

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 14th November 2023, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Scanlan, Cllr Boardman, Cllr Hudson (also attending as District Cllr), Burrridge, Cllr Andersson – Hewitt, Cllr Langshaw, Cllr Yaxley, Cllr McDaniel and Cllr Freeman. The Clerk, County Cllr Wilby, 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.

No apologies were accepted received.

3. To consider declaration of interests and dispensation by Councillors

No new declarations were submitted.

4. To approve minutes of the last meetings of 3rd October 2023.

The minutes of 3rd October 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.

Asset of Community Value Nominations have been submitted for the Post Office and Pennoyers, a decision will be made on whether the assets can be listed by 19/12/23.

6. To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman noted that drainage improvements work had commenced on Station Road. County Cllr Wilby confirmed work was on schedule.

The improved bus service continues to be a great asset to the village and is being well used.

A Neighbourhood Watch (NW) meeting has been organised for 22/11/23 at the Pennoyer Centre. A presentation will be given advising of the benefits of being part of a NW scheme and it is hoped the event will encourage more volunteers to come forward.

7. To receive County and District Councillors Reports

County Cllr Wilby congratulated the Youth Club on their continued success. He advised he was pleased to attend Remembrance Day services in both Harleston and Dickleburgh.

The County Cllr provided his report (copy attached). He updated Council on the County Deal, devolution, that is due to be voted on 12/12/23. He advised that the salt bins have all been filled and the first run was completed during the recent cold spell.

District Cllr Thompson provided his report, copy attached. Pulham St Mary the virgin, Church, is currently seeking funding for roof repairs. Cllr Thompson confirmed that it may be possible for the PCC to apply for district council grants, dependent on church use at time of application. Cllr Thompson provided more information on the recent decision to accept the commercial developers bid over the community bid for the redundant Long Stratton district office. Response on provision of warm room funding for this year has still not been released.

District Cllr Hudson acknowledged his disappointment on the decision by the District Council to accept the commercial developers bid to redevelop the Long Stratton ex council office site. This feels this is a 'hammer blow' for the community. He also reported on his personal concerns on the current Nutrient Neutrality programme.

The District Cllr has received feedback from the LPA on the Kings Head compliance with planning condition 4 order. Remedial work has still not been carried out despite the deadline for completion being extended.

Cllr Hudson advised that he has personally funded extending delivery of the December edition of the Pulhams Magazine to all parishioners of both villages. It is hoped that this will help to increase ongoing subscription, which is currently £6.00 pa

Pride of Place community grants are now open again for applications.

8. Public Forum

The meeting was adjourned for the public forum

An update was gratefully received on positive feedback on the success of Silver Sunday.

Correspondence has been received from a parishioner raising concerns of drainage issues during the recent heavy rain. The Clerk has contacted Norfolk County Council Highways but has not received an update. **ACTION** Council instructed this matter is followed up and details of best contact at the County Council is provided to the parishioner.

Members of the public were in attendance to discuss ongoing flood issues occurring along the Beck. Noting the dam effect of bridges along the route through the village. A meeting is being organised for residents impacted and Water Management Agents to discuss concerns, on 24th November 2023. The Parish Council Chairman will attend.

District Cllr Hudson will provide details of contacts and helpful support on flooding help/reporting. **ACTION** The Clerk will add the Councils social media platforms.

Cllr Freeman reported a damaged manhole that NCC have been unable to identify. **ACTION** Details will be forwarded to County Councillor Wilby to follow up.

County Cllr Wilby, District Cllr Thompson and 2 parishioners left the meeting. The meeting was re adjourned

9. Items for discussion and ratification

• Current Planning Applications

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- **Approved 4/10/23**

2023/1811 - Land at Ashmere Bush Green – Erection of agricultural building – Support submitted 12/7/23 – **Approved with conditions 23/10/23**

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

Approved with conditions 3/11/23

2022/2394 Amendment Land South of Chestnut Rd. Erection of 9 dwellings – **Objection submitted by 14/1/23 – Clerk to submit objection to amendments on 4/10/23. There is no affordable housing; an alternative layout of the site could provide greater than 10 units and allow for an affordable housing element.**

2023/2865 15 Norwich Road single storey rear extension. **Clerk to submit support 4/10/23.**

New Applications

2023/2884 Conversion of former mess hut to 3 x dwellings (retrospective) – **ACTION No objections raised Clerk to submit support 16/11/23**

