



LEZIATE & ASHWICKEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 10th OF NOVEMBER 2023 FROM 18.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Adrian Bramwell (AB), G Mathias (GM) and Michael de Whalley (MdW)
Victoria Kempley (VK), and Bal Anota (BA)
The Parish Clerk (CB)
Borough Councillors Michael de Whalley and Bal Anota
One member of the public present.

An excellent presentation was made by Ben Matlock, Senior Forest Manager at Pryor& Rickett Silviculture, which gave information regarding proposed Ashwicken Woodland Creation Plan and a map is available as appendix 1. More information will be made available via our website.

CHAIRMAN – MdW agreed to stand as Chairman for this meeting only.

CO-OPTION - Mr David Collis (DC) was proposed by GM, seconded by AB and all in favour of Mr. Collis becoming a Parish Councillor.

The declarations of interest were witnessed by the clerk and the Register of Interest and Election spending for Mr Collis were received.

1. **WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIRMAN**
2. **PARISHIONERS 15 MINUTE FORUM:** No comments
3. **a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**
Cllrs Blatch and Moriarty
- b. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **Approval of the circulated minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 15th of September 2023.** Proposed GM, seconded VK and all in favour who attended this meeting.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 5.1 Traffic Project update – Cllr Moriarity advised that he was still awaiting an update from Highways.
 - 5.2 Repair of Noticeboards – AB advised that the noticeboard panel at the Village Hall has been replaced and was thanked by all.
6. **PLANNING:** to consider: -
 - 6.1 Applications – None
 - 6.2 Decisions - None
 - 6.3 Enforcements – **23/00637/UNOPDE** – Elm Tree Farm, 167 Leziate Drove, Ashwicken
Breach: alleged unauthorised operational development.

11. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Anota – Following a second complaint from a resident regarding overgrown verges by Sibelco, Cllr Anota has chased Andy Wallace at Highways on this as it is now forcing people to walk on the road. The Borough has sold some land near Southgates to the NHS to build a surgery with additional facilities which should elevate the pressure on the emergency services at the hospital.

Gayton and Gayton Thorpe NDP received an 86% vote to approve and will now be adopted. It is budget time at the Borough.

Cllr de Whalley -

The Corporate Strategy is due to be signed off in the next 2 weeks with four key priorities: Growth and Prosperity, Protect the Environment, Support Communities, Effective and efficient delivery of services.

CIL – there will be 2 rounds in January & June 2024, with a cap of £50,000.

Planning – the Knights Hill project will have 500+ homes with 108 being affordable. Awaiting confirmation regarding a bus service to run through the estate via the developer and NCC.

The West Winch development has been approved by the inspectorate with the gypsy and traveller sites in line with the Local Plan. The relief road is due to start in 2025 and take 2 years and no homes will be build until this has been opened.

Cllr Anota to find out if this new road will be dual carriageway.

ACTION BA

Cllr Moriarty –

Andy Wallace is chasing the legal team on the proposed yellow lines for restrictive parking.

DIY Waste at Recycling Centres

On Sunday 18 June Government set out its plans on how DIY waste at recycling centres is going to be addressed via *'changes that will be brought in to force this year'* (details here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/council-diy-waste-charges-abolished> and here [Summary of responses and government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/summaries/summary-of-responses-and-government-response-to-council-diy-waste-charges))

Further clarity from Government is awaited on the implementation, detail and timing of its proposal, which importantly is not a ban on charging but is instead a limit on what should be accepted for free from householders.

The County Council has been charging for DIY waste at recycling centres for over 20 years and in 2018 removed a weekly free allowance of one 80 litre bag or one item a week from householders.

As it stands the new Government proposal is likely to specify that, in relation to small-scale projects undertaken by householders, there would be:

'free disposal of DIY waste up to two 50L rubble bags (or one bulky or fitted item no larger than 2,000mm by 750mm by 700mm, the approximate size of a bathtub or shower screen)' 'at a frequency of 4 visits per household over a 4-week period'

Government has clarified that new funding will not be provided to councils to deal with the extra costs of this change to legislation, with DLUHC deciding *'that local authorities that currently charge householders to dispose of DIY waste will be required to absorb any associated costs'*.

