

27th MAY 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 27th MAY 2025 in the Community Centre at 7.00pm.

In attendance Mr A Ketteringham(AK), Mr R Leighton (RL), Mr A Howell (AH), Mr K Kissiedu (KK), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher(JL), Mrs A Shepherd(AS), Mr A Thomas(AT), 9 Members of the Public & the Clerk Jean Sangster.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Binns (AB) due to holiday.

First Item on Agenda was to Elect Chairman for the ensuing Year

Mr Ketteringham was proposed by JLg seconded by AH. AK thanked all his fellow Councillors for their support during the last year and accepted the position on the understanding that he cannot do everything and would appreciate help. AK was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Election of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Year

Mr Leighton was proposed by JL seconded by JLg. There being no further nominations RL was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office..

Allotment working Party

It was agreed that this is not necessary as full Council should be consulted on this.

Proposal that the two named members and Clerk remain as signatories to the Bank Accounts

It was proposed by AH seconded by AS that these remain as RL, AK and the Clerk. All agreed.

To confirm positions of Footpath Warden & Tree Warden

AT confirmed that he is willing to continue as Footpath Warden and Mr Roy Simpson as Tree Warden but it was suggested that the two positions be amalgamated.

To Appoint a Councillor to check Defibrillator on regular basis

AB to continue with this.

To appoint a Representative to serve on Wayland Partnership

AS is willing to continue with AB as reserve.

The minutes of last meeting held on 29th April 2025 had been circulated and were passed and signed as a correct record.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Resident stated that she had had problems contacting Breckland Council by phone to report state of pavement in Dunnetts Close. It was suggested that she informs FE of this contact problem.

Trustees will deal with the cutting of trees on The Green.

The question was asked as to why the Beacon was not lit on VE Day and AK explained that the decision was made not to go ahead due to such dry conditions and a fire risk.

AK hopes that something will be arranged for VJ Day in August but this does require an event to be formalised.

Potholes reported in Watton Road and Hale Road.

At this point FE arrived to give his reports.

He gave his views on the proposed Local Government Plan which he feels will save money in the long run with a Mayor for Norfolk& Suffolk and one Unitary Authority across Norfolk dealing with everything. Request for everyone to complete the online survey.

He advised that each County councillor has been allocated a fund of £5000 to spend on local communities and he would like to purchase equipment and games for organisations to have access to for fetes etc. This would be stored at the HUB in Nth Pickenham. He asked that organisations send him emails of support for this and this will be arranged.

He also would like to provide portable Duck Signs for the village from Highways Fund.

He was advised of the problems with Breckland phone line and he will take complaint back to them.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

Highways – Complaint had been received regarding the logs outside Caradoc in Ch. St. and this had been reported to Highways who had replied that boundary will be looked into. Also the bins outside 12 Ch. St. have been reported again as causing obstruction to traffic. Pot holes – those reported last month have been dealt with but still outstanding o/s 5 Dunnetts Close and entrance to Uphall Grange.

Dog Waste Bin – Still to be moved.

Play Equipment – Inspection carried out. Posts need painting and problem with fitness equipment will be checked with installers to see if still under guarantee. The tension of wire on Zipwire has been queried and advised that should wait as first adjustment is free but future visits will be charged. RL had queried weight limit and installers advise that no notice is required.

The slide is getting very worn and consider replacing.

Playing Field – Mounds to frontage to be removed this week. Charge £45 + VAT per hour and should only take approx. 2 hours. This was accepted.

Mole traps had been stolen from field and it was agreed by all that PC should replace these.

Football Club – The report of meeting held on 1st May with Officers from Shipdham United Football Club, Community Centre reps and PC Reps. Very positive meeting and it is hoped that a compound will be built for goal post storage at top of field. Club suggested setting up a Whatsapp Group to keep all concerned informed of what is happening.

Discussion as to charge for hire of field followed and it was proposed by AH seconded by JLg that this should continue at £10-00 per week from 1st July '25 to 31st May '26 and Clerk will draw up new Lease and invoice. It is hoped that there will be more interest from Ashill children.

