

Minutes of the Cley Parish Council Meeting

Held at 6.30pm on Thursday 12th October 2023 at

Cley Village Hall, the Fairstead

Attending: Cllr Holliday (Chairman and NNDC District Cllr), Cllr Allen (Vice-Chairman), Cllr High, Cllr Williamson, Cllr Holman and Parish Clerk Gemma Harrison. 10 members of the public present.

1. Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence.

- 1.1 Cllr Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Cllr Baker (illness) and Cllr Deane (family commitment). Apologies were accepted.

2. To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations by councillors in any of the agenda items listed.

- 2.1 Cllr High declared an interest in item 10 (Newgate Green).
- 2.2 Cllr Holliday declared an interest in item 9 (EV Charging) and requested a dispensation to vote. It was AGREED by all to grant the dispensation.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2023 to be approved.

- 3.1 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting; they were PROPOSED as accurate and correct by Cllr Holman and SECONDED Cllr High and AGREED by all.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes (for information only and not included on the Agenda).

- Toad Patrol – A meeting was held to discuss the Toad Patrol. New signs have been ordered and delivered ahead of the season next year.
- Litter Pick – A successful litter pick has been held, a huge thank you to all the volunteers who participated.

5. Reports

5.1 Receive and Discuss Reports.

- Police Report – Graham Gower-Smith gave his report via the Clerk. There have been a number of agricultural thefts and residents have been asked to look out for any suspicious vans passing through the parish. It was noted 12 kayaks have been stolen from Blakeney. Graham continues to monitor the builder's vans on Newgate Green which have been causing an obstruction.
- County Cllr Report – County Cllr Eric Vardy gave his report which can be seen in full at Appendix A.
- District Council Report – District Cllr Victoria Holliday gave her report which can be seen in full at Appendix B.
- Allotments – no report.
- Harbour Report – Simon Read gave the report. Carols on Quay will take place on Sunday 10th December 4pm – 6.30pm. Advent windows are running again this year. The permit work is progressing, the works have more or less been agreed by EA for around Cley Mill and further down the river. The committee are now awaiting Natural England consent.
- Village Hall Report – No report.

Public participation

An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and request to speak on agenda items

- A member of the public asked whether the land on which the Blakeney Surgery is built was donated.
- A resident confirmed they are still maintaining the Loke near their property.

6. Planning

6.1 To receive and agree the planning report for September 2023; Namely

- PF/23/1854 Wrights Yard
- PF/23/1951 Green Farm
- PF/23/2014 Dawn Cottage

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. In addition, the recent planning application for Solveig was discussed in the meeting. Cllrs requested anti-glare glass

and roof blinds should be used to minimise any light pollution and to ensure Cley's dark skies remain protected. With this taken into consideration Cllrs all AGREED no objection.

6.2 The report including the comments above on Solveig were PROPOSED by Cllr Allen and SECONDED by Cllr Williamson and AGREED by all.

6.2 To receive an update on Cookes Marsh. Planning application will be submitted for the render, the windows will be considered as permitted development. Rubbish including asbestos is on the track, Clerk to chase. Clerk to chase the Enforcement Team. GH

7. Finance

7.1 The payments and receipts for September were printed out and shared with Cllrs. The Clerk also read aloud the payments for approval for October. The payments of £2120 for September and £1587.10 of payments to be paid in October were PROPOSED by Cllr Williamson and SECONDED by Cllr Holman and AGREED by all.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Blakeney Surgery – as discussed under the District Report, see Appendix B.

8.2 Loke Management – Local residents have been in touch asking that any clearance taking place on the Lokes is kept to a minimum.

8.3 Police Budget Setting Meeting – 11th October (online) – Clerk to circulate for comments. GH

8.4 To note that Positivitea Events will be taking place in Walsingham and Briston in the month of October.

8.5 Glaven Pollution – there is lots of silt in the Glaven and concerns have been raised that the Orsted drilling up stream may have caused some problems.