- **To consider request from allotment tenant (plot 4&6)**
Council unanimously agreed to allow a small shed and bath/wildlife on plots. **ACTION** The Clerk will advise tenant of responsibly to maintain safe practice and remind them of their sole liability for the plot and content.
- **To receive consultation on Greater Norwich Local Plan modifications. To consider if comment is required.**
Council received notice; no comment required.
- **To receive notice of review of polling districts and places for 2023/24.**
Council received notice; no comment required.
- **To receive update on Parish Partnership bid for bus shelter, consider actions if required**
As land owners, the Pennoyer Trustees can-not provide permission to allow an install of a bus shelter by the bus stop adjacent The Street. All documents for the application for parish partnership funding to install a bus shelter have been completed by the Clerk. **ACTION** The Clerk will contact GO NCC and discuss if the bus stop could be relocated to the village green.
- **To receive update on Man Shed meeting and consider actions**
The Chairman and Cllr Freeman met with Henry Gowman UKMSA Ambassador for Norfolk, Chair of pdmensshed.org – Information provided will be further explored, this matter remains ongoing.
- **To received correspondence from Pulham Surgery PPG**
Council received correspondence from Pulham Surgery PPG, advising of the current recruitment campaign to promote membership. **ACTION** The Clerk will promote their advert on their social media platforms.
- **To receive update on applications for day-to-day village maintenance work and consider actions**
No applicant has come forward, the Chairman is currently pursuing an avenue of interest.
- **To receive update on Beckvale Community Car scheme, consider receipt of balancing funds.**
Council have received £2,347.52 balancing funds following the closure Beckvale Community Car Scheme. **ACTION** The Clerk will file formal notice from SNC of agreed allocation of residual funds and the money received will be set aside for a future community project, providing assessable service.
- **To consider National Joint Council, salary increment to Clerks Salary 2023/24**
Councillor BurrIDGE proposed the proposed NJP scale pay increment of £1,925 pro rata pa, to be back dated to 1st April 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Yaxley and unanimously agreed by Council.
- **To receive draft budget update for 2023/24.**
Council received draft budget prepared by the Clerk and a request for support for 2024 from PCC. Councillors will consider the document and raise any questions before further consideration at the December meeting.

10. Accounts

- **To ratify income and expenditure for November 2023**
Council unanimously agreed to ratify all income and expenditure for November 2023.

The balance following presentation of the listed Income and expenditure will be £65,561.59

October Income

INCOME:	Amount	Description
SNC	£12,836.94	2nd Precept payment
Allotment Rents	£99.36	Plots 8,10,16
TOTAL INCOME	£12,936.30	

October Expenditure

EXPENDITURE:	Gross	VAT	Net	Description
Pennoyers	200.00	-	200.00	Silver Sunday contribution to community engagement
PSM Charities	400.00	-	400.00	South Green Ground Rent
N Power	98.40	4.69	93.71	Sept Streetlights
BT	25.18	4.19	20.99	Broadband and call pack to 23/11/23
Excite solutions	932.88	155.48	777.40	Grounds Maintenance August/Sept
The Pennoyer Centre	45.00	-	45.00	Room Hire 3/10/23
NBB Recycled Furniture	930.00	155.00	775.00	Bench for North Green play park
L Shulver	777.40	-	777.40	Clerks Salary including back dated
L Shulver	25.60	-	25.60	Admin
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£3,434.46	£319.36	£3,115.10	£3,434.46

Council received the bank reconciliation to 31/10/23 and the November accounts, prepared by the Clerk. Cllr McDaniel proposed accepting the accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Langshaw and unanimously Cllr Freeman approved the back reconciliation.

ACTION the Clerk will raise the bank transfers listed for November payments and Cllr Andersson – Hewitt will approve all payments.

11. To receive other reports.

Flood Mitigation – no further reports

Youth Engagement Programme

The youth club's current membership is now 63, with an average of between 15/25 attending Monday night youth club sessions, and 10 volunteers. Thanks to funding from an Adnams Community Trust Grant, the youth club are now able to offer a number of trips and with procurement of a grant from Tenec Trust, the club now have the funding for next year's club rental fees.

Sports and Recreation Committee.

Cllr Freeman advised new matting has now been installed at the play area in North Green Road, along with a bench providing seating for 8 people. During spring 2024 it is hoped to carry out further improvements to the play area.

Footpath Warden.

No further reports.

Tree Warden

No further report.

SAM

No SAM report this month.

Armed Forces Champion.

No further reports.

To consider the date of next meeting

the next meeting will be held on 12th December 2023 at the Pennoyer Centre, commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed at 21.15

Signed Date.....

Earlier this year, NCC announced it would receive further funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to run the Household Support Fund until 31st March 2024. The council is receiving £13.4m from central government and adding an additional £400,000 to make the total programme of support worth £13.8m. We are working closely with district, borough and city councils, VCSE and public sector partners to identify and implement a range of support measures to meet the needs of vulnerable households. As part of the Household Support Fund, all 47 of Norfolk libraries will be offering free winter support items until the end of March 2024 (while stocks lasts). These include, Hot water bottles, Blankets, Toiletries To Go bags, Tricky Period bags, Hot drinks and Just a Cuppa sessions. All details can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries Details of the Household Support Fund are at www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving

NCC has launched 15 new school and community teams, aimed at helping schools and families whose children need some extra support with their education. The teams are part of a £100m of investment in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Norfolk and will work with parents and all of the professionals supporting children's learning, to help make sure children get any extra support they need as early as possible. It's part of the council's Local First inclusion programme, which is building on improvements already made in education for children with SEND in Norfolk. The programme aims the right support to children and families earlier. A key element of the programme is to make sure that mainstream schools and early years providers have the help they need to support children with SEND, so that more children can learn in mainstream education alongside other children their age.

