

Pulham St Mary Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Pennoyer Centre, on Tuesday 12th September 2023, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Scanlan, Cllr Yaxley, Cllr Boardman, Cllr Langshaw, Cllr Hudson (also attending as District Cllr), Cllr Burridge and Cllr Freeman. The Clerk, District Cllr Thompson and 2 members of the public.

1. Welcome.

Councillor Scanlan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To consider apologies and reason for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Andersson – Hewitt and Cllr McDaniel and County Cllr Wilby.

3. To consider declaration of interests and dispensation by Councillors

Cllr Scanlan declared an interest in matters relating to Pennoyers. Cllr Hudson advised he has in the past installed the Xmas tree in PSM free of charge and is happy to carry out this task again this year (item on agenda for consideration).

4. To approve minutes of the last meetings of 11th July 2023.

The minutes of 11th July 2023 were ratified as a true record of the meeting, a copy was signed by Cllr Scanlan.

5. To discuss matters arising from the last meeting – for information only.

Parish Website.

All news items and statutory records have been updated.

Village/CIL Maintenance and Projects.

Councillor training was completed 24th July 2023 and slides have been circulated to all councillors.

The defibrillator has now been repaired; the clerk will order children pads.

The highway rangers have visited the village, there are still a number of pot holes. The clerk will check what work is outstanding on NCC PSM account.

No update has been received from the LPA on KHph. Both the Clerk and District Cllr Hudson have chased.

The verges in mill lane have been cut but the hedge in Norwich Road has not. Cllr Hudson will forward Land Reg details to the clerk to establish/confirm ownership.

The clerk noted for the records, a complaint was received following the last meeting from a member of the public who did not feel there was sufficient time given for public to present the representation. The Clerk has communicated with the member of public on this matter and apologies as the meeting was particularly busy in July. The member of the public does not wish to take this matter any further.

6. To receive the Chairman's Report.

The chairman updated councillors on progress with procurement of a village handy man. A prospectus was prepared by the chairman and clerk, has now been sent to 2 applicants.

A neighbourhood watch meeting will be organised, this has been delayed because of the summer break.

It is good to see the improved bus service being used. It is hoped that a bus shelter will help to further improve the facility within the village (matter to be discussed later in the meeting).

The chairman has been attending networking meetings and has noted funding from the district council may be available for the parish council to apply for. Possibly to support moving forward with the community shed project on South Green recreation ground.

The chairman is working with Cllr Hewitt from Pulham Market pc, on investigating the reestablishment of the Beckvale community car scheme.

It is good to see the Falcon reopen, both public houses in neighbouring Pulham Market are establishing good food trade.

Cllr Scanlan continues to work with the Pennoyer Centre, who are continuing to promote the establishment for community use.

Conversations have commenced with the new Rector in Pulham Market and PSM armed forces champion to organise Armistice Day commemoration.

The chairman will be attended the induction day for the new rector on 26th Sept and the Mayor of Diss civic service on the 17th Sept.

7. To receive County and District Councillors Reports

Reports were received from County Cllr Wilby and District Cllr Thompson, copies attached.

District Cllr Hudson noted congratulations to all those involved in Pulham Market Carnival and to all volunteers who took part in events over the Summer.

The District Cllr noted his condolences on the recent passing of Frank Allen, Frank has always been a driving force in community fundraising and community events.

Broadland and south Norfolk Council have partnered with iChoosr Ltd to deliver Solar Together in Norfolk. Details can be found at <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/solartogether>

Great to see the 36a and 36b being well used, there is still sufficient demand to provide 2 buses for the 7.30am service. And the occupancy level during the remainder of the day shows the service is being well supported. It is hoped that by continuing to use this service it will establish a demand and reason for the route to be maintained.

8. Public Forum

LF provided a report for YEP – the scheme attracted young persons every week during the holidays, it was not possible to complete all the days out, due to a delay on receipt of DBS's but these will continue in the October ½ term and over weekends.

The YEP took part in the Pulham Market Carnival and won the best walking float. There were 3 stalls at the event, one promotion stall, one selling books and the third carrying out face painting. These helped to raise funds for the project. Saffron Housing Trust have donated a Playstation and wish to fund a Halloween Party for the project. This will be organised at the Pennoyer Centre.

