

SOUTHERY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.00pm
In Southery Village Hall

Public Comments / Questions on Parish Issues.

An opportunity for public comments and questions. Items relevant to the agenda will be incorporated into later discussions. All new items will be noted for the next meeting.

169/23 To record the names of those present

Cllr A Osler - Vice-Chair, Cllr J Osler, Cllr R Whitehead, Cllr C Edwards,
Cllr T Feltwell and Cllr S Welch
2 members of the public
G Robinson - Clerk and RFO

170/23 To consider and approve apologies for absence

It was **resolved** to accept apologies from Cllr A Youngs and Cllr Crispin Copsey.

171/23 To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items and Dispensation Requests

Cllr A Osler and Cllr J Osler declared an interest in item number 178/23 c, as they have an expenses claim to make.

172/23 To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th November 2023

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting and duly sign by the Vice Chair.

173/23 Matters Arising (Clerks Report)

- **Music licence** renewed with no charge.
- **Parish Partnership bid** made for the lay-by at Ferry Bank for a concrete base and bench. The outcome of this will be advised in March 2024.
- **CIL funding application** has a deadline of 1st Feb and 1st August 2024.
- **Norfolk Community Foundation grant** application information for £2000 for 'hot spots' was given to members. It was noted that this could not be spent on a 'one off' event as previously hoped for by the WI group and in fact must be used for an ongoing weekly event. This was discussed, however, it was felt there were not enough people available in the village to make this kind of weekly commitment.
- **Highway Rangers** will be visiting the village in January.

- **Notice board update** - The members discussed the dimension requirements for a notice board and noted that the design only needs to be simple and be able to hold 8 sheets of A4 paper. It was suggested that maybe the notice board from the village Chapel would still be in good enough condition and could be passed to the Parish Council to sit for continued village use. Cllr Feltwell to find out if this is possible.
- **Orchard Way lighting update** - It was proposed by Cllr Whitehead that the 3 Orchard Way lights are transferred to the Parish Council ownership. This was seconded by Cllr J Osler and all agreed. It was acknowledged that there would be a cost of £70.00 per light as a result of the Parish Council taking them over.
- **Lighting in general** - It was felt that the recent excessive number of power cuts may have had an effect on the street lights in general, causing them to go out more than usual. The Clerk to contact the lighting contractor to ask for all the lights to be checked.

174/23 To receive an update from County or Borough Councillors

Not in attendance.

The public present at this point in the meeting were asked if they have questions

The following issues were raised:

- Dog fouling is a concern in the village. It was suggested that signage could help highlight and remind people of their responsibility to clear up after their dogs. The Clerk to get some signage/stickers to be displayed in the village. The Clerk advised the parishioner to report dog fouling every time on the BCKLWC website
https://www.westnorfolk.gov.uk/info/20094/animals_and_pests/751/dog_and_their_animal_fouling
- A parishioner thanked Councillors for sorting the hedge problems and noted other areas of concern.
- Ferry bank footpath needs to be cleared. Clerk to report this to the Highway Rangers.
- The bollard on the corner of Westgate Street and Ferry Bank is down again. The members discussed possible solutions that could be tried. It was suggested that Armco could be a solution and the Clerk should ask Highways to install this.
- It was noted that the lay-by at the entrance to the village from the A10 onto Ferry Bank is very untidy. It was agreed the Handyman should be asked to trim this area.
- The Southery sign by the white gates needs repairing, together with another post at this site - Clerk to report to Highways.
- The Ferry bank footpath is slippery - Clerk to report to Highways.

175/23 To Note Any Councillors Concerns or items for next meeting and note forward work programme

