



Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Suffield Parish Council held on
4th September 2024 at Suffield Village Hall

Jack Almey Chairman
David Hawkins
Helen Almey
Andy Collins
Karen Harris
Louisa Inglis

Clerk Wendy Murphy
Cllr Peter Neatherway - NNDC
Rev David Chamberlain – Rector of Kinsbeck

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSCENCE

Karl Polglase
Cllr Saul Penfold

2. DECLERATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None Received

3. MINUTES

As proposed by H Almey and seconded by L Inglis and all in favour the minutes of 15th May 2024 which had previously been circulated in draft form were approved and signed as a true record.

4. CHURCHYARD

Rev Chamberlain confirmed that some parts of the churchyard are left wild to encourage wildlife. There has been an inspection carried out by the Wildlife Trust who found many different species of plants and reported that the area provided a good habitat for mini-beasts. The Wildlife Trust representative advised that the wild areas should not be mowed and Rev. Chamberlain stated he would like the old grave area and the back of the church to be left uncut and then to re-assess these areas next year.

However L Inglis proposed ,A Collins seconded and all agreed that the churchyard was becoming very untidy and D Hawkins consulted the wildlife trust website and reported their published guidelines state that wildlife areas are to be left April, May and June only.

As proposed by K. Harris and seconded by H Almey and all in favour it was agreed that before the council would make a contribution towards the cost of cutting the churchyard they would need to see quotes for grass cutting and a map of the churchyard clearly showing the management plan for the whole area. Rev Chamberlain will obtain these and send them to the clerk before the next meeting.

SUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Wendy Murphy Parish Clerk
suffieldpc@gmail.com
www.suffieldpc.co.uk

The clerk pointed out that although Rev. Chamberlain had promised to advise the Parish Council when the Church would be reopened we had received no such communication. Rev. Chamberlain then confirmed that church was now fully opened and they will hold their first baptism since 2013 in September. Two further services will be held in the Church before Christmas. He also informed the Council that after many years of commitment to our church, Patricia Spencer has stepped down and Heather McKewen from Felmingham will be taking on this responsibility.

5. INFORMATION ON MATTERS ARISING

K Harris confirmed that the potholes are going to fixed. The clerk confirmed that part of Brick Kiln Lane verges will be left uncut by Highways.

6. TO ADJORN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

None present

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILORS

Cllr Neatherway confirmed that NNDC were desperately looking for locations to build houses and he had recently been to a climate meeting.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Payments were authorised for the following: -

Chq 100379 Countrystyle Recycling £98.40

Chq 100380 Clerks Wages and expenses £415.80

Chq 100381 NALC training expenses £24.30

As proposed by A Collins and seconded by D Hawkins and all in favour it was agreed that with an amendment to 2.8 to External the new Financial Regulations be adopted.

As proposed by L Inglis and seconded by K Harris and all in favour it was agreed to not move bank accounts to Unity Trust as recommended by Internal Auditor.

9. FOOTPATHS/HIGHWAYS

The abandoned car on Brick Kiln Lane is taxed until 14/11/24 but MOT has expired – It was agreed to wait until the next meeting to discuss this further.

As proposed by D Hawkins and seconded by L Inglis and all in favour it was agreed for D Hawkins to draft a letter to be sent out by the clerk in the 3rd week of October to all farmers regarding the mud on the road.

10. DEFIBRILLATOR

The clerk confirmed that the defibrillator needed electricity – it was agreed for a note to go into the next newsletter asking if anybody would be able to have one on their house in Suffield Green

11. TO NOTE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

Budget

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Post Box – already reported

Cut back of trees – Open Reach cables, Suffield Green

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20th November 2024 7pm

Meeting closed at 20.21

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