There are currently 51 young people on the register, a third from each of the Pulham villages with a further third from surrounding villages.

AC as a volunteer at the Pennoyer Centre, provided background information on the forthcoming Silver Sunday event. This is a national event, at the Pennoyer Centre there will be a programme of seated Pilates, flower arranging, a film and lunch. Last year there were 20 attendees and 10 additional volunteers.

A discussion took place on whether the YEP could be involved with the Silver Sunday event, to promote multi generation engagement. This is certainly an opportunity for future events and will be looked into.

District Cllr Thompson and 1 member of the public left and the meeting reopened.

9. Items for discussion and ratification

• Current Planning Applications

2022/0873 The Country Store – Request to consider for approval submitted 15/6/22 – **Approved with condition.**

2022/1353 Land South of Norwich Rd – **Objection submitted 22/8/22 Amendments received January 2023, Objections confirmed 24/1/23**

2022/1630 & 1631 Barn at the Beeches, Station Rd – **Support submitted 29/9/22**

2022/2394 Land South of Chestnut Rd. Erection of 9 dwellings – **Objection submitted by 14/1/23**

2023/1811 - Land at Ashmere Bush Green – Erection of agricultural building – **A request to consider for approval submitted 12/7/23**

New Applications

2023/2247 Webb Cottage, North Green Rd – Lime rendering in white – **Submitted support 7/8/23**

2023/2242 Comrie, South Green – Single storey rear and side extensions – **Submitted support 7/8/23**

• To consider work required following North Green playpark ROSPA report – Safety Matting

Councillors discussed alternative costs and a proposal to enhance the playground with a picnic bench. Cllr Hudson proposed £1500.00 is set aside to purchase materials for matting to replace the most damage areas and a picnic bench. A working party will then install and repair where needed. This was seconded by Cllr Freeman and unanimously agreed.

• To further consider bid for parish partnership funding. Bus Stop

The clerk has met with NCC preferred contractor, the cost of a 3 bay shelter and solar lighting will be approximately £5,500.00. Council unanimously agreed the clerk should submit a bid for 50% match funding using the quotation provided. The clerk will procure additional quotes to ensure best value. Funds are available to support the provision of a shelter from CIL funds. The Clerk will communicate with the Pennoyer Trustees on use of the land and potentially relocating the current bench if the council are successful with their bid.

• To consider Xmas Tree in the village 2023

Council thanked Cllr Hudson for his offer to install and light a Xmas tree, Cllr Yaxley proposed setting aside £200 to purchase a tree, this was seconded by Cllr boardman and unanimously agreed.

• To consider supporting Silver Sunday 2023

Cllr Freeman proposed supporting this event and providing a grant of £200.00, this was seconded by Cllr Langshaw and unanimously agreed.

• To consider increase in tariff by n power from 1/9/23 and alternative supply quotations.

N Power have increased the variable tariff for the streetlight supply from £855.26 to £1,376.96 pa, the clerk has procured competitive quotations from SSE and a further quotation from Eon Next. Tariff provided are live and will need to be negotiated by the clerk. Currently a 12 month fixed cost from SSE will be approximately £965.19 pa. Cllr Hudson proposed that, if possible, the clerk negotiate a 36 month fixed tariff at a similar cost with SSE, this was unanimously agreed by councillors.

• To consider applications for day to day village maintenance work

Item moved to the October meeting until application have been received.

- **To consider comment on ASB public space protection order.**
Council received notice; no comment required.
- **To receive update from Norfolk Playing Field Association.**
Council received update.
- **To consider renewal registration of assets of community value – currently post office and Pennoyers.**
Council still believes the establishment are of community value and unanimously agreed the clerk should submit application to renew.

10. Accounts

- **To provide details on change of BT line rental policy**
BT have discontinued their line rental discount policy, Council will keep this benefit until it expires at the end of the year and have received an additional credit of £49.20 as compensation.
- **To receive external audit for 2022/23**
The external audit has been completed; council received notice; there are no recommendations. The clerk has displayed the completion notice and certificate on the website and in the notice board.
- **To ratify income and expenditure for August and Sept 2023**
Council unanimously agreed to ratify all income and expenditure for August and September 2023. Cllr Langshaw inspected and signed approval of the Back reconciliation for 31/7/23 and 31/8/23.