8.6 Speeding on Old Woman's Lane – the 30 mph signs which were overgrown have now been cut by Cllr Williamson. Highways are required to cut back the hedge along Old Woman's Lane. Speeding is a concern regularly raised by residents as there are more school children walking along the lane to catch the school bus. Clerk to raise speeding and overgrown hedge with Highways. GH

8.7 Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan is currently out at Consultation. Clerk to circulate draft comments to Cllrs for approval. GH

9. EVCP

9.1 A discussion took place on whether CPC should carry out a consultation, to seek the views of residents, on installing Electric Vehicle Charging Points in the Village Hall Car Park. It was AGREED to defer the agenda item until more information is available from NCC on their terms and conditions.

10. Newgate Green

10.1 The amended plan for the proposed 4 parking bays on Newgate Green was circulated prior to the meeting. There will be raised earth (with a slope to the edge of the green) around the perimeter to prevent parking, a break will be created to ensure disabled access. The raised earth will be approximately 2 ft in height. The plans were AGREED by all. Clerk to go back to PCC to share the amended plan. Clerk to contact Highways about costs and ask if any money is owed to the PC from the yellow line project. GH

11. Hedge Cutting

11.1 The hedge cutting on Church Lane has now been done. Cllr Holman has also requested the drain is cleared by the Church and a missed section of hedging still needs looking at. Brambles on Glandford Road (by the wall) to be cleared by Highways, Clerk to report. GH

12. Warm Space Winter

12.1 There is not enough interest from the volunteers to hold a warm space this winter. It was AGREED to continue with the Community Café one day a week.

12.2 A member of the public requested two armchairs and a TV for the Club Room to make a more comfortable space for older visitors to the café. Clerk to approach the Village Hall Committee for permission. It was noted that the local resident would pay for the TV License.

13. Asset Register

13.1 The Clerk read aloud the proposed changes to the asset register. These included removal of the bench at Lime Kiln Close, the NCC SAM 2 for occasional use and

the increase in price of the allotment stall to £450. It was noted that the Beach Shelter needed inspecting. The adopted of the Asset Register for 23/24 was PROPOSED by Cllr Allen and SECONDED by Cllr Holman and AGREED by all.

14. Loke Weeding

14.1 It was AGREED to hold a Working Party on Long Stone Loke on Saturday 28th October. Clerk to seek permission (from the Village Hall) to have a fire at the back of the car park. Clerk to advertise the Working Party. GH

15. Community Support Fund

15.1 A discussion took place on how best to spend the remaining Community Support Funds.

15.2 Cllrs AGREED to purchase 4 electric throws to be given out at the Community Café and advertise that £50 food vouchers are available. The support is only for Cley residents; however, it was noted that the Blakeney benefice can also offer support to both Cley and Blakeney residents. Clerk to purchase the Electric throws and advertise. GH

16. Items to be included on the Next Agenda

16.1 Budget, Neighbourhood Plan, beach shelter, noise concern at The Three Swallows (extractor fan) Clerk to write to Punch Taverns.

17. Time and Date of Next Meeting; 6.30pm Thursday 9th November in Cley Village Hall.

Meeting ended 19.43

Appendix A

OCTOBER COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Give the gift of a lift and become a Travel Norfolk volunteer driver, please give this some thought.

Norfolk County Council is looking for individuals who want to make a positive impact by becoming a volunteer driver for the Travel Norfolk Car Scheme.

This scheme offers a chance for people to contribute their spare time while providing essential transportation for those who may face challenges in getting to where they need to go.

Our volunteers are invaluable and play a vital role in helping others across the county. Their time helps to give others access to services they need and creates a community that can remain independent for longer. Volunteering is not only good for others but also good for the person volunteering as it provides social connection which is key for a long and fulfilled life.

“We’re looking for more volunteers to support our Travel Norfolk Transport Schemes, so if you have some time to spare and feel that you could help, we’d really like to hear from you”.

The Travel Norfolk Car Scheme plays a crucial role in ensuring eligible adults can reach vital health, social, and wellbeing services through essential journeys. Passengers contribute 45p per mile towards the cost of the journey plus any car parking fees.

One dedicated volunteer Jeanne Heal wants to encourage others to join and shares her story:

“I’ve always been committed to helping the community in North Norfolk, and having spent a lot of my working career in the area I know the challenges people face in getting around this rural part of Norfolk. I also love people and enjoy driving so this really is an ideal for me.