- Meeting to be arranged with A Wallace, to look at previous issues raised in the village.
- Mr Legg to ask about the IDB representative and Clerk to ask Cllr Long too as the Parish Council needs support to progress with new bridge instead of the footpath, which is not possible.
- Feltwell Road - at the Sandway bridge, the road is all up, with road subsidence caused mainly by the Anglian Water lorries. There has been big problems and complaints regarding this area - Clerk to report.
- Lights for football pitch - Cllr Welch proposed that the lighting is replaced at the price quoted of £320.00. This was seconded by Cllr Feltwell and all agreed.
- A councillor asked about if her concerns regarding lorries at a property had been reported to planning, which the Clerk confirmed had been. The property has licences for 4 heavy good vehicles but there are 7 on the property.
- Cllr Whitehead discussed the water installation work that is taking place in the village at the moment which is causing disruptions to the roads.
- Cllr Whitehead discussed the North Western Link at Norwich and that the local roads are being smashed up with the lorries with wide loads. None of the tractors or lorries can keep within the white lines and this is really terrible in the village. It was agreed that MP L Truss should be asked to come out and see the extent of the problem.
- Need the Highways sweeper to come out and clear the village of excessive mud.
- The gate down Ringmore Road has gone - A local person to be asked, if he would kindly be willing to create new kissing gate. This was proposed Cllr A Osler and Cllr Edwards seconded all agreed. This will stop motor bikes from directly travelling this route.
- Lynn road to Campsey Road needs clearing of mud.

176/23 To approve any Handyman work

- Handyman needs to sweep the bus shelters of leaves.

177/23 Review of Grounds Maintenance Contract

Confidential item at the end of the meeting.

178/23 To consider financial business

- a) To receive bank account balances
Details not available until bank mandate changes have been completed.
- b) To receive details of income received
Details not available until bank mandate changes have been complete.
- c) To consider the recommended payments, and agree those in line with the budget

Clerk wage	£287.63
HMRC	Nil
Wave - Recreation ground	£32.98
Stephenson Smart	£72.00
BCKLWN - uncontested election fee	£54.60
Eon 19/12/23 Street lights DD	£442.34
Eon 21/12/23 Portacabin DD	£116.29
Mr Sparkle	£36.00
K & M lighting	£70.83
CGM	£1,509.60

(This leaves invoice 256594 £446.40 and £108.00 of invoice 257007 unpaid as the work was not done)

Hodson - ink	£43.18
Southery Village Hall	£12.00
Cllr A Osler - expenses claim for xmas event	£348.62
- d) Precept and Budget 2023/4
In the absence of sufficient bank statements to the current date, and therefore the accounting records not being up to date, it was **resolved** to hold a separate meeting on Monday 15th January 2024 to consider the budget, precept requirement and a possible CIL application.
- e) To consider a donation to WI for social event - This was considered at item 173/23.

179/23 To consider planning items

Applications

Any applications that appear on the Borough Council planning portal up to the date of the meeting that require the consultation of the Parish Council will be considered by the Councillors at their scheduled meeting, even if they are not listed below.

Applications

23/02118/F Single storey extensions to sides, reconstruction of part rear wall due to subsidence, internal and external alterations. at Windmill Hill 8 Mill Lane Southery Downham Market Norfolk PE38 0NF- deadline 21.12.23 It was resolved to support this application.

Decisions

Southery Methodist Chapel Ferry Bank Southery Norfolk - Conversion of Chapel to Dwelling. Application Refused 28 November 2023 Delegated Decision

23/01700/F Southery 65 Recreation Drive Southery Downham Market Norfolk PE38 0NB - "Retrospective" Extension to rear of the property Application Permitted 30 November 2023 Delegated Decision

Correspondence

There were no items of planning related correspondence.

180/23 To Note Date of next meeting Wednesday 14th February 2023 at 7pm in the Southery Village Hall

Members noted the date of the next scheduled meeting. And also reconfirmed the necessity for an additional meeting, as discussed earlier in the meeting to consider the 2024/25 budget and to agree the precept requirement of Monday 15th January at 7.00pm.

As this is the last meeting for 2024 Cllr A Osler on behalf of all Councillors wished to thank all parishioners and community groups in the village that have taken the time and effort to generously support the village in so many ways. Everyone's commitment to improving village facilities and way of life is very much appreciated.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful festive break.

181/23 To resolve to the moving into a closed session, on the grounds of confidentiality in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s.1 (2)

It was **resolved** to move to a closed session to consider the grounds maintenance quotes.

The quotes received were considered. It was agreed that Cllr J Osler would contact the businesses to make sure they have suitable machinery provisions to be able to provide a good enough grounds maintenance service to the village in the 2024 season. The quotes would be considered again at the meeting of 15th January with this additional information.