

STOKE FERRY ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held.
On Wednesday 18th October 2023, at 7pm in the
Village Hall, Lynn Road, Stoke Ferry

181/23 To record the names of those present

Cllr S Lintern – Chair, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr L Juniper-Solley, Cllr D Robinson, Cllr G Reeve and Cllr D Stocking.

4 members of the public
G Robinson – Clerk and RFO

182/23 Openness and transparency notice - The Parish Council record the meeting.

Aggressive or abusive behaviour towards members of the Parish Council, staff or members of the public will not be tolerated. If this happens you will be asked to leave the meeting and if necessary, the meeting will be suspended. Member of the public asked to only speak when they are permitted to do so.

The Chair reminded those present of the above statement.

183/23 To receive and consider acceptance for apologies of absence

It was **resolved** to accept apologies from Cllr M Storey, Cllr A Howard, Cllr S Collins and Cllr T Mann.

184/23 To receive declarations of interest from members or to note dispensations where applicable

Cllr Reeve declared an interest in village hall items.

185/23 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st June 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Reeve proposed that the minutes should be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and all agreed. It was duly **resolved** to adopt the minutes.

186/23 To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 1st September 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Taylor that the minutes should be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson, and all agreed with the exception of Cllr Juniper-Solley, who abstained as she was absent from that meeting. It was duly **resolved** to adopt the minutes.

187/23 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 20th September 2023 and to note matters arising (Clerk's Report)

It was proposed by Cllr Juniper-Solley that the minutes should be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor, and all agreed with the exception of Cllr Lintern, who abstained as she was absent from the meeting. It was duly **resolved** to adopt the minutes.

188/23 To Adjourn the meeting to allow for public comments (in accordance with standing order 3(j) and 3 (k) item shall not exceed 15 minutes).

A parishioner reported that the footpath on Wretton Road is overgrown, the Clerk was asked to report this.

A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for hosting the recent First Aid for village organisations to attend, it was felt that it was very good. This thanks needs to be past to the provider.

It was noted that the sign near the old duke has still not been fixed. Clerk to follow this up. A parishioner noted that the Village Hall sign is getting bad. Cllr Reeve will obtain quotes for a new sign and bring these to the next meeting for consideration.

189/23 Cllr Sue Lintern (BCKLWN) and Cllr Martin Storey, (NCC), if in attendance

Cllr Storey gave apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

Cllr Lintern thanked the Blue Bell for hosting the recent roadshow event for the village and it was very well attended. She does have some leaflets to give out to people if it is felt appropriate to those that may be access support from the local authority services.

Cllr Lintern had been asked to review with the Borough Council the timings to challenge parking fines but noted these timings are set in law and nothing that can be done. Freebridge and empty houses – Cllr Lintern noted that housing problems have been inherited and there is a new board of directors who are surveying the housing stock condition, in particular they are assessing empty homes to see if they are viable to update. Freebridge are prioritising housing repairs for residents and after that they will assess the empty homes. Cllr Lintern noted that there are 6 houses in her ward that have issues. A parishioner discussed a particular issue she is having with overgrown garden neighbouring her property. – Clerk to report this matter to Freebridge.

Cllr Lintern noted that the Borough Council opposed the incinerator at Wisbech. 2Ag have approved to fix the wall at the sandy path.

Cllr Taylor discussed the oil club charge and noted that it was 2p a litre cheaper (at the time of checking). The price comparison for oil was between Thinking Fuel (an initiative of NCC and The Oil Club, with Thinking Fuel the cheapest.

Cllr Lintern discussed the actual set up of the oil club and noted that the scheme is reviewing procedures to make improvements if necessary.

190/23 To consider for approval any action in relation to the land transfer of Limehouse Common

The Clerk reported that there was no update to give at the moment. Councillors requested that the Clerk emails the owner directly.

191/23 To consider planning applications that require Parish Council comment

- a) 23/01416/LB - Application for listed building consent to demolish current wall running along the front of the property and replace with a traditional Saxon Wrought Iron Style Metal Railing and Gate at Deanscroft High Street Stoke Ferry King's Lynn Norfolk PE33 9SF – deadline 24th October 2023

Councillors discussed this proposal and felt this will be a vast improvement.

Cllr Stocking proposed to support the application, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson and all agreed. It was **resolved** to support the application.

192/23 To consider financial items

- Bank account balance £30,268.13
- Income None
- To approve payments

Payee	Regards	Net	VAT	Gross
G Robinson	September wage	330.90	0	330.90
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	52.60	0	52.60
D Limbert	September work	100.00	0	100.00
CGM	30.9.23	354.16	70.83	424.99
NPower	Electric	145.75	7.29	153.04
A Stannard	Bin emptying	25.00	0	25.00
A Stannard	Removal of ground waste	400.00	0	400.00
A Stannard	Removal of ground waste	160.00	0	160.00
BCKLWN	Election charge	45.50	9.10	54.60
Norfolk ALC	Training	100.00	20.00	120.00

It was **resolved** that the above payments should be made in line with the budget.

- Receive bank Reconciliation – All payments are reconciled.
- To receive the External Auditors closure review letter – this was noted.
- To consider External Auditors Limited Assurance Opinion for 2022/23

The Chair read out the following statement:

‘On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Please see below. Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: We are unable to complete our review work on the AGAR and supporting documentation as a result of correspondence received in relation to 2022/23 and/or prior years. Once we have finalised our review and completed any additional work arising from that correspondence, a final report will be provided with the certificate of completion detailing any qualifications and ‘other’ matters. Our fee note for the limited assurance review will be issued when we certify completion.’

