

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 19.00 at Felmingham Village Hall

1) Welcome

Present – Chairman Tim Papworth, Vice Chairman Neil Thrush, Cllr. John Newstead, Cllr. Carol Coughtrey, Cllr. Syd Arksey, Cllr. Mike Pepperell, District Councillor Peter Netherway, County Councillor Saul Penfold, Revd David Chamberlain

- a) The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all that were there.
- b) County Councillor report
 - i) The devolution settlement deal from central government of £20,000,000 per annum for 30 years is being considered, but it would come with additional responsibilities including roads and education. If accepted, there would be County Council elections in 2025 and a new leader voted for. It is to be discussed further in July 2024 at County Council.
 - ii) The Liberal Democratic party is now the main opposition party at Norfolk County Council.
 - iii) Budget setting is now key and there will probably be a maximum increase of 4.4%.
 - iv) The Chairman asked how the budgets will impact on the fire and emergency services, buildings refurbishment, school admissions and short breaks for children. Saul will report back at the next meeting.
- c) District Councillor report
 - i) North Norfolk District Council have been very busy with planning applications.
 - ii) West North Walsham development proposals are being looked at very closely and are proving to be very controversial.
 - iii) The District Council is concentrating on resolving homelessness.
 - iv) Wendy Fredericks, Head of Housing, is to be invited by Peter/Saul to the next meeting on 15th May.
 - v) It is hoped that Swafeld bridge, having been rebuilt, will be provided with priority signage.

2) Apologies

- a) None

3) Minutes

a) Ordinary Meeting 18th October 2023

- i) The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

4) Heaths

a) Bryants Heath

- i) North East Norfolk Conservation Volunteers have been working on the on 3rd January, slowly opening up the Heath.
- ii) The Clan Trust is aware of how their donations have been spent. They are happy for the money to be spent on tools and equipment. Two new scythes have been bought at a cost of £236 from these funds.
- iii) A tree popper was tried out on the heath to see how effective it was. The cost of a tree popper was £334 so it was decided that one could be made, so it would be returned at a cost of £34.
- iv) NENCV will return in March to continue their work. They have all safety equipment and insurance.

b) Stow Heath

- i) No update. The Clerk is to ask for one for the next meeting.

5) Allotments

- a) All allotments are tenanted.
- b) A letter has gone out to all tenants about the use of carpet as a weed suppressant.
- c) Cllr. Neil Thrush is to be paid for the removal of carpet when clearing allotment for new tenants.
- d) Concerns that Norfolk County Council can take back more land from the allotments for housing. Cllr. Peter Netherway will investigate and report back.

6) Highways

a) Farthing Green

- i) A bid has been submitted for Farthing Green to the Parish Partnership fund for £4500, £2250 funded by the Parish Council and £2250 from Cllr. Saul Penfold's budget. If the bid is successful, the Parish Council will go ahead.

b) Potholes on Goulders Lane and collapsed drain cover outside the Village Hall are to be reported by Cllr. Mike Pepperell.

7) Planning

- a) The planning application for The Old Rectory has had a time limit of 3rd or 4th week in January. The application will be submitted to the Planning Committee as it is on that date for a decision.

b) PF/23/2646 Homestead, Stowheath Road – two storey extension - no objections.

8) Village Hall Update – Cllr Syd Arksey

- i) Turnover just over £6000

- ii) Remote control for the heating system is to be installed.

- iii) Parking outside on the field is proving a problem with the amount of rain lately. The Chairman has offered to take the topsoil away and help with the provision of better hard standing for cars.

9) RFO and Clerk's Report

- a) The bank balance stood at £5358 at the end of December.

10) Any other business

- a) The call for additional land/housing from NNDC was discussed. The lack of mains drainage and the current problems for existing properties in Felmingham caused a lot of concern.

- b) County Broadband has been reported by some parishioners to be very problematical.

- c) The Parish Council and the Village Hall have compiled a Felmingham Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village.

- d) Meeting closed at 8.45pm. Next meeting will be on 15th May 2024. AGM and NNDC, housing manager.

Signed by Chairman

Date