Community Centre – Clerk advised that the Solar Panels will be cleaned on 6th June.

Footpaths – Still no handrail installed. Bridge on footpath no. 9 has been repaired.

Police – Confirmation that Cadets will assist with cleaning of play equipment and JLg will make arrangements with them for a date. Also arrange convenient time with volunteers.

Speedwatch – No report this month.

Ashill Estate to be discussed at end of meeting.

Allotments – Complaint received re fly-tipping to be dealt with.

High Grove Solar – The group is now called HOG and is working really well. It was agreed that there is no need for a Working Party but PC will continue to support this group in whatever way they can. Mark Aitken is helping Parishes to obtain changes to RWE plans and locations of batteries. He has meeting with RWE and will put forward any suggestion PC have and AK proposed that this should include that there be no access through Dunnetts Close. Follow-up meeting to be held on 5th June in Upton Room at 7.00pm.

Local Plan Call for Sites – AK and Clerk had attended the first meeting at Dereham JL had joined online. From this meeting there is to be further consultation with Parishes during first two weeks of June. The sites submitted for consideration are now on map which had circulated.

Insurance Renewal – This had been circulated and RL proposed seconded by AT that this be renewed for 1 year. This was agreed by all.

Trees on Limes – The proposed trimming has yet to be carried out.

Community Gardens – AK opened the meeting to the Chair of group who explained what they require and that they are responsible for 8 barrels. They have requested a donation of £100-00 to replant these. The other two barrels at entrances to village were responsibility of Ashill and Holme Hale Garden Club and Clerk had been advised that they would continue to look after these. AK closed the meeting and the donation was discussed. RL proposed that this be given and JLg seconded. All agreed.

Wayland Partnership Meeting – AS had been unable to attend. Minutes will follow.

Correspondence

Newsletters from NorfolkALC circulated to Members.

Healthwatch Norfolk – circulated

NorfolkALC – Government now require PC's to have .gov.uk email addresses for each Councillor. KK to look into this.

West Norfolk Community Transport – Confirmation attending meeting in July.
Norfolk Events – New website to include events across the County.
Norfolk County Farms – Hedgerow restoration scheme and details of new officer.

PLANNING APPLICATION**Discussed**

PL/2025/0641/HOU – Application for 1st Floor side extension to 9 Fir Park – to be returned with no objections.

PL/2025/0612/FMIN - Application for proposed 2 self build dwellings on meadow at Lower Homestead Farm off Watton Road. No objections but state concerns as follows :- o/s village guideline, as stated that for family occupation should there be an agricultural covenant on these dwellings.

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Direct Debit - SSE Power supply - yet to be advised

The following accounts due for payment for MAY 2025 were passed for payment proposed by AH seconded by JL :-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights May		£120-50
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden May	)	
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary May + 40hrs	)	Undisclosed
Expenses May		£102-83
NorfolkALC – Annual Subscription		£370-59
WAVE (AW Business) Supply to Allots.		£64-10
AJGIBL GBP Annual Insurance Hiscox Insurance Co Ltd		£1916-40
Mr D Barber Internal Audit of Accounts		£80-00
Ashill Community Gardens Donation 137		£100-00

Response to query raised at last meeting regarding Wayleave for 24-25. The Clerk now has confirmation that this will be paid.

AUDIT - Part 1 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025 was completed & agreed by all Councillors and then signed by Chairman & Clerk.

Part 2 Accounting Statements for 2024/2025 was approved by all Councillors and Signed by AK Chair.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – No further questions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JLg now has maps from RWE for display.

Problems with wild flowers on The Green will be dealt with by Trustees.

Agreed not to lock gate at entrance to Comm. Centre.

Emergency Plan is due for review. All happy that this is updated by Anne Lloyd & Rev Paul Wilkinson.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The following resolution was agreed and passed :-

“That under Section 100(A) (4) of Local Government Act 1972, the Press & Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on Grounds that it includes the likely disclosure of confidential information”.

To Discuss Reserve Fund

Date of next Meeting – Tuesday 24th JUNE 2025 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 9.42pm

Signed

Date

