

## Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Wacton Village Hall.  
At 6.00pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Present: - Chair: Gary Mulhall. Councilors: Pete Fraser, Felicity Perry. Kat Ireson  
Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

Three members of the public were also present.

1. **Public participation.**

Sam machine is set to make a deterrent for speeding in the village.

2. **To consider apologies for absence.**

No apologies received.

3. **To receive any disclosures of interest.**

Gary Mulhall for payment all agreed.

4. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**Proposed: Gary Mulhall**

**Seconded: Felicity Perry**

5. **To consider matters arising from the last minute (for information only).**

None reported.

6. **To receive a report from the County Councillor.**

No report

7. **To receive a report from the District Councillor.**

Kim Carosk sent the following report attached as **Appendix 1**.

8. **To receive a report from the footpath warden**

No report as we do not have a footpath warden and we have a vacancy for one.

9. **To receive a report from the Village Hall Management moving forward.**

New trustees are in place now and a new treasurer, so the hall is moving forward.

10. **To receive and governance updates**

The clerk reported that there were no updates on this.



## 11. To consider Planning applications.

No planning this month

## 12. Correspondence.

New Sam 2 machine collected and sited.

New pension forms received for 2024-2025

Training emails received from NALC and NPTS

March NPTS seminar booked for the clerk. Cllr's Mulhall and Ireson on 21<sup>st</sup> March

District councillors report received.

Gov.uk email boxes almost ready.

Gov.uk invoice received.

Notification that the clerks mobile charge is rising in April 2024

Invite to CPRE flood management conference and clerk enrolled Free of charge to attend.

Insurance renewal questionnaire received and resubmitted duly answered.

NPTS subscription received and will be paid in April meeting.

Email from village hall on the defib and answered that we are in charge of this.

Village hall Key Code change notification.

Email regarding blocked drain on Church road and duly reported and the work conducted quickly.

Free picture of the King applied for.

Excite invoice for October grass cutting received as missing earlier in the year by the contractor.

Bartrams invoice received and duly noted it is over the agreed estimate.

Chair had a meeting with Bartrams on the above.

## 13. Authorisation of Payments.

### 1. Receipts

SNDC pride in place grant rec in Jan £300.00

### 2. Finance

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for January £636.28
- To approve payment for clerks salary and expenses for February £658.73
- To approve payment to Clerk for cloud back up £50.00
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension January £ 209.49
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension February £209.49
- To approve payment to Mulbee solutions January/Feb £315.00
  
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI January £185.01
- To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI February £90.60



To approve payment to Bartrums for Blacks Meadow Work	£2434.20
• To approve payment to Westcotec for new Sam 2 machine	£4264.80
• Credit card monthly charge January and February	£6.00
• To approve payment to Excite solutions for Grass cutting for Oct	£457.80
• To approve payment to Parish online for gov.uk email system.	£216.00
• To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile January	£11.89
• To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile February	£11.89
• To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib January	£28.74
• To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib February	£28.74
• To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib March	£28.74
• To approve payment to NPTS for March Seminar	£162.00
• To approve payment to Unity trust for Quarterly bank charges	£18.00
<b>Proposed: Kat Ireson</b>	<b>Seconded: Pete Fraser</b>

#### **Update on the council Finances.**

The Parish council is in good health and at the start of February the councils balance was £21,650.51 After the payments from this meeting the councils balance is £12,730.26 we are still awaiting a few invoices so this figure may change before the year end. It is a little down on last years figure of £15,248.17 and this is due to the work on blacks meadow and other small projects.

The clerk has a reclaim of Vat not yet done of £905.94 that will be submitted at the end of march.

#### **14. Report on ongoing matters.**

- **Woodland Project and damaged Bridge**  
Ongoing tidy up and clear up and wood is being stocked up to make a shelter for all to enjoy. The bridge is in a bad way and a temporary repair has been done. Its needs urgent repair soon and if this is need the area would be closed till all repairs are undertaken.
- **Councillor and Clerk Training**  
NPTS seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> March booked for clerk and councillors, Clerk also booked on Flood in Action seminar and Anglia in bloom seminar.
- **To discuss the Book Exchange project**  
No work done this month but will continue once the weather gets better. The wood is out of stock and the driver is away and it should be with us in the coming weeks. A parishioner has offered replacement tiles to make up for the short fall.
- **New Benches**  
This has been deferred until the weather spring.
- **Councillors Page on the website**  
This is moving forward but still needs a couple of Bio's. will be done soon.
- **Gov.uk Email Addresses for councillors.**  
The clerk commented that we are close to finalizing this and should be done by end of April at the latest.



