

Great and Little Whelnetham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 11 September 2023 at Great Whelnetham
Community Centre.

Present

Cllr Peter Royce, PR

Cllr Tim Webber, TW

Cllr Cathy Hardy, CH

Clerk, Elaine Gorman, EG

5 members of the public

1. OPENING MEETING – The Chairman, PR opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
2. APOLOGIES – None
3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY and NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS – None.
5. PUBLIC FORUM – Brad Young – Horringer community podcast deferred to November meeting.

Item 5 dealt with after item 3 as Cllr Karen Soons arrived at the meeting. KS mentioned her monthly report had been emailed to the clerk. The clerk confirmed this had been circulated and received by all three councillors. KS informed every one of the cold-calling zone that Raynsford Rd operates and asked if it had been contravened. Anyone wishing to nominate their road should go to the No Cold Calling page on the [Suffolk County Council website](#) KS also informed the meeting that if the PC is considering holding a fete there is an offer from the fire service to visit for free.

KS also reported that she is happy to chase any outstanding queries. PR mentioned the grips, floods, and potholes. He said that it appears that grips and ditches had not been maintained since Highways maintenance works had been outsourced to Kier. He also mentioned that the existing gullies had not been cleared out, and that there was an expectation for each individual grip in the sides of parish roads to be reported using the reporting tool as now, many years on, Highways have no idea where they are located. KS reiterated that issues such as this need to be reported via the online reporting tool. She stated that it is then easier for her to chase up as the evidence is on the reporting tool at the start. KS noted that if you have a mobile phone, it is easy to upload however, KS accepted that those not in possession of a phone may not be able to do it. PR reported that a traffic accident which occurred in Bradfield resulted in the air ambulance being called out and a diversionary route being set up via Stanningfield Road. It should not be a diversionary route. PR stated that he had expressed concerns to Suffolk County Council Highways and suggested that if Stanningfield road is being used in this way that Highways should perform some form of additional inspections as it is a 'C' class road being used as if it were 'an 'A' class and may not be able to support the volumes of traffic it experiences during such times.

PR gave a summary from the planning training session. He said he was satisfied that the issue regarding trees had been internally investigated, addressed, and concluded and determined, as is normal practice, that there would be no apology to the Parish Council from WSC, and the matter deemed closed. KS informed CH that she could progress her complaint regarding the issues as a private individual. CH expressed her thanks to KS. KS left the meeting.

4. MINUTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023 (minutes as detailed on the website). CH reported that she did not agree with the amended minutes. The minutes were approved and signed PR as a true and accurate record, proposed by TW and seconded by PR.
5. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC FORUM – the Chairman's report.

- a. A productive and informative meeting with Suffolk Wildlife Trust at the Railway Walk (report attached).
- b. New Vehicle Activated Sign had been purchased from Elan Cite (report attached) and data had been submitted to West Suffolk ANPR (report attached). A member of the public asked at what point does the VAS record a driver's speed. PR said that it is complicated, but basically the system uses a combination of radar, software, and calculations to generate the data, and has been very successful in reducing the speed of traffic in its location.
- c. The issue of the streetlight was raised and PR confirmed that the order had been raised in June/July and that it had been explained to me when progressing the work there were two agencies involved, UK Power Networks and Kier, and scheduling the work had to be agreed so it would be about 12weeks, which suggests the work would be completed by end of September.
- d. Power cuts, PR has been in contact with UK Power Networks as promised due to the frequency of power cuts recently being experienced, UK Power Networks explained that they have identified an issue with equipment in the area of Rougham Road, and additional problems located somewhere in the area they are currently continuing their investigations

The Clerk advised that PR had been asked to attend the Nowton Parish Council Meeting to offer anything of support to that parish council about the Abbots Vale development.

A member of the public asked if the following could be considered at the next parish council meeting

- i) installation of the picnic benches,
- ii) playground fencing – this is listed at item 10 but will be brought forward to the next parish council meeting,
- iii) the cutting of the grass around the goalposts. Clerk to follow up quotation request.
- iv) if it was possible to call an extraordinary meeting to discuss the provisions of the lease, PR to arrange.
- v) if the parish council will consider a donation towards fireworks.

The Clerk explained that as the request for funds was not included in this meeting's agenda it could not be considered. Further advised that requests for funds must be made earlier in the year to allow the council time to consider,

- vi) a tree on Tutelina Road had been hit by a delivery driver and needed to be removed. The Clerk to notify Suffolk CC,
- vii) the wet pour of the play area had been vandalised. The Clerk agreed to investigate further.

All items will be considered by council to decide if they shall appear on November's agenda. All councillors agreed that a donation should be made to Citizens Advice. This will be listed on the next agenda.

All correspondence including play inspection reports for June and July, Network crime stats for June, Citizens Advice request for donation, Lighthouse Women’s Aid newsletter, Suffolk NHW newsletter and Constable’s Country newsletter were circulated prior to meeting.

6. STATUTORY BUSINESS

a) Dates for parish council meetings for the remainder of 2023-2024 were circulated, received, and noted.

7. PLANNING - applications considered since last meeting

- a. DC/23/1036/HH Householder planning application, unanimously objected, -
- b. DC/23/1152/HH Householder planning application, unanimously supported,
- c. DC/23/1153/LB Application for listed building consent, unanimously supported

8. FINANCE

a) Council received the payments and receipts since last meeting and approved the bank reconciliation. Balance of current account is £32,723.00 less cheques of £109.80 to be approved and issued.

b) Council received and approved the bi-monthly statement and cheques to be issued. The following payments were approved:

Detail	Cheque No.	Net (of VAT)	VAT	Total
E Gorman, exps	892	109.80		109.80
Total				109.80

c) Council received the review of the Asset Register undertaken by the Clerk on 21 August 2023.

d) Council to receive and consider 2 insurance quotes. Council resolved to approve the Zurich quote as this provided comprehensive cover.

e) Council received and approved the Reserves Schedule. General reserves £12,595.41 and Ear marked reserves of £21,000

9. UPDATES – reports for information only

i) Council received a report from the Clerk re the installation of the noticeboards and current working order of the defibrillator.

ii) Council received a report from the Clerk and CH re recruitment and a successful leaflet drop.

iii) Council received a report from CH re the Parish and Town Forum, 11 July 2023.

iv) Council received a report from PR re WSC Planning webinar, 19 July 2023.

v) Council received a report from CH re WS SALC Area Forum.

vi) Council received a report from the Clerk re the Parish Council having received confirmation from Land Registry that the playing field is registered and the PC have title absolute.

10. FENCING - this item on fencing for the children’s play area will be included in the next agenda for consideration. The PC have £600 KS Locality budget for this item.

11. CO-OPTION of NEW COUNCILLORS –

- a. Charles James proposed by CH, seconded TW,
- b. Andrew King, proposed by TW, seconded by CH,
- c. John Hepworth proposed by PR, seconded by TW,
- d. Sally Henderson, absent from meeting, proposed by CH, and seconded by PR.

The Chairman PR welcomed the new councillors to the council.

12. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING – Railway Walk, power cuts.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING – 9.35pm

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13 November

Signed..... Date.....