



Minutes of Suffield Parish Council Meeting held on 9th November 2022

at 7.00pm

Suffield Village Hall

Cllr Jack Almey - Chairman
Cllr Helen Almey
Cllr Morag Neeld
Cllr Karen Harris
Cllr David Hawkins
Cllr Louise Inglis

Clerk Wendy Murphy
Cllr Saul Penfold

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Andy Collins

2 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensations

None

3 To approve the minutes of the Suffield Parish Council Meeting 17th August 2022

These had previously been circulated in Draft form and were approved and signed as a true record

4 To discuss matters arising from the minutes

Cllr David Hawkins asked if the minutes could be done within 1 week. Wendy confirmed that this could be sent out in Draft form 1 week after the meeting. The agenda will be sent out 1 week before the meeting.

5 Reports from County / District Councillors

Cllr Saul Penfold confirmed that Norfolk County Council were in the middle of doing their budget review and had an extra £60 million deficit to look at. This would mean cuts to Adult and Children services and Environmental cut backs. They were looking at increasing the council tax for Norfolk County Council to no more than 2.99%. Cllr Penfold confirmed that Norfolk Community Fund had grants available for household support. Maximum grants are available of £50 per household with a maximum of 200 households in each application.

Cllr Penfold confirmed that changes were being made to Grammer School Roundabout in North Walsham and Gresham School in Holt had purchased Holt Hall.

Cllr Penfold confirmed that he had no answers yet on the boundaries of the triangle but he would speak to the owner and the police to see if they could serve notice to move the cars that have parked there. He confirmed that he would be attending the coffee morning. He confirmed that Highways had repaired the area on Brick Kiln Lane that was prone to flooding. The owner of the derelict house had been served notice to repair and if this was not adhered to then North Norfolk District Council would be prosecuting the owner.

6 Finance

Wendy confirmed that the balance on the account was £76861.47 as at 9th November 2022.

The following cheques were authorised for payment

100351 Poppy Wreath £20.00

100352 Country Style Recycling (Bottle Bank) £12.00

The Clerk confirmed the bank mandate had been changed.

The Budget was circulated and it was proposed by Cllr Helen Almey and seconded by Cllr Jack Almey to keep the precept the same as last year £1500.00. The Budget was adopted.

Wendy confirmed that she had contacted NALC and was waiting for an email to confirm membership was in place. She confirmed that in 21-22 the fee would have been £80.86. It was proposed by Cllr Jack Almey and seconded by Cllr L Inglis to go ahead with this membership. All agreed.

Wendy confirmed that the LGA have confirmed a pay rise for 2022 back dated to 1st April 2022. This works out on NJC pay scales of £1.00 per hour for part-time staff.

7 To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to speak

None

8 Footpaths/Highways

Councillors discussed the letter received from G Morris re access of Bunnyards Lane. Councillors agreed that as the loke is private property, but parishioners have enjoyed the use of the loke historically, the clerk would write to the landowners and ask permission for parishioners to continue having access and offering to pay for signage to that effect. Cllr Helen Almey to draft a letter for councillors to approve before sending.

The Clerk will send another letter to Stuart Wright at Elm Farm to ask for the sign to be erected and the footpath cleared and marked out.

The clerk to speak to Highways to ask for the signs and footpath to be marked out at the field owned by R. Catling on Brick Kiln Lane.

It was agreed not to go ahead with the purchase of SAM2 but for the clerk to find out from Highways about Quiet Lanes and for the money that Cllr Penfold has put aside to be used for the purchase of signs.

9 Planning Applications

None received

10 Dangerous Driving

A resident had reported to a councillor that they had witnessed a car being driven at 70 miles per hour in the village – it was agreed that this should have been reported to the police

11 Reports from Groups

Cllr David Hawkins asked the PC for advice re the expenditure of the capital raised from land rental by the Bulwer Symonds Trust. The trust was set up to provide funds to help Suffield widows and poor people. At the moment 8-9 residents receive money from this trust once a year. Cllr Hawkins explained he made a proposal to the trustees that some of the money should be made available for other projects of events in the parish. It was suggested the Village Hall committee could apply to the trust for funds

It was agreed that 7 households in the parish could be eligible for the Household support grant. The clerk will apply for this.

12 Training for Councillors

It was agreed that this should take place in January, February next year. The clerk will arrange this and see if any councillors from surrounding villages would like to join Suffield so the costs could be shared.

13 To note items for information/Future Agenda

The clerk confirmed that she has not signed a contract, or had a job description since joining the council as a clerk. This will be looked into and discussed at the next meeting

Meeting closed at 20.57

Date of next meeting Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7pm