193/23 To approve the register of decisions made on email to be ratified at the next council meeting

Cllr Lintern noted that the Buckingham Drive area is looking good now that it has all been cleared. Clerk to continue following this matter up with C Wilson at the Borough Council. The community pay back team have loved doing this work and would be willing to come back and do more work in this area. Cllr Taylor noted that at the weekend they have put all the concrete at one end. This area has been used as a dumping area historically.

Fly tipping – Clerk to follow up. Pay back team are keen to do more work to maintain the area in the future, perhaps planting fruit trees. Councillors discussed other options for planting in this area. Cllr Stocking to put a TPO on a tree at this area.

Bonnett's paid for £225 for the third lot of waste removal of this area. This is the cost of the trailer and removal. The Parish Council wished to thank both S Scotney and A Stannard for doing all this work in the area. And thanked Bonnets for very kindly funding the third lot of waste removal. Cllr Stocking asked about the bird boxes and if the Community pay back team could do this. It was agreed that the area really looks good. The area will need a double row of hedging.

194/23 To consider way forward for 2024 Grounds Maintenance

Cllr Robinson noted that the map is missing from the herb garden. A parishioner noted he is willing to replace that.

195/23 To receive an update from Cllr Lintern regarding the meeting with A Wallace Highways engineer

Cllr Lintern discussed matters from the recent site visit meeting with Highways engineer, A Wallace:

- Speeding near school – Wig Wag flashing sign, at start and end of school day.
- No waiting cones – school can do this.
- Zebra crossing - Cllr Storey members allowance may contribute to the survey needed. It was agreed not to pursue this.
- Double yellow lines extension – A Wallace to look at the possibility for this.
- Wretton Road flooding – being investigated. Need to see photos of the area after heavy rain fall.
- Furlong Road – A Wallace reminded about access only sign.
- Regarding passing bays – there will be a sign saying no parking. But A Wallace also agrees this will be problematic and will mention this to his department.
- Bridge Road – Potholes will be chased up. Drop kerbs for mobility scooters to be considered. Cllr Lintern needs a list of areas for consideration.

196/23 To receive an update on Household Support Roadshow held on 12th October 2023

Discussed earlier.

The Parishioner who helped with the organising of the gave feedback from Jacob Medlock of the Borough Council. It was a very well attended event, and the village was very welcoming. There was an overall great atmosphere at the Blue Bell.

197/23 To consider plans for the Christmas event

Cllr Juniper-Solley noted that the event will be held on 2.12.23.

The event will include: turning on the lights, procession and singing on the hill and up to the Blue Bell to turn on Christmas tree lights. Lantern making will happen in advance, with the date for that to be confirmed. Cllr Juniper-Solley would like to see this as a regular event.

Cllr Juniper-Solley will talk to the school about this.

Cllr Reeve proposed that £100 should be set aside to fund any appropriate expenses towards this event. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson and all agreed.

Councillors discussed who could judge the Santa competition.

198/23 To consider invitation to bid for Parish Partnership 2024/25 – deadline for application 8/12/23

It was **resolved** that quotes should be sought for the following items so that Councillors could decide if the Parish Council would like to make a Parish Partnership application.

- Wig wag sign for the school
- Footpath from Border Road to Fairfield Road that needs finishing off.

- Footpath for Field Lane (from English garage to Field Lane), which may need to be completed in phases.

Cllr Lintern proposed that this should be sought, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and all agreed.

199/23 To receive an update regarding Village Hall planning.

The 'letter of comfort' was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Lintern discussed the proposals

- The car park must be finished before the house building is started and they can use for their equipment in the car park.
- Road other side of green space was not going to be possible because of level of retaining wall and green space needs for residences in the homes.
- The other green space will have the sewage under it.

Regarding the 'Lease wording' email that again was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Lintern asked if the Village Hall committee had any comments. Cllr Juniper-Solley will kindly look at this and get back to everyone this week, with her comments.

Cllr Lintern noted that 3 people can speak at planning committee meetings. It was **resolved** that Cllr Lintern and maybe, according to availability Cllr Hayward or Cllr Mann for the Parish Council, and Cllr Reeve or Cllr Taylor would speak on behalf of the Village Hall committee.

It was agreed this will still be called in.

Cllr Lintern will ask who will be maintaining the green space.

It was agreed this should be a November agenda item.

200/23 To receive urgent items of concern & matters to be included on the next agenda from the Parish Council and note forward items

Wretton Road footpath needs to be reported again.

Village signs to be cleaned by the Highway Rangers, Clerk to make sure this was reported to them.

Village hall signs are looking bad so discussed when to get them replaced. It was noted that funds would have been allocated to this in budget for village hall items. It was **resolved** Cllr Reeve would seek quotes and this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Indigo Road is overgrown with rubbish that the developer is responsible for, they will get this cleared.

Cllr Lintern asked about the progress of the previous Parish Partnership items. The Clerk gave a brief update and agreed the Clerk and Chair would discuss this after the meeting to ensure progress is being made.

A parishioner noted that The Blue Bell got soil from a local business and maybe this avenue could be investigated for the area behind Buckingham Drive.

Derek Hales Ltd development, after a brief discussion it was felt the Parish Council needs an update on progress. Clerk to ask for a report or invite to the meeting.

Seams Group have put charging points in lamp posts in other parts of the country. Clerk to find out more information about EV charging points and grants for this.

201/23 To approve next meeting will be the Ordinary Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Stoke Ferry Village Hall

It was **resolved** that due to the proximity to Christmas, there would be no December Parish Council meeting.

202/23 To resolve on moving into a closed session, on the grounds of confidentiality in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s.1 (2)

There were no confidential items to consider.