

GREAT MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Moulton Parish Council Ordinary Meeting

held in the Coronation Hall Carr Lane Great Moulton NR15 2LA

on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs C Bailey (Chair), G Timms (Vice-Chair), M Negm, S Morgan & K Bailey
Libby Alexander (Clerk)

No members of the public were in attendance

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To record Declarations of Interest from Council Members in any item to be discussed

Cllr Morgan, Item 8 – Sneath Cottage planning application.

3. To agree and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 19 October 2023

The minutes were duly agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 19 October 2023

None.

5. Public Participation including report from the District Councillor and County Councillor

No public participation required.

The District Councillor, Cllr Ridley was not present and no report had been received.

The County Councillor, Cllr Catherine Rowett was not present, but had sent a report (see Appendix for full report).

6. Finances

6.1 To discuss and approve the budget for 2024-25

Following a discussion on the draft budget it was resolved to remove the website cost from the budget and add in the CIL money. Cllr C Bailey to review the salary for the Clerk now that pension contributions were being paid to include an accurate figure in the budget. It was resolved to reconsider and approve the revised budget at the next meeting.

6.2 To approve the attached schedule of payments

The schedule of payments was duly approved and forms part of these minutes.

6.3 To receive an update on the banking mandate of the Council

Cllr C Bailey reported that she had received a text message from Barclays confirming that the changes to the banking mandate had been approved and correspondence would follow within 5 working days.

7. To approve the Clerk's salary increase in line with the national pay award, back dated to April 2023

Unanimously agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the national pay award, back dated to April 2023.

8. Planning Applications

New – 2023/3171 | Details of conditions 4 and 6 of 2023/0582 - (4) Historic Building recording (6) Material Reclamation | Sneath Cottage Black Mill Lane Great Moulton Norfolk NR15 2DZ

Duly noted.

Determined - 2023/2285 | Replace the thatch roof with a clay Norfolk pantile roof | Woodlands Farm Frith Way Great Moulton Norfolk NR15 2AS – Approved

Duly noted.

9. Maintenance of the old telephone box

The Clerk had not heard anything more from the carpenter and there being nothing further to report Cllr C Bailey suggested revisiting this in the spring when work was scheduled to start.

10. Correspondence received:

SNDC (Review of Polling Districts and Places 2023-24) – noted.

NCC (Notice of Consultation on Greater Norwich Local Plan proposed modifications) - noted and any comments to be submitted to be forwarded to the Clerk.

Resident Correspondence (Flooding) – Cllr Morgan offered to respond to the resident regarding flooding concerns.

11. To receive a report from the Coronation Hall

Cllr C Bailey reported that a coffee morning was planned for the following week. Unfortunately, the Christmas Fayre had been cancelled owing to insufficient stall holders. The Beaver Scouts were holding a sleepover in the hall in December. There was no news on the application made to the British Heart Foundation for a grant for a Defibrillator for the outside of the hall.

12. To receive the Wildlife Wardens report

The Wildlife Warden was not in attendance and had not sent a report.

13. To approve the date of the next ordinary Meeting of Great Moulton Parish Council as Thursday 21st December and accept any items for the agenda

Owing to availability of Councillors and the Clerk due to other commitments and Christmas it was resolved not to hold a meeting in December. It was unanimously agreed to delegate powers to the Clerk to pay the Clerk's salary, tax to HMRC and pension contributions required in December.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday 18th January 2024 at 19:00.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:00.

SIGNED:

DATED:

Appendix

Councillor report, November 2023, from Catherine Rowett

November 14th 2023

Flood reporting

Flooding from surface water is a County Council responsibility.

There are two routes to report flooding on the County Council website, and I would encourage people to do this because the County needs to know how bad the problem is and take action to stop it being repeated. This applies to both flooding on the roads and flooding in your house, shop, workshop or other amenities.

For highways you can report it here: <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysdefect/?s=road&t=flood>

For other flooding crises you can report it here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/floods/report-a-flood>

If you think that the problem is caused by blocked or silted up ditches and culverts, or stuff blocking the route across the verge from the road to the ditch, contact the highways (if the ditch is a highways ditch along the side of the road). If the problem is a ditch on the land owned by a local farmer, the first port of call is to contact the farmer and point out the issue, and ask the farm itself to do the clearance. If that fails, the Parish Council can make a formal request, or the Parish could set up a volunteer group to help people to clear their ditches and do a round every Autumn to make sure that everything is flowing ahead of the winter.

Will reporting a flood damage the value of your property? Not really, because any remaining flood risk will count against your property anyway when it comes to selling, so it's better to get the Council onto solving it, so that the risk is removed, and insurance premiums can be reduced accordingly. The Council can't get a sense of the extent of the problem unless all the major flooding in properties is reported.

Please also let me know if the village is suffering repeated and problematic flooding and you are not getting a prompt response from the Council.