The balance following presentation of the listed Income and expenditure will be £57,429.79

Cllr Andersson Hewitt approved the payments for August, raised by the Clerk. ACTION the Clerk will raise the bank transfers required for September payments and Cllr Freeman will approve all payments.

Aug Sept – No Income

August Expenditure

EXPENDITURE:	Gross	VAT	Net	Description
G Albon	23.38	3.90	19.48	Repair of drain cover in Playground
G Albon	20.00	-	20.00	Materials
T T JONES	51.50	8.58	42.92	Labour
YEP	1,587.41	-	1,587.41	Streetlight maintainance contract
M Scanlan	21.48	3.58	17.90	Support of youth provision
PKF Littlejohn	252.00	42.00	210.00	Reimburse for Bedding plants from
L Shulver	581.00	-	581.00	External Audit 2022 23
L Shulver	33.40	-	33.40	Clerks Salary
L Shulver - reimbursement	143.86	21.98	121.88	Admin Expenses
N Power	67.33	3.21	64.12	Heart internet - Web Hosting
				Streetlights July
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2,781.36	£83.25	£2,698.11	£2,781.36

EXPENDITURE:	Gross	VAT	Net	Description
BT	1.16	0.19	0.97	credit for removal of line rental and charge to 23/9/23
Excite	932.88	155.48	777.40	GM June and July
SNC	1,337.80	222.97	1,114.83	Dog Bin Emptying
the Pennoyer Centre	45.00	-	45.00	Room Hire July
the Pennoyer Centre	474.00	79.00	395.00	Reimburse defillator
HMRc	3.00	-	3.00	PAYE Mths 4-6
L shulver	581.60	-	581.60	Salary
L shulver	38.60	-	38.60	Admin Expenses
N Power	66.54	3.17	63.37	Streetligh August 23
Wave	20.12	-	20.12	Water Allotments
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£3,500.70	£460.81	£3,039.89	£3,500.70

11. To receive other reports.

Flood Mitigation within the village

Update received from Steve Halls Highways. Work has commenced in Dirty Lane and Doctors Lane clearing ditches and mitigating flood risks

The environmental team were inspecting the beck for signs of pollution.

Youth Engagement Programme

Report provided during open forum

Sports and Recreation Committee.

A meeting will be organised to establish interest in the community shed programme.

Footpath Warden.

Report provided – copy attached.

Tree Warden

No further report.

SAM

No SAM report this month, the machine has been moved to a new location.

Armed Forces Champion.

The Chairman advised several members are meeting for regular catch ups.

To consider the date of next meeting

the next meeting will be held on 3rd October 2023 at the Pennoyer Centre, commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed at 21.00

Signed Date.....

Fares on all Norwich Park & ride services will be even cheaper from this September, making it easier and more affordable to travel car free into the city centre by bus. The new fares will be introduced, thanks to money that Norfolk County Council has secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) to help improve bus services across the county. From Monday 4th September, passengers will be able to travel for one price at any time of the day. The new fares have been designed to provide more flexible fare options for those choosing to travel independently, as a couple, as a family or with friends. The new fare coincides with the re-opening of Postwick park & ride, which further enhances the service, providing five out of town sites for those wishing to visit Norwich, from all major routes into the city.

Seventy new electric buses will be arriving in Norwich this autumn as part of a multi-million-pound investment in greener vehicles. Work has started to convert First Bus Eastern Counties Roundtree Way depot into an all-electric depot, which will make it just one of three of its kind in the country, outside of London. The new electric buses – 11 single-decker and 59 double-deckers will be made by Northern Ireland company Wrightbus. The buses will save 60 tonnes of tailpipe emissions each year. First Bus have invested £22.5m into the new fleet while Norfolk County Council secured a further £14.7m from the governments Zero Emission Bus Regional Area Scheme.