Have your say on our walking, wheeling and cycling strategy for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has opened a public consultation on a draft walking, wheeling and cycling strategy for the county. The strategy is an updated version of the previous walking and cycling strategy which was published in 2017. Since then, there has been a step change in national and local policy which has placed walking, wheeling and cycling at the heart of decision making.

The proposed new strategy brings together Norfolk's local transport, environmental and public health ambitions and aims to make walking, wheeling or cycling the natural choice for both travelling from A to B and for leisure.

The draft strategy has been created following policy reviews, evidence collation and engagement with district councils and Active Norfolk. Now the county council wants to hear from residents, stakeholders and organisations to get their thoughts on the proposed strategy.

The scale and pace of delivering the strategy will be dependent on the level of funding the County Council can secure. Having this strategy alongside our already approved local cycling and walking infrastructure plans for Norfolk helps us to present our ambition to central Government and give us more likelihood of securing funding in the future.

The consultation is available online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/walking-wheeling-cycling and will be open until Friday 24 November. For anybody unable to complete the consultation online paper copies can be requested by contacting haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk or customer services on 0344 800 8020.

Household Support Fund winter support

Norfolk County Council is offering extra support to households this winter.

Earlier this year, Norfolk County Council announced it would receive further funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to run the Household Support Fund until 31 March 2024.

The council is receiving £13.4m from central government and adding an additional £400,000 to make the total programme of support worth £13.8m. It is working closely with district, borough, and city councils, VCSE and public sector partners to identify and implement a range of support measures to meet the needs of vulnerable households.

Since the fund began (October 2021) the impact on Norfolk communities of the fund so far has been significant:

- We have supported over 130,000 households throughout the life of the fund.
- We continue to provide food vouchers for over 30,000 eligible school children.
- We have provided over 17,000 awards through our application-based Client Hardship Service (formally the Norfolk Assistance Scheme) ranging from food support through to providing white goods and winter essentials.
- We have made over 546,000 awards in total through use of the fund across all rounds to date.
- Support has also been provided through our libraries (grab and go bags), the Nourishing Norfolk food hubs (store credit), our district council partners with a range of both proactive and reactive support and by working with our local VCSE community to directly support the most vulnerable Norfolk families.

The DWP's upcoming Household Support Fund Awareness Week (16--22 October) also coincides with the launch date for our Norfolk libraries winter campaign.

As part of the Household Support Fund, all 47 of Norfolk's libraries will be offering free winter support items until the end of March 2024 (while stocks last).

Budget Consultation 2024/25

As in previous years NCC will be consulting Norfolk residents and stakeholders on council tax and budget proposals as part of the council's budget setting process. Norfolk County Council will set a new budget on 20 February 2024. Ahead of this, they will be asking for views on our proposed council tax level for 2024-25, including a proposal for the Adult Social Care precept.

To help NCC deal with our cost pressures and invest in vital services their current budget planning is based on an assumption to raise general council tax by 2.99% and 2% for the adult social care precept (a total of 4.99%) in 2024-25.

The consultation will run from 20 October to 1 December 2023.

NCC will promote the consultation using a variety of different channels in order to get a wide range of people's views and reach people who are likely to be affected. Members' involvement in promoting the consultation and encouraging residents to feed back their views is an important part of the consultation plan.

How can local people find out about the consultation and have their say?

- NCC will publicise the consultation using social media, such as Facebook and X, previously know as Twitter and in the local media.
- A press release will be sent out briefing local media on the consultation and its contents
- People will be able to read the proposals online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget and feed back their views using the online consultation.
- NCC will encourage members of the Norfolk Residents' Panel to participate in the consultation. The Panel currently comprises over 900 Norfolk residents.

Using NCC's online feedback form ensures there will be a clear record of people's response and that their views are accurately recorded. NCC will provide copies online of PDF documents so that people can download these themselves if they want a hard copy. There will also be Easy Read and large print versions available for download.

NCC appreciates that some residents may not have online access and people who are unable to respond online can send us their views in writing to: Freepost Plus RTCLXSTT-JZSK Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH. Please note, arrangements have been made to scan in any post when it arrives at County Hall and email to the stakeholder and consultation team who will be analysing all the responses received via post and e-mail.