As a volunteer driver I enable people to keep various medical appointments, necessary shopping trips, visit relatives in hospital or care homes. People can be anxious travelling, I enjoy chatting, listening to people and sharing experiences with passengers which seems to put them at their ease. Without the service, passengers have expressed that they would be unable to attend appointments. In the past 18 months I have volunteered with Travel Norfolk Car Scheme, every journey has been a pleasure, it is satisfying knowing that passengers feel safe during their journeys.

I have volunteered all my adult life in various roles. Volunteering provides a wealth of experiences and insights into the challenges of living in a rural community. My journey as a volunteer has sharpened my patience and active listening skills. It also enables me to improve my driving skills to ensure that passengers have a comfortable and safe journey”.

Individuals interested in joining this scheme can learn more by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/volunteerdrivers or by contacting the Travel Norfolk Car Scheme directly at 0344 800 8020.

Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance

With bird nesting season over, people across Norfolk have a chance to do their bit to stop flooding and keep water flowing across their properties.

Small, simple steps that ensure water can drain away from your home can cut down the likelihood of flooding, starting with tasks as simple as keeping drains, ditches and watercourses clear and able to flow freely. After a year's growth, many ditches and watercourses will benefit from clearing branches, and cutting back new undergrowth. Now bird nesting season is over, early autumn is the prime time for property owners to put in a little work to keep their properties safe.

A build-up of flood water with nowhere to drain can quickly turn a minor incident into a disaster for the home. By starting off small, and checking drains for any blockages such as mud, leaves and stones, residents can take the first step towards mitigating the impact of flooding.

Outside the home, if residents spot any blocked or broken drains on Norfolk's highways, they can report it via www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding, allowing Norfolk's Highways Team to clear them and keep our roads open.

Henry Cator, Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA), said: "The first line of defence against flooding is to stop it before it happens: keeping all of our waterways clear, right down to the smallest ditch, has a huge impact on floodwater's ability to drain away quickly. It may not seem like much, but keeping your own watercourses clear can protect your property and that of your neighbours, for just an afternoon's effort with shears and aspade."

When clearing a watercourse, ask yourself: could a fish swim through the ditch or waterway? If the answer is no, it needs clearing.

Cllr Eric Vardy, Norfolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "Everyone knows what can happen when drains are blocked, and our teams work closely with Anglian Water to keep the water flowing, but it's easy to forget that ditches and waterways work in exactly the same way. Blockages lead to floods, and when it's in a watercourse on your land, it's up to you to keep the water flowing. It's simple and straightforward, and not just about legal responsibilities: it's about protecting yourself, protecting your home and protecting your community."

Under UK law, homeowners and landowners have a responsibility to keep watercourses on their property clear, even if only a few feet of the ditch passes through.

These duties, sometimes referred to as Riparian responsibilities, do not show up on property searches, which can leave homeowners unaware of ditches near their house and of the important role they have to play in flood prevention. Ditches and watercourses can lie beyond the hedges or fences that the landowner may believe marks the edge of their boundary, when in fact homeowners have responsibility for them too. It is much better for homeowners to stop easily avoidable cases of flooding by ensuring water can flow freely through a ditch or stream, than a blocked waterway leading to a flood in their home.

This autumn, everyone is being urged to check ditches and watercourses on or adjacent to their property, to confirm what their responsibilities are, and to do their part to keep ditches clear. Even smaller watercourses which may be dry for most of the year play a key drainage role in wet weather.

Find out more about Riparian responsibilities at www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding

To report a flood, or find out more about how to prepare for flooding, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding

In an emergency, residents across Norfolk can report flooding by telephone via 0344 800 8013. If you are in immediate danger, dial 999 immediately.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS.

I have included this article because after all it's your money and your services the council is debating on.

Services to the people of Norfolk will be protected as much as possible, despite the county council's £46.2 million savings target.

That is the message from Norfolk County Council, as the cabinet prepares to discuss savings proposals amid "substantial uncertainty over funding".

A report to cabinet says that the council faces a "significant challenge" to develop a budget for 2024/2025, ahead of further announcements on funding from the Government, later this year.