Encouraging more people to use the bus travel and other sustainable options is key to our ambitious aims of achieving net-zero in Norfolk by 2030. NCC has committed to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions on its estates by 2030, but within its wider area, to work with partners towards 'carbon neutrality'. This also supports the government's ambition for a net zero country by 2050. We will achieve this by implementing carbon conscious ways of working across our buildings and supply chain, putting in place the right infrastructure across the county to support the move towards net-zero; and by working together with partners to lead and inspire our colleagues, citizens, communities and businesses to take action and play their part in protecting Norfolk for future generations.

NCC Hazardous Waste Events are back for 2023. A series of free drop of days are set to start in September to allow people to dispose of hazardous waste at some of Norfolk's recycling centres. Visitors to seven participating recycling centres will be able to drop off items including wood preservatives, insecticides, weed killers, paint, thinners, varnishes and special cleaning products. To determine if a substance is hazardous, check product labels for words or symbols that indicate caution, warning, danger, poison or toxic. The first event is on the weekend of September 9th and 10th 9am-4pm at the Norwich South Recycling Centre which is the nearest for us in the south of the county. For all details and dates for the other events please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk

Congratulations to all of the youngsters across the county (over 9,000) that signed up and took part in the Summer Reading Challenge organised by our library service during the Summer Holidays. The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays and aims to support children's reading for pleasure and prevent a dip in reading over the six-week break. As well as supporting literacy, reading is a fantastic way to promote mental wellbeing and have fun.

Billingford Mill is having an open day to the public on Sunday 24th September, it's well worth a visit to find out more about this local landmark in the Waveney Valley.

Best Wishes

Martin

MW report for October 23

Along with many others I recently attended the official opening of The Toddler Play Area on Harleston rec. It was opened by The Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt MBE who made the day very special by commenting about Harleston's resilience throughout the Covid pandemic, the tremendous community spirit in the town and thanking the many local volunteers for what they do. There were many toddlers there to help Lady Dannatt with the cutting of the ribbon and to show us all how they use and enjoy the new equipment. A special thanks to Harleston Town Council all of its staff and everyone else involved with this project.

The final round of LED upgrades to Norfolk County Council's Street Lighting is underway, cutting CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes a year. The work, which will replace traditional High Intensity Discharge (HID) lighting with the latest generation of LED lanterns, will take place over the next 24 months, and involve replacing 16,800 HID lights with LEDs. When complete, 100% of NCCs streetlighting will use low energy LEDs. The final phase of the move to low energy LEDs will save an estimated 1,099,032 kWh of energy per year, equating to approximately £380,000 p.a. at current electricity prices. This represents an estimated carbon saving of 227 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year as a result of the final stage of switching from HID to LED streetlighting.

With the bird nesting season over, people across Norfolk have a chance to do their bit to stop flooding and keep water flowing across their properties. Small, simple steps that ensure water can drain away from your home can cut down the likelihood of flooding, starting with tasks as simple as keeping drains, ditches, and watercourses clear and able to flow freely. After a year's growth, many ditches and watercourses will benefit from clearing branches, and cutting back new undergrowth. Now bird nesting season is over, early autumn is the prime time for property owners to put in a little work to keep their properties safe. Outside the home, if residents spot any blocked or broken drains on Norfolk's highways, they can report it via www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding allowing Norfolk's Highways Team to clear them and keep our roads open. Also now is the time of year to cut back your hedges and trees away from footpaths and the roadside so that people can use the footpaths safely and that vehicles can use the whole width of the roads.

Norfolk's £3bn tourism industry is to get an annual boost of more than £100,000 a year in the hope this will inject millions of pounds more into the county. County Hall agreed to the increased spend as part of hopes to become part of a new initiative that could unlock more Westminster cash which the county cannot currently bid for. Pete Waters, executive director of Visit East of England, said: "I'd like to thank NCC for this investment in tourism services. This will ultimately benefit and support our local destinations and businesses, the stars in our tourism firmament". It is hoped the new initiative could create 9,700 further jobs connected to tourism and help make Norfolk one of the top destinations in the country for visitors.