- **Biodiversity**  
The clerk is working on this, along with a climate emergency policy as well and will report to the council on his return.
- **Meeting Dates for 2024-2025**  
The clerk had produced these and there are copies for all to take.  
**Proposed: Felicity Perry**                      **Seconded: Gary Mulhall**

**16. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.**

No Report as the group have not been out, it is hoped they will be out soon, but new Sam 2 has been installed which is great news.

**17. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.**

We need new councillors desperately and will look for these asap.  
Two volunteers may be interested in the coming months.

**18. Public Participation**

Hall Lane rubbish is getting worse, and it was noted that it is an eyesore and parishioners to contact saffron housing in the first instance.

The hounds are no longer being in Wacton which is a shame, and this will happen in late May, There may be a possibility of an open day to meet the hounds etc. but this will be sent through if they can.

Damaged play equipment has been removed and we will look at grants for the replacement.

**Blacks Meadow Work**

The work has been completed and there is some conjecture on the final price with items added that were not in the original estimate. The chair has had a meeting with the contractor and after a short discussion it was agreed that we would pay an extra payment of £726.00 and contact the contractor with this information and pay in April.

**Proposed: Felicity Perry**

**Seconded: Kat Ireson**

**19. Items for the next Agenda**

**South Norfolk Big Litter pick**

**Rubbish at Hall lane.**

**Gov.uk email address box.**

**Bartrams payment.**

**Purchase of Apple Tress**

**Noticeboards.**

**Damaged play equipment and replacement.**

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 6pm



Append-x 1

RE: Agenda for Meeting of 6th March at Wacton

From: Kim Carsok (kim.carsok@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)  
To: wactonparish@yahoo.com  
Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 06:36 PM GMT

Hello Alan,

I'm unable to make it on the 6th so please find below a quick update:

The Right Care Right Person programme has been paused following the horrible incident in Costessey. Thus, police will continue to respond to mental health related calls as before.

The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick campaign is back on, running from 1 March to 31 May 2024. Groups completing litter picks will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win £200. All groups taking part will receive a £20 voucher to spend in the community. <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/keeping-streets-clean/volunteer-litter-pick-area/3>

South Norfolk Council has agreed the budget for the coming financial year, with no members voting against. The supplementary paper was also agreed with cross-party support that the Council allocates the following additional sums:

- ~£145,548 to top-up the Leisure Support Reserve to £1m, to be used to support the leisure service with £250,000 per annum for the next 4 years.
- ~£355,000 into the 'Household Support Fund', to double existing support for hard pressed families in 2024/25.
- ~£100,000 for the flood / ditch walker for another 24 months – With the Scrutiny committee to assess whether it is meeting its objectives by September 2024.
- ~£70,000 into a reserve for additional planning enforcement resource for 24 months.
- ~£50,000 to support design creation and community participation for Public Realm improvements for Wymondham.
- ~An additional £100,000 from an earmarked capital receipt has also been allocated to expand the Community Action Fund across the district to £150,000, with an upper grant limit increased to £20,000 per application.

All South Norfolk members were involved in setting the budget, that will see Council Tax rise by £5 a year to £170. That is a rise of less than 10 pence a week. The leader John Fuller emphasised: "Council Tax is exactly 30pc less than inflation would otherwise have been since 2007 but there have been no cuts - we are doing twice as much as before."

Kind regards,  
Kim

Cllr Kim Carsok  
South Norfolk Council  
Member for Fornsett Ward and Portfolio Holder for Healthy & Active Lifestyles

-----Original Message-----

From: Wacton Council <[wactonparish@yahoo.com](mailto:wactonparish@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 1:16 PM  
To: Gary Mulhall <[gary.m1@me.com](mailto:gary.m1@me.com)>; Peteandrach <[peteandrach@btinternet.com](mailto:peteandrach@btinternet.com)>; Kat and Jamie <[theiresons23@gmail.com](mailto:theiresons23@gmail.com)>; Felicity Perry <[felicity.m.perry@gmail.com](mailto:felicity.m.perry@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Thomas Alison - Deputy Leader of the Council <[alison.thomas.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:alison.thomas.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)>; Kim Carsok <[kim.carsok@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:kim.carsok@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Agenda for Meeting of 6th March at Wacton

Hi all

I am getting things almost completed now and attach the agenda for the next meeting of 6th March at 6pm at Wacton Village hall and hope you can all attend.

You may see that the new SAM 2 machine has been collected and erected as you come into the village from Long Stratton by myself this morning which is great news.