Residents can request the budget consultation in other formats, including paper form, by calling 0844 800 8020 or emailing HaveYourSay@norfolk.gov.uk in line with our standard practice. This will include Braille, audio etc.

8. Correspondence/Communications:

8.1 Clerks Report: The new signage for the Village Hall playground will be collected next week. A number of residents complaints have been received regarding the lack of information/updates on the proposed seasonal parking and Cllr Moriarty has been advised.

Calls have been received regarding fallen trees, branches and overgrown trees – all advised to report these issues via the NCC website.

Working on the draft budget/reserves/precept in October.

Application has been completed for £1000 funding towards a defibrillator outside the Village Hall. A decision is due next week, and BA advised that a training session would be a good idea.

8.2 SAM unit – ABL advised that he had now collected the units etc., from Jason Ess and is in the process of getting the software updated.

8.3 Play Areas - ABL reported no issues at Glosthorpe and VK will email her checks to the clerk. Clerk to ask Mr. Jones to clear the old noticeboard debris. ACTION Clerk

8.4 Bus Shelters – GM advised that the shelter on the A1145 at Bawsey still requires a wooden plank replacement and clerk to ask Mr. Jones. ACTION Clerk

The Clerk had reported a call from a resident in Ashwicken regarding the shelter by Church Lane, stating that it was no longer in use and being used as a toilet. MdW advised that this was still in use as passengers can flag down the bus service from the shelter location and also school buses use it. Checks have been made regarding mis-use and nothing found. Clerk to write to the resident. ACTION Clerk

8.5 Fen & Brand's Wood – no issues to report.

8.6 Footpaths – AB raised the problems with F29 and will take photographs to send to NCC.

ACTION AB

8.7 Highways – DC raised concerns about speeding, especially on the B1145 but our SAM units are not allowed on this road as can only go up to 40mph limits. The suggestion was to reduce the limit from 50 to 40mph where business and residential homes are. BA to look into this further and try to obtain data from the NCC speed cameras. ACTION BA

9. Finance:

9.1 Bank reconciliations, approval of payments, bank statements and payments/receipts for September and October 23. Proposed AB, seconded GM and all in favour. £17,962.36 in the bank.

- 9.2 Payments for November to approve. Proposed GM, seconded by AB with all in favour.
- 9.3 Half year review as sent out by the clerk was now overtaken by the draft budget.
- 9.4 The first draft budget was discussed, and it was decided to increase the insurance by 8% and contingencies. Clerk to sent out the 2nd draft budget for councillors consideration and to approve at the January 24 meeting. ACTION: ALL
- 9.5 The public sector pay rise has now been confirmed and it was agreed that the increase and back pay would be paid in the March 24 salary payment as requested by the clerk.

10. Correspondence/Communications

- 10.1 Items for the next edition of The Voice – it was agreed to give an update on the parking issues, a report from Ben Mattock, co-option of David Collis, reminder on dog fouling, and the NCC website to report highways/footpaths/vegetation issues.
- 10.2 Residents complaints regarding parking issues – as discussed under item 5.1 and Cllr Moriarity's report.
- 10.3 Litter picker letter regarding verge cut backs – BA to follow up with Highways
- 10.4 Request for donations from Norfolk Befriending Service and the West Norfolk Disability Information Service (NOTE Mdw declared an interest and abstained from voting)
It was agreed to make a one off donation of £100 to both these local worthy causes. Proposed DC, seconded BA and all in favour.
- 10.5 A resident has contacted the clerk regarding a street light on the B1145 by the telephone box as it is out of order. This should be reported to NCC.

