromises – change in reversing alarms, and if the operating times were reasonable for a residential area after 7am.

Councillor Rowan Banks suggested re-convening the meeting when the business owner, Peter Bulman, Ail Pridmore and residents' representatives can meet and discuss compromises and work arounds that can respect both sides.

It was reported that the business owner and the residents were unable to agree splitting costs regarding re-surfacing the unadopted road.

A resident raised the parking of a large pick-up vehicle on the verge at Hubbards Loke. Unfortunately, it is not a Parish Council issue. The Parish Council has contacted PC Bailey the Community Police Officer who has attended, but the vehicle was not there. Residents were advised to document the issue and to report to the police (999) if the vehicle was dangerous.

5.4 The Clerk was waiting for the Community Police Officer to respond, however any resident who has had a theft should contact the police directly and not the Parish Council.

## **6. To consider co-option of any candidate present.**

Paul Williamson was co-opted to the council.

Proposed RB, Seconded SA, Agreed

Councillor Paul Williamson has received the standing orders electronically and signed his acceptance of office.

1 Casual Vacancy remains.

## **Planning.**

7.1 To consider consultee response to applications received:

7.1.1 2023/3259 7 - 9 Norwich Road Lenwade NR9 5SH - To place food van in front of property

7.1.2 2023/3211 4 The Granary Mill Lane Lenwade NR9 5QA (Listed building) To install solar panels to the east and west roof elevations

7.1.3 To receive notification of any planning applications decisions received.

7.1.1 It was resolved to object to the application in the current format and was requested that the application be expanded in detail. As the application stands, the type of food was not indicated, the Parish Council empathised with the desire to test the waters prior to re-setting up a business in a building, however they were very different propositions. Council asked for more details, waste, noise and traffic management.

Councillor Peter Bulman added that he felt there were insufficient environmental detail, was concerned that the parking would cause nuisance.

It was noted that the application fell into both Great Wichingham and Weston Longville Parishes.

7.1.1 It was resolved to submit 'No Objection' It was noted that this is a listed building, and the conservation officer would be in charge.

## **8. Correspondence and Communications.**

8.1 Email from Elections Team to gather feedback from the elections.

8.2 Any correspondence arriving after the publication of this agenda.

- 8.1 No comments were received.
- 8.2 Winter Pressures Grant – forward to the village hall.
- 8.3 Pride in Place. PB to check if it was appropriate.
- 8.4 Dog and Litter Waste. There are outstanding bills, this was due to change of address and personnel.

## 9. Highways.

To receive an update after the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of A47 stakeholders.

The Meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> was attended by multiple local stake holders. The Judicial Review is scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and a response is due shortly after. The requested funds have been granted. The infrastructure changes that are happening are things that will not need to be reversed should the scheme not progress.

The Highways team will consider SMS alerts for traffic management.

## 10. Financial Matters.

- 10.1 To agree payments as detailed in Annex A.
- 10.2 To note the salary increase from NALC.
- 10.3 To receive the bank reconciliation.
- 10.4 To approve bank access for Rowan Banks.
- 10.5 To review budget to date and prepare a budget for 2024-25
- 10.6 To agree the precept and authorise the Clerk to request the value decided.
- 10.7 To resolve to remove S Hunt and R Middleton from the Unity account.

### 10.1 - Annex A

#### Income

29.9.2023	Broadland	Precept	£ 13,000.00
	Barclays	Transfer balance - Closure	£ 4,187.86
	Barclays	Transfer balance - Closure	£ 4.27

#### Payments made

29.10.23	HMRC	Tax	£91.20
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#### For authorisation

Broadland	Dog Waste emptying	£ 265.20
Dawn Clarke	Wages and tax Oct and November	£ 1,061.22
Dawn Clarke	Clerk expenses	£ 86.05
Norse	(1049005) September	£ 197.60
Norse	(1049877) October	£ 197.60
CAN	Playground training	£ 60.00

Proposed RB, Seconded, PB, Agreed

- 10.2 Noted. Back pay will be applied.

10.3 A balance of £25,973.58 in the Unity Account.  
The Barclays account is now closed. All monies are now in one (Unity) account.

10.4 It was resolved to grant Rowan Banks full access to the Unity Bank account, granting both setting and approval of payments.  
Proposed SA. Seconded TB, Agreed

10.5 Councillor Paul Williamson raised 2 projects he wishes to develop, a potential additional dog waste bin in the village and organised community litter picks. Both of these items were partially budgeted for and agreed to be absorbed into the budget that was presented.  
National Litter Pick Day (March) – it was suggested that a prize for the child with the most litter to encourage participation.

The Budget for 2024-25 was set at £26,259.00 The Tax base has not been released so the Band D rate is not available.  
Proposed PB, Seconded PC, Agreed

It was agreed that The Clerk was to submit to Broadland District Council the request for the precept of £26,259.00

10.7 It was resolved to remove S Hunt and R Middleton from the Unity account.  
Proposed PB, Seconded PW, Agreed.

## **11. Administrative Matters.**

11.1 To confirm that all Councillors now have access to the Council emails.

11.2 NPTS Quote for membership and training for council.

11.1 All councillors now have gwpc.org.uk email addresses. As of November 27, 2023, it was agreed that they will be the council channel of communication.

11.2 It was agreed to look at membership once training was agreed.

## **12. Play Area**

12.1 To review ownership of area and consider any actions. Cllr P Banks.

We are waiting for paperwork for this to progress.

## **13. Items for next meeting:**

Appointment of a Vice Chair, Appointment to the Employment Committee

To note the next meeting dates: 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 7pm – Village Hall.