County Council budget

NCC faces what they call a "significant challenge" to develop a budget for 2024/2025 given yet more expected cuts in what we get from government. A shortfall of £46 million is predicted. A 4.99% increase on council tax is proposed. The public consultation is now open and can be accessed here.

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.

Highways and road safety:

I now have a spreadsheet of suitable schemes for the RSCF and am waiting for an appointment to work with the Highways officer to prioritise the ones I can submit. It is annoying that I am unlikely to get more than one or two of these deserving schemes funded, and that the speed management strategy makes it very hard to get the speed limit reductions that would prevent accidents until after the accidents have happened. I am therefore attempting to get the Council to agree democratically to move towards a more proactive approach to safety and speed limits, so that people can feel safe going out and about with or without dogs, horses, or children on bikes. It is a relief that the government have not included restrictions on the freedom of Councils to institute safer road schemes in the King's Speech.

Long Stratton Bypass:

The Long Stratton Bypass has now got planning permission from South Norfolk District Council. I'm due to have an on-site visit to see where it is supposed to connect with the old road, and what route it will take across unspoiled land, and how it will provide for motorists, buses and cyclists wanting to access Long Stratton facilities from the South. My site visit had to be postponed because I was laid up with a bad cold the last two weeks, but I hope to visit next week. I would be interested to hear the views of West Depwade residents and parish councils. I shall be keeping an eye on the supposed "biodiversity net gain" and "carbon neutral" claims, given the recent scandals of hundreds of thousands of dead trees on the Northern Distributor Road and the A14.

Buses and active travel

The County Council has a new website that enables you to check for any journey you need to make whether there is a suitable way to get there by bus, train, bicycle, walking, or some combination of these things, and compares the time, cost and carbon footprint of each mode of travel, including car travel, so that you can see if there is a better/quicker/cheaper or less damaging way to get to the place you need to go. It's interesting, though rather depressing when I ask it for public transport routes to the villages in my County division! Fun to play with and could be very interesting for children at the school to investigate the carbon footprint of their journeys and to work out how to manage them without emitting so much planet-killing stuff. Find it here: [Journey Planner - Travel Norfolk](#).

I am also pursuing some enquiries on behalf of some villages concerning the provision, or lack of it, of Flexibus and Border hopper services, and the timing of bus journeys (which are sometimes useless for the purposes one might travel for). Please let me know if these issues apply to you.

Contact me

You can contact me on Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk for Council-related business, and I look forward to helping with a range of issues that people have already brought to my attention. I'm always delighted to attend award ceremonies, events, centenaries, lectures, exhibitions, conferences, debates, litter picking parties, campaign events and protests, so don't hesitate to add me to your mailing lists! I also have a facebook page which includes updates on what I am working on, posts about events and opportunities relevant to residents, and a place where you can comment and leave your views on things I want to ask you about. The link is [here](#).

County Council campaigns this month:

Prevent food waste

Who'd have thought we needed to tell people that you don't have to throw away potatoes if they start to sprout?! In Norfolk we discard acres-worth of good edible food, and it's hugely damaging to the environment and wasteful of farmland which could easily supply us all without imports if we just ate the food instead of throwing it away! Here's a website about how to spread the word and get people more savvy about using food that's not gone rotten.

[Mission Savvy — Food Savvy](#)

Keep warm and well over winter

The Warm and Well winter campaign to support people in Norfolk and Waveney to keep warm and well over the winter months was launched on 7 November.

The campaign, developed by ICS partners, aims to help local people understand the actions they can take to stay warm and well and manage their own health and wellbeing to help improve health outcomes for local residents and reduce the pressure on health and care services.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Warm and Well campaign portal

There you can find information relating to winter health and wellbeing and signposts to partner and provider websites to access direct support around hardship benefits, mental health resources, and more.

PS Don't forget to get your flu jab if you are eligible.

Unintended irony? Flood Action Week beginning 20th November

Monday 20th November, says the County Council, with dead pan earnestness, is the start of "Flood Action Week". Apparently, it's an opportunity to remind residents in my division to think about the threat of flooding and how you can protect yourselves, your families and your properties.

You might want to sign up for Flood Alerts, to get up to date information on the risk of flooding in your area? To do that visit <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

You can report flooding on the links I mentioned at the start of this report.

Anyone in immediate danger should always call 999.

Innovation funding – free webinar for Norfolk and Suffolk businesses

The Innovation Grant Mentoring Project is once again inviting any Norfolk or Suffolk based business to the first of a series of free online webinars and workshops looking at innovation funding on Thursday 23 November at 12 noon.

The 90 minute webinar on the 23 November entitled "What is Innovation Funding?" will explain more about innovation grant funding, who can be eligible for it, and what kinds of funds might be available. Speakers include the programme manager and experienced mentors. Interested businesses can register for their free place now.

Catherine Rowett

14th November 2023