

Needham Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 13th May 2024 at Needham Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Georgina Frost, Robin Twigge, James McMillan, Belinda Della, Roger Dukes, Andrew Major and Gary Cropley.

3 members of the public.

County Councillor Martin Wilby

District Councillors Trevor Graham and James Eddy

Clerk: Philip Freeman.

Public Forum:

Including any reports: County Councillor, District Councillor, and Village Organisations.

Cllr Hardy from Harleston town Council joined the meeting and made the following points:

- The Town Council wishes to reduce the speed limit between the 2 roundabouts on the A143. This is because of a new housing development which is planned to join the A143 but the application for further roundabout on the road at the junction has been refused.
- Gary Cropley has contacted the Highways Department about the problem of accidents at the Needham/Harleston roundabout. There have been a number of incidents involving buses, lorries and cyclists.
- As a result of his action it has been agreed that SLOW road markings will be installed with other signs. This will be funded at the request of Cllr Wilby.
- The Clerk will contact Highways about the lack of visibility at the roundabout on the A143 and ask that the tree canopy is lifted. **Action: The Clerk.**

1. Election of Officers:

- a. To elect a Chairman of the Council
 - Andrew Major was elected as Chairman, proposed by Georgina Frost and seconded by Robin Twigge.
- b. To receive The Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.
 - Completed.

2. To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Council.

- Georgina Frost was elected as Vice-Chairman, proposed by Robin Twigge and seconded by Andrew Major.

3. Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer:

- The Council agreed to appoint the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer.

4. Apologies for Absence.

- None.

5. Councillor's Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.

- None.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and was signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters Arising:

Updates in red font.

- Robin Twigge reported a problem with sewage from the factory in Needham. He will follow it up with the Environment Agency. **Action: Robin Twigge.**
 - Robin Twigge will follow this up by reporting the problem with sewage from the factory to the Environment Agency. **Action: Robin Twigge.**
- The Clerk will send Councillor Graham details of the current enforcement issue that the Parish Council is pursuing. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**

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- The Clerk raised the issue of the cost of emptying the dog waste bins by South Norfolk Council and he will send Councillor Graham details of the charges by Mid Suffolk District Council. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**
 - The Clerk will follow up with Mr Ogden, Flood and Water Manager, the actions needed to reduce the problem of flooding in Needham. He will copy all correspondence to Councillor Wilby. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**
 - Councillor Eddy will follow up who has responsibility for a cemetery/graveyard once a church no longer takes responsibility for it. **Action: Councillor Eddy. Completed.**
 - The Clerk will report the broken handrail on the steps on the footpath adjacent to the A143. **Action: The Clerk. Completed. The handrail had been repaired by Glyn, it has then been broken and repaired again.**
 - The Clerk will report the problems that people with pushchairs, prams or wheelchairs experience using the footpath to Harleston because soil from the bank has reduced its width. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**
 - There is a fallen tree on High Road in Needham which has been reported to the Parish Council. It is a hazard to traffic and the Clerk will report it to the Highways Department of Norfolk County Council. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**
 - It was agreed that information about the Parish Council should be published in the Link. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**
8. Reports from Committees.
- a. Report from the Village Hall Committee.
 - Nothing to report.
 - b. Community Environment Initiative.
 - There was an article in the Link on the Community Environment Initiative.
 - There will be a Wild Gardens open weekend on 28 and 29 June 2024.
 - Harleston and Needham are involved with Power of 9 and it has been recognised that we are on the case.
9. Finances and Financial Support:
- a. RFO's Report:
 - i. Unity Trust Bank account balance on 8th May 2024 £17,105.40
 - ii. Ns&i: £2,300.24p.
 - The account balances were noted.
 - b. Invoices for payment:
 - i. Clerk's pay and expenses: £371.27.
 - ii. HMRC: £92.80
 - iii. Norfolk Association of Local Councils annual subscription: £145.02p
 - iv. PKF Littlejohn LLP – annual audit: £300.00p
 - It was unanimously agreed to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Gary Copley and seconded by Robin Twigge.
 - c. Receipts:
 - i. South Norfolk Council – precept: £3,000.00.
 - d. Request for donation:
 - i. None
10. River Waveney Trust Strategy.
- Robin Twigge will send an email with the information about the River Waveney Trust Strategy to Councillors. **Action: Robin Twigge.**
11. Flooding in Needham – update.
- The Clerk has followed up the situation with Mr Ogden, Flood and Water Manager.
 - The earliest the watercourse will be cleared will be in the Autumn of 2024 due to environmental restrictions. He is working on the revised map of responsibilities for ditches and will report to the Parish Council in due course
 - To take the matter further Cllr Wilby will send the Clerk the name of the person to contact at the LLFA. **Action: Cllr Wilby.**
12. Use of Clean Up and Bloom Grant.
- The Village Litter Pick will take place on the Saturday following this meeting.

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13. Graveyard (Robin Twigge.)
 - Nothing to report.
14. Highway/footpath matters.
 - a. Accidents at the Needham Roundabout on the A143. Report from Gary Cropley.
 - See above.
15. Planning:
 - a. Tree Preservation Order: confirmed.
 - The South Norfolk District Council Needham Tree Preservation Order 2023 No. SN0633 Tree(s) at : Land North East Of Starston Lane Needham Norfolk Easting : 623481 Northing : 282527
 - b. Application: none.
 - c. Decision:
 - i. No decision:
 - ii. Approved with Conditions: none.
 - iii. Refused: none.
 - iv. Discharge of condition: none.
 - v. Withdrawn: none.
 - vi. Appeal: none.
16. Play area:
 - a. Plans for the replacement of the play equipment.
 - It appears that the play area is little used.
 - Robin Twigge will ask through the Link how much the play area is used. **Action: Robin Twigge.**
 - Unfortunately, the ditch joining the play area is being used as a rubbish tip.
 - b. To receive Play Area Inspection Report.
 - c. The Nook.
 - The Chairman will chase up grass cutting of the Nook.
17. Correspondence.
 - a. Correspondence:
18. AOB - items for inclusion at next meeting.
 - There will be an additional meeting on 13 June 2024 to approve the annual accounts for 2023/2024.

Meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.