

**Minutes of Trunch Parish Council Meeting**

Held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr. Richard MIles (Chair), Cllrs. David Burns, Jeremy Fielding, Gaynor Houlton, Paul Pearson, Barbara Wilson, District Cllr Peter Neatherway, Parish Clerk Tracy Neave, eight Members of the Public

1. Election of Chairperson and appointment of Vice-Chair: Cllr Richard Miles was duly elected as Chairperson by a unanimous vote. Cllr Gaynor Houlton was appointed as Vice-Chair
2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr David Houlton, County Cllr Edward
3. **Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

Cllr Richard Miles: Trunch Village Hall Committee

1. **Minutes of previous meeting** held on 12th March 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Public Participation**
	1. County Councillor’s report: see appendix 1
	2. District Councillor’s report: District Cllr. Neatherway advised that the bin collection day changing had appeared to go well with no issues he was aware of. There is no requirement at present for a meeting regarding empty houses in Trunch. Cllr Neatherway asked if a meeting regarding climate change could be held in the Village Hall at some time in the future. Clerk to advise.
		1. One Member of the Public raised accusations against Cllr Miles regarding a past complaint, telling the Council of an enforcement notice that had been received regarding a breach of planning notice. The Clerk advised that if the Member of the Public had concerns regarding a Councillor, he/she should contact the Monitoring Officer at the North Norfolk District Council. The Clerk reported that the Council had not received the notice of enforcement.
		2. One Member of the Public said he supported the comments made by the previous Member of the Public. The Member of the Public queried why the Parish Council agreed to maintain the church clock: the Clerk explained that this was a historical contract for over twenty years and the Parish Council agreed to maintain the clock for the village.
		3. One Member of the Public queried if the Precept had been used to fund the Warm Room. It was explained the Council had received a grant for this.
		4. One Member of the Public said that he hoped there would be a balanced representation at the climate change meeting Cllr Peter Neatherway suggested. Cllr Neatherway will look to ensure this happens at the meeting.
		5. One Member of the Public raised concerns regarding the overflowing drains outside the pub. The Council will investigate this.
3. **Correspondence**

6.1 Transport East Survey

6.2 NALC weekly updates

6.3 Norwich Western Link Project Update (Ed Maxfields update)

6.4 Rural Bulletin

6.5 Norfolk Marathon Road Closures add to website

6.6 Norfolk Voice Bulletin

6.7 Environment Agency Mundesley Beck

**7 Matters arising from previous minutes and to receive updates: see sections below**

7.1 The Council have applied to take part in the Defence Employment Recognition Scheme.The Village Hall committee is investigating having a hearing loop available in the building.

7.2 The Annual Parish Meeting (Village Meeting) will take place on Sunday 5th May at 6pm at the Village Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm.

**8. New items**

8.1 Clerk’s report:

Clerk has contacted NNDC regarding the posters for the playing field but has not received an answer.

Clerk has ordered dog waste bags for dispenser.

Clerk is working on retrieving the deeds for the playing field.

Clerk is focussing on end of year accounts and has submitted a VAT return for the last four years. The refund is expected to be £3272.67.

The clerk will reset trust fund and bank signatories as per new chairperson.

The switch to GOV.UK emails is in progress.

8.2 There is now a vacancy for a Parish Councillor for which co-option applies.

8.3 Cllr Burns proposed reconsidering a parish magazine and would be happy to sponsor a pilot publication. This was agreed.

**9**. **Periodic items**

9.1 No policies have been reviewed this month.

9.2 Confirmation of Annual Parish Meeting 5th May at 6pm at the Village Hall

**10. Finance**

10.1 The bank reconciliation was agreed, and the bank statements were signed by the

 Chairman: see appendix 2

10.2 Income and Expenditure: see appendix 3

10.3 Payment schedule: see appendix 2 for March 2024 payments.

 April payments for authorisation:

 

10.4 The AGAR Form 2 Exemption Certificate was agreed and signed by the Chairman Cllr Miles and the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

10.5 The Fixed Asset Register is to be reviewed as it has not been updated since 2021.The Unity Trust fund stands at £6112.57.

**11. Highways**

11.1 Highways Inspection: The tree near the old shop will be cut down by Highways due to the tree having rot. Potholes have been reported and dealt with. Drains at social club have been reported. There was concern from a Member of the Public regarding the excess water around the soakaways: this has been dealt with but needs water levels to drop.

11.2 Clerk has reported damaged road sign twice and will expedite with Highways.

**12. Playing Field**

12.1 Cllr Wilson gave an update on the playing field survey having received approximately 40 responses. The survey is currently open. Signs are being organised for the two entrances that have no signs at present. Cllr Miles said he had completed a district survey commenting that playing fields should not be used for commercial purposes such as commercial dog walkers.