The Busseys family, a well-known business leader in Norfolk, has partnered with Norfolk County Council to deliver a grant to support tree planting across Norfolk, in this first year, Busseys is providing £10,000 to support anyone in Norfolk looking to plant trees that deliver a community benefit. The maximum grant per application is £2,500. The Busseys community tree grant contributes towards the council's net zero target, it will enhance valuable green space for local people to enjoy. New woodland and trees outside of woodland will help to improve nature recovery, providing multiple ecosystem services such as health and wellbeing, clean air and food. The deadline for applications is January 4th and all details are available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/

NCC is in the running to lead music education services across Norfolk and Suffolk, after deciding to submit a bid to lead a two-county music hub. The council, which currently leads the Norfolk Music Hub, will bid to the Arts Council to be the lead organisation for the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub from September 2024. If successful, it would secure the council's role in music education in the county, with a specific focus on supporting those with special educational needs and those from more disadvantaged communities. The Arts Council England funds Music Hubs across the country, on behalf of the Department of Education. It has decided to reduce the number of Music Hubs across England from 118 to 43, including a combined hub for Norfolk and Suffolk. A decision on our bid is expected in April 2024.

Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Council leaders are urging National Grid to reconsider their preferred onshore option following findings of a recent review. The report by Horns Energy Networks reviews the options considered by National Grid, including the preferred option of a pylon line between Norwich and Tilbury. The total length of the line would be 183 kilometres. This would consist of around 158 kilometres of new overhead line supported by 520 pylons. Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, accept that the transmission network in East Anglia needs reinforcing to support the transition to net zero and provide energy security. However, they remain concerned that the need for and timing of, the current proposals is uncertain and not robust. All three councils have expressed their concerns that the option of pylons will harm the local economy, environment and the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Best Wishes

Martin

Cllr Delme Thompson:
Report for Pulham Mary Parish Council, November 2023.

Flooding

Following calls from several residents, I have asked Highways for an update on their drain clearing program and resources available to communities – on behalf of several villages. I have also reached out to the Water Management officer at South Norfolk Council requesting an update on current mitigation measures in the ward and future plans. I will ensure the council is updated with any feedback received.

In the meantime, I encourage all to log issues via the County Council website.

<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysdefect/?s=road&t=flood> to ensure the true scale of local issues is registered – and kept front of mind.

Church Repair Appeal

Following conversations with Rev'd Carl a few weeks ago, I have shared with Julie and the team a list of potential funding routes that SNC recommend contacting in the first instance.

Warm Rooms Funding Officers have confirmed that *Winter Pressures* funding will be available, and have indicated that details on criteria and application process should be made public in the coming days. I will forward any further updates, for circulation.

Business Awards Nominations are open now for the 2024 awards. Businesses can nominate themselves for one or more awards in 10 categories and request a marketing pack at awards@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk to encourage their customers to vote for them.

Members of the public can nominate and vote for their favourite 'Retailer of the Year' and 'Pub of the Year' and have the chance to win £100 of shopping and pub vouchers in prize draws. Full details can be found on the SNC homepage.

South Norfolk House Following a detailed and rightly robust debate at full council on Monday 6 November, a cross party majority voted to pass a motion that:

- Confirms a Big Sky as the preferred bidder for the purchase of South Norfolk House.
- Will see a *Long Stratton Community Centre Project Group* established, involving representatives of local parish councils and other stakeholders.
- Allocates funds to develop a feasibility study and site location study for a new community centre.

Having inherited this situation on my election last May, there is no mistaking the desire to ensure cultural activities and community engagement are strengthened as part of the wider regeneration planned for the Long Stratton – much of which I agree with. A cultural hub 10mins from my house would be fantastic for my family – as it would for many others. However, our duty as councillors here is to bring objective assessment under legal guidance to identify the best commercial option for sale of a council asset, whatever personal preferences we may hold.

I had hoped the community bid would emerge as the clear leader in terms of commercial viability *as well as* community support. Clear evidence of funds and a detailed plan could have ended the discussion, swiftly, and I would wager – would have received much cross party support.

Sadly, the feedback from the independent assessor was that due to a lack of information and the bidder's stance over recent months, (the precise details of which councillors are still required to keep confidential) - this bid, along with others, could not, objectively, be considered 'processable'.

With significant concerns flagged, there was insufficient justification for casting aside multiple viable bids and effectively asking residents to continue funding £20,000 a month for a deteriorating building, in the hope that details which the community bid team had repeatedly failed to share, and evidence that has not been forthcoming for the last 6 months, may suddenly appear. Regrettably, it is time to move on and take a different approach.

To that end, I was pleased to join Liberal, Labour and some Conservative colleagues in supporting a motion to establish a dedicated community working group, and ensure additional funds are allocated (on top of the funds already allocated for the regeneration) to help scope improved community resources in Long Stratton.

A complex situation, which I hope all involved will learn lessons from, to best serve our communities.

Kind Regards

Cllr Delme Thompson