11. Items for next agenda:

- Budget & Precept
- Parking
- Speeding

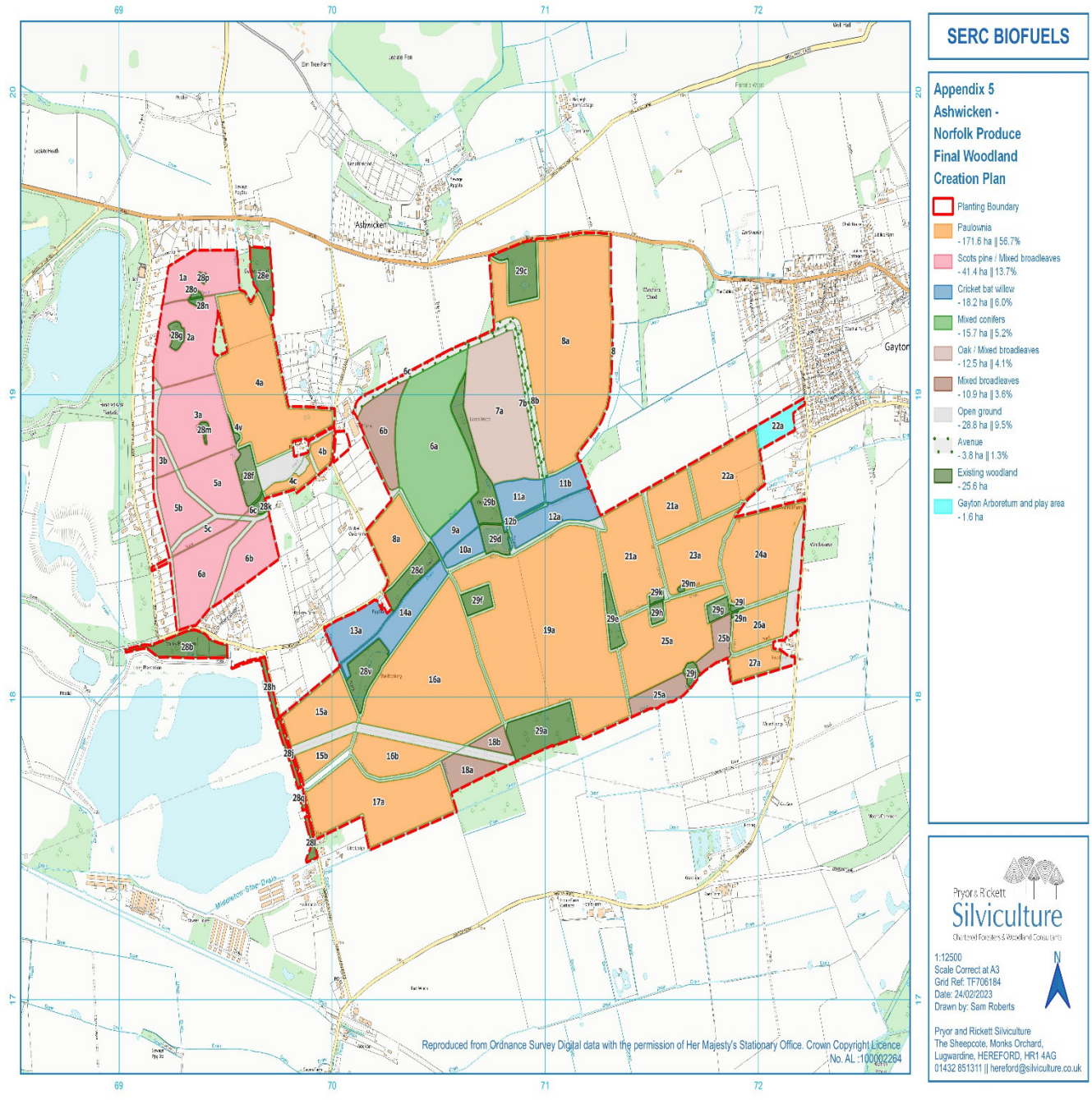
15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – please advise the clerk 7 days before the next date

Churchyard Maintenance, Parking,

12. The next Meeting will start at 6.30pm on the 12th of January 2024

The meeting closed at 20.23

APPENDIX 1



Signature

Date

APPENDIX 2

Payments for November 2023

C Boyden Standing Order	Salary	252.16
HMRC Standing Order	PAYE	164.00
ECS	October invoice	16.50
Village Hall	November payment	16.00
P Jones	October invoice	TBA
C Boyden	September/ October expenses	79.70
Amazon	HP Printer	54.99

Payments for October 2023

NPTS	Training	44.00
Subscriptions	Cloud Storage	124.50
P Jones	Grounds maintenance	267.94
East Coast Signs	Playground signage	108.00
G & G Fencing	Replacement fencing	4746.00
	Playground area	
C Boyden	Salary	252.16
HMRC	PAYE	164.00
Receipts:		
HMRC	VAT refund	1134.81
BCKLWN	CIL	4304.91

Signature

Date