NCCs award-winning Adult Education Services offers free part-time one-year courses for students aged 19 or over who do not have a 1-9 in GCSE English and/or Maths. Last year 111 people took GCSEs with the service, 84% of maths GCSE students achieved Grade 4 or above and 73% of English GCSE students achieved grade 4 or above. The service also offers a range of other courses including access courses for learners of all ages which are available on a flexible basis during the day, evening, or online. Find out more by visiting the Adult Learning Website.

Best Wishes

Martin

Cllr Delme Thompson

Report for Pulham ST Mary Parish Council September 2023.

Congrats re carnival!

Many congratulations to all who took part in , and helped organise the carnival last weekend, and a special mention to the Youth Club team for winning the walking float award!

Funding for Community Projects

Applications for **Community Action Fund** close on 22 September.

Application window for next season TBC.

Town and Parish Forums Zoom this Thursday, 14 Sept at 2pm (Invitation issued by email). In-person Town and Parish Summit at The Horizon Centre, **November 9th from 9:30am – 12:30pm.**

Institution of Rev'd Carl 26 Sept in Dickleburgh.

Ukrainian & Afghan Families Scheme

Central Government has provided 1.4 million pounds towards purchasing up to 10 new homes for the purposes of housing Afghan and Ukrainian families. That money provides 40% of the total cost, with 60% coming from council finances. But after purchase we will own 100% of the properties that have been bought. The proposal is to buy a small number of properties in a number of different locations.

Nutrient Neutrality – Norfolk

In essence, Nutrient issues will not be a material consideration when assessing planning applications. It will require the Levelling Up Bill to receive assent by 7th November. More to follow.

Pylon Consultation

SNDC have lodged formal objections as part of the recent consultation, and will continue to fight the current plans.

For broader awareness - Sale of South Norfolk House £250 - £750K Impact of recent events. Given the level of wider interest in this matter and potential knock-on effects for all South Norfolk residents, I wanted to update the Parish Council on some important recent developments.

Background / Recap

In May 2022 the decision was taken to sell South Norfolk House as part of the relocation to the Horizon Centre. The rules required the property to be marketed for use as an office for 6 months, before bids for alternative use could be considered. This was done, and no bids were received. Bids for other uses were then invited.

Throughout the process Long Stratton Town Council were kept fully informed and declined to bid for the property. In April 2023, 11 months after the decision to sell, a meeting was held to recommend acceptance of a bid to develop the property. At this meeting the town council requested additional time to scope a bid for a community hub – which would sit alongside two existing community centres in Long Stratton. SNC agreed to a 90-day extension for the community bidder to present their proposal.

In the following three months the community bidder failed to provide any proof of funding, confirm the legal entity that would complete the transaction, or provide any details of how the community project would be run as a viable concern. During this period additional bids from other parties have been received.

An external reviewer assessing *all* bids received concluded that the community project was un-proceedable.

A deadline of 30 June 2023 was set for all bidders to provide the required information so South Norfolk Councillors and officers could make a decision on the most appropriate bid to accept, at the full council meeting on 24th July.

Following the issuing of this deadline, Long Stratton Town Council submitted a formal application to have the building declared an asset of community value. On receiving such an application, the Council is duty bound to pause any sale, and undertake an 8-week process to consider the application.

Financial Impact

£63,000 running costs (minimal heating, insurance, security, maintenance) have been incurred during the 90-day extension granted to the Long Stratton community bidder. (Approx. £20,000 a month).

The 8-week pause required to review the asset of community value application will result in taxpayers funding an additional £40,000 of running costs.

If the application is granted, this will trigger a further 6 months grace period for the community bidder to provide proof of funds and project viability – adding a further £120,000.

If the application is dismissed, advisors estimate it is likely to be Easter 2024 before a sale to one of the waiting bidders could be completed now – meaning taxpayers will have funded a minimum of £200-250K additional costs as a result of recent events.

With the value of development land declining, risk of current bidders withdrawing due to the delay, and loss of interest on funds that would have been received from the sale last April, the true cost of affording the grace period to the community bid, and subsequent behaviour, is likely to be in the region of £500-750K+.

At the full council meeting on 24 July, there was consensus that while the Community Hub project is admirable in principle, every effort should be made to limit further costs to taxpayers.

Kind Regards

Cllr Delme Thompson