**13. Planning nothing to report**

13.1 New Planning Application:

13.1.1 NNDC Reconsultation PF/23/1580. Land East Of Lincoln Cottage: no comment as not part of Trunch

13.1.2 PF/24/0592 - Trunch - Agricultural Barn, Brick Kiln Road, Trunch: object as it was felt that NNDC would refuse, may have to change policy or extend envelope of growth in Trunch

13.2 Decisions: None

13.3 Appeals: None

**13 Footpaths**

13.1. All appears to be fine at present. Dog bin emptying continues to be monitored. It was agreed to plant more bulbs to try to deter moles on the playing field.

**14 Allotments**

14.1 There are two available allotments. Allotment holders are supportive of the water catchment system, but it was decided to focus on tidying the allotments first. A further skip was approved.

14.2 Community Speed continues to monitor speed awareness in the village: local police officer may attend some sessions.

14.3 Neighbourhood Plan: training planned for July for three councillors and clerk

14.4 Good Neighbour Scheme: There are 12 volunteers. The scheme is advertised in the Mardle. There is adequate insurance for the scheme.

14.5 Warm Room: This was a successful scheme with funding left over from the received grant. This may be used towards a community café with any funding not used to be returned to Norfolk Community Foundation.

**15. General Parish Issues (for information only**

Nothing to report

**16.** Next meeting: 14th May at 7pm at Trunch Village Hall Annual Parish General Meeting

and 5th May at 6pm Annual Parish Meeting (Village Meeting) both at the Village Hall Trunch

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Appendix 1. County Councillor Report

**County Councillor’s Report: April 2024**

**County Councillor’s report**

**April 2024**

Verge cutting

We’ve moved from the time of year where the County Council makes people unhappy with the way it manages flood water to the time of year where it makes people unhappy with the way it manages verges and hedges. So, I thought it would be a good moment to circulate this which sets out the Council’s policy on cutting:

[Trees, hedges and grass verges - Norfolk County Council](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/39676/Trees-hedges-and-grass-verges#:~:text=We%20only%20cut%20grass%20verges%20for%20safety%20reasons%2C%20not%20appearance.&text=We%20have%20two%20grass%20cutting,way%20are%20dealt%20with%20separately.)

(if you are reading a printed version and don’t have the url, searching ‘Norfolk County Council verges’ online will take you there.)

Walking and cycling

You might have seen media reports that the County Council is receiving government funds to improve some walking and cycling routes. Over the years I have tried to persuade the Council to look at upgrading parts of the Paston Way to make it easier for cyclists and pushchairs to use without a lot of success so far. Spurred on by this latest news I will try again.

Council budget: Apple to the rescue?

You might also have seen that Apple has agreed to pay out around £400 million in a legal case. Surprisingly we have not had an official statement of what this means for the council’s coffers but I expect it will come up at the council meeting on 26th March. As far as I can work out the money will go into the Council’s Pension Fund so it won’t directly benefit the rest of us.

At the Council’s budget-setting meeting, I said that the Council needs to focus on how it delivers services because we are reaching the point where it spends vast amounts of money with people increasingly feeling that they have very little to show for it. Things may change when we have a directly elected council leader next May but County Hall to me seems increasingly detached from the lives of people living across the County.

This is the summary of the changes in the budget that was agreed:

* £52.2 million of new savings, including £12.1 million from ‘transformation programmes’.
* A proposed 4.99 per cent increase in the county council’s share of Council Tax, in line with the Government’s capping level (2.99 per cent for general Council Tax and 2 per cent for adult social care). This would increase the council’s share of band D bills to £1,672.11. A 4.99 per cent rise would generate £24.9 million.

A small number of the budget proposals (cuts of £1.4m) have been identified as potentially requiring public consultation, as they may relate to a policy or service change. These include:

* Charging an admin fee for brokering on behalf of people who self-fund their adult social care
* Review of the adult social care non-residential charging policy – including the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)
* Recommissioning of social isolation and loneliness contracts
* Norfolk Record Office – pre-booking of visits and new paid services to increase income generation
* Switching off 2% of streetlights
* Recycling centres: Reduction of opening hours at some recycling centres to deliver a more consistent approach, in line with neighbouring authorities

Norwich Works exhibition

One of the greatest pleasures of being a County Councillor (second only to attending Parish Council meetings of course!) is being a member of the Museums Committee. I rarely get the chance to promote the Museums’ Service in these reports so I just want to say, if you can make it along to the Norwich Works exhibition at the Castle before it closes, I really would recommend it.

[Norwich Works: The Industrial Photography of Walter and Rita Nurnberg  - Norfolk Museums](https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/norwich-castle/whats-on/exhibitions/norwich-works-the-industrial-photography-of-walter-and-rita-nurnberg)

Anyone who can remember the smell of the chocolate factory will love it but it is a fantastic photographic record of the city’s industrial past.

It closes on 14th April so do take a look soon.

Ed Maxfield

Appendix 2

