



Trunch Parish Council

Clerk: Jane Wisson Chairman: Alan Bowker

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF TRUNCH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th January 2023 at 7.30pm AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Present: -

Cllr. A. Bowker (Chairman), Cllr. R. Nevill, Cllr. C. Owers, Cllr. L Elden & Cllr. S Wild,
Jane Wisson – Clerk.
2 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr G Hayman and Cllr. E Maxfield**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS – Cllr R Nevill – TVS and Village Hall, Cllr. A Bowker - TVS**
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7th December 2022 and MATTERS ARISING**
– slight amendments to minutes – proposed by Cllr. S Wild, seconded Cllr. C Owers all agreed.
4. **TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF COUNCILLOR PAUL TAYLOR –** Council held a 1 minutes silence to remember our fellow Councilor Paul Taylor, Funeral will be on the 12th November 2023 at 11.30.
5. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**
5.1 County Councilors report – attached at the end of the minutes
5.2 District Councilors report – nothing provided. Concerns were raised regarding an article in the newspaper raised by the District Councilor – Clerk to send a letter raising the concerns
Proposed by Cllr. R Nevill – seconded Cllr ~S Wild **-all agreed**
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**
Resident updated the parish council on the works being undertaken to incorporate the village shop into the Crown public house – incorporating the post office and improvements to the toilets.

Another resident highlighted that parishioners are not aware of the work undertaken by the parish and felt that a further campaign is need to ensure engagement – Clerk to provide Chairman an article for the Mardle and produce a poster to go up on the noticeboard.

7. FINANCE MATTERS

7.1 To agree the cheques for payment - £108.00 D Bracey – playground inspection, £1187.43 Clerks wages, HMRC£467.43. Proposed Cllr L Elden, seconded Cllr. C Owers **All agreed.**

7.2 To agree any late Invoice payment requests – none provided Proposed Cllr L Elden, seconded Cllr. C Owers **All agreed.**

7.3 Monthly figures for November 2022 – reconciliation agreed – proposed by Cllr. R Neville, seconded Cllr. S Wild – **All agreed**

7.4 To agree precept for 2023 – following on from the working group looking at the precept the proposal placed before the council to increase the precept to £24232. Proposed by Cllr C Owers, seconded by Cllr. S Wild – **all agreed**

8 Parish Plan

8.1 Emergency Plan – to set up a working party to include, TVS, Church and other interested parties – Chairman to update in the February meeting

8.2 Preparation for May 2023 Elections – see notes in public participation – Clerk to leave on agenda.

9. HIGHWAYS

9.1 Highways Inspection – clerk to provide update to Highways on all concerns raised and chase responses with them.

9.2 To receive any other Highways matters and agree action – raise with Knapton Chairman where we are with the 4-parish initiative – Clerk to chase a response. Clerk to chase NNDC regarding the road sweeper in Wrights Loke.

10 PLAYING FIELD

10.1 Tree planting on the playing field – Chasing the purchase of a Rowan Tree.

10.2 To receive other playing field matters and agree actions. Clerk to arrange cost from Contractor for the erection of posts for the new signs to be erected – Clerk to agree cost with chairman.

Clerk to chase costs and look for funding to replace/repair equipment in the future and report back to the Parish Council

10 PLANNING

11.1 To receive update on Planning Applications and agree actions:

Village Shop application for the Crown Pub – no objection

11.2 To receive any other Planning matters and agree actions – AP/21/0035 – appeal dismissed

12 FOOTPATHS

12.1 Verge Cutting ongoing work for tender – Clerk and Chairman to finalise the contract and will send out to the preferred contract within the next month – just a couple of issues to clarify.

12.2 Southrepps Path – Clerk is chasing – however there is a backlog at NCC.

12.3 To receive footpath matters and agree action

13 TASK AND FINISH GROUP

13.1 Allotments – Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr. C Owers – plot 8A currently not occupied but we have some items left on site – Clerk to contact previous occupant of the site to ascertain if he will be collecting

14 PARISH MATTERS

14.1 Kings Coronation Event – Chairman to arrange a meeting with all interested parties in January to progress

14.2 Other Parish Matters

- clerk to speak to a previous councilor to progress this further regarding the registration of title.
- Cllr L Eldon and Clerk to work with Victory around vehicles being parked in Cornish Way.
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15 NORFOLK ALC – WELLBEING INITIATIVE

15.1 Various papers - circulated for information – all noted

16 CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 Norfolk ALC Bulletin – circulated for information – all noted

16.2 Correspondence – request received regarding a water butt – Clerk to contact the Diocese and speak to allotment holders – it may be that the cost will need to be incorporated within the rents if required – Clerk to ascertain and report back in due course.

Next Meeting: Full Council Meeting 4th January 2023, at Methodist Church at 7.30pm

Budget Setting meeting – 14th December over zoom

Meeting closed 8:50 pm

Chairman Signature..... Dated:.....

County Councillor's Report January 2023

Happy New Year! Apologies to those councils meeting in the first week of January: I am away on holiday until 6th Jan so will miss your meeting. Here's my latest written report.

Funding for the County Council

The government has announced what funding will be coming to Norfolk County Council to help pay for local services. It's not easy to make a statement about Local Government Finance interesting or even understandable to most of us but I will do my best.

The EDP (and Councillor Jamieson) do a decent job of [explaining the settlement here](#).

If the County Council increases Council Tax by 5% (the maximum it is allowed to without calling a referendum), it will have £81 million more to spend next year, an increase of 10.5%.

The government is consulting on the Settlement and if you are interested in having your say, you can find the [details of the consultation here](#). You have until 16 January to respond. Scroll down to Appendix B in the link to find the specific questions they are asking but, also, don't be put off by the format and the jargon - have your say in general terms if you want to.

For Norfolk residents, the key thing (apart from the likely increase of 5% in Council Tax) is that cuts in spending that the County Council had planned to make will still go ahead. The briefing says that the extra money from the government will not quite cover the additional costs that the Council faces from inflation and increases in staff wages.

More than two fifths of the savings will need to come from the Adult Social Care budget, reducing its annual budget by close to £50 million by 2027. After years of cutting hard at the Children's Services budget, that department is still expected to cut more than £27 million from its annual budget by 2027. Community and Environmental Services (which includes Highways) will need to cut its spending by £28 million a year by 2027. You can see the details of the Council's [Medium Term Financial Plan here](#) (from page 27 onwards).

A County Deal for Norfolk: what we know

A 'Devolution Deal' for Norfolk was [announced early in December](#) which will change the way the County Council is run and give some extra money and power to the county.

It will not change the structure of Local Government in Norfolk (so Parish Councils and District Councils will still exist and continue to do the things they do now). But it will mean we get to elect the leader of the County Council (who might be called a Mayor) directly ourselves.

The next step is that the deal will be taken to full Council and Cabinet for consideration in January 2023. These extraordinary meetings have been arranged as follows:

- Extraordinary Full Council, 10am on 17 January 2023
- Extraordinary Cabinet, 2pm on 17 January 2023

The decision to *progress further* with the deal is an executive decision not a decision for full Council to make. That means that the Cabinet of senior councillors (in Norfolk's case they are all Conservative because they have the majority of councillors) makes the decision. The current leader of the council has, though, committed to bring the text of the deal to the full Council for discussion. The final decision on whether to *change the governance model* of the Council to enable a directly elected Leader will be a decision for full Council to make following public consultation and this will be taken to the Council meeting to be held on 12th December 2023.

The election for a Leader will take place in May 2024. The next full County Council elections are due in May 2025 so the Leader's first term in office will run for five years. From 2029 onwards the Leader elections and elections for the County Council will happen at the same time and both will be elected for four years.

I asked whether the new model will mean the end of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Local Enterprise Partnership. Under the deal the PCC will still exist unfortunately which is a real

missed opportunity. Hopefully that can be corrected in due course. The County Council will take on the work of the LEP though (economic development) so at least that comes back under the control of people who are elected in Norfolk.

An additional County Council meeting has been called for 17th January to debate the Deal. If you want to share your views with me ahead of that meeting (as individuals, I realise you wont be able to do it in time formally as Parish Councils) please do get in touch.

New Recycling Centre at North Walsham

I was asked about progress on this and so I checked with County Hall. This is the reply I received:

The first searches found no suitable sites on the market in the North Walsham area, so we are now approaching landowners directly to see what sites could be available for this type of development based on searches of vacant plots in suitable areas.

And the skill really is in finding the right site in terms of location, size, neighbours and access. As a compromise on any of those aspects can really damage the prospects of securing planning permission.

And if you have local insights or pointers that you think would prove useful please let me know, and when we have more clarity we will let you know too.

Joel Hull, Assistant Director – Waste and Water Management

Future of the Mobile Library Service

I also asked for an update on plans for the Mobile Library Service which is threatened with funding cuts. This is the reply I received:

There were 1397 responses to the consultation, that had to be extended due to the national period of mourning. They are being fully considered in the development of proposals that will go to Cabinet for decision in January.

Jill Terrell, Head of Libraries and Information Service

School energy costs

I asked the schools in the area I represent about increased energy costs and they confirmed that they expect them to almost double this year. The government is providing some help but at the last meeting of the County Council I asked what help we are giving to schools. I am promised a full reply in writing which I will share when I get it.

Ed Maxfield. Contact details and more news about my work at www.edmaxfield.org.uk