Councillor Andrew Jamieson, the council's deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "Despite major uncertainties, the proposals set out in this report make a significant contribution towards our £46.2 million savings target and will enable the council to continue to deliver key services for Norfolk's residents. We will balance the books, as we always have done.

"I am determined that we should concentrate on transforming the way the council works and, wherever possible, reduce the impact on the services that people receive.

"This gets tougher and tougher to achieve, after more than a decade of reduced funding. All councils are facing these pressures and that is why we continue to press for multi-year settlements and fairer funding, so that the Government can give us more certainty when planning our budgets."

Pressures facing the council include:

- Price inflation of £12.5 million, including £7 million in adult social care and £3.2 million in children's services
- Demographic pressures, including £5.5 million in adult social care and £9.5 million in children's services

So far, £26.5 million of savings have been proposed and the remainder will be developed over the next few months:

- Adult social services, £14.2 million
- Children's services, £4.8 million
- Community and environmental services, £5.5 million
- Strategy and transformation, £0.9 million
- Finance, £1.0 million

Public consultation on the budget will be undertaken over the autumn.

The current proposals include a Council Tax increase of 4.99 per cent, including the adult social care precept of two per cent.

The council is waiting to hear whether more funding will be provided in the autumn statement in November, or the provisional local government funding settlement in December.

The council's scrutiny committee and select committees will comment on the budget proposals, before cabinet finalises the proposals in early 2024 and the full council makes a final decision on the budget in February 2024.

Appendix B

District Councillors report October 23

From NNDC

Coast

The Development Committee has approved plans for extensive new sea defences at Cromer and Mundesley which the coastal engineers say will protect the settlements from the sea for the next 50 years.

Planning

The Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal is out for consultation from October 6th till 27th. The saltmarshes north of CLEY and Blakeney are now included, as are the villages, as we had requested. The document will be available to view using the following link: www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/conservation/glaven-valley-conservation-area-review

If you would like to make any representations, these should be sent to: email: caaconsultation@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

The Wells Neighbourhood Plan is out for consultation till 13th November. For more details search for Wells-next-the-Sea Neighbourhood Plan on www.north-norfolk.gov.uk.

The 'relaxation' of nutrient neutrality restrictions (which is 'holding up' 100 plus applications in North Norfolk) is on hold awaiting legislation .

Housing

NNDC is running a survey on the current housing allocation scheme, Your Choice, Your Home. Details on the news section of the NNDC website.

Communities

NNDC has agreed to be an 'age friendly community' which allows the council to align with other UK and global age friendly communities and support older residents to enjoy healthy and active lives.

Property services

The Development Committee has approved the plans for the replacement of the Albert Street, Holt toilets.

Customer service

A Chatbot is now live on the NNDC website to answer queries 24/7.'

Save Blakeney Surgery campaign

Thank you all for your support with the Save Blakeney Surgery campaign. We have had a great response. We had almost 1500 signatures on our petition, about 500 practice surveys have been submitted and many of you have written to the practice and the integrated Care Board with your views.

NNDC passed a motion on 29th September:

1. The council recognises the critical importance of Blakeney Surgery to the community
2. The council calls on the NWICB to provide local and equitable health care for those living in Blakeney and surrounding villages.

Holt Medical Practice are now collating all the feedback from the consultation and, despite the overwhelming objections, if they still ask to close Blakeney Surgery, the Integrated Care Board will make the decision in January/February next year. At least they have agreed to have this discussion in public.

River flooding

There was a flood warning for the River Glaven last month. As far as we know the only property flooded in our area was Letheringsett Mill. There was a huge amount of water down stream but it was buffered by the water meadows, and the Environment Agency raised the Glaven outfall sluice to its winter level. I would encourage you to sign up for the River Glaven (or Stiffkey) flood alerts if you are in a vulnerable location on www.gov.uk/Environment-Agency or call 03459881188 or 08459881198. It's easier to call!

Storm outflows at Holt create potential sewage spills into the Glaven. Anglian Water say 'we do have a storm overflow at Holt which may have operated (last month) to discharge storm water, but that would have been normal'. I'm waiting to hear if there was a sewage leak. I was shocked to find out the Holt Sewage Treatment Works discharged storm overflows 6 times in 2022. I'm in discussions with the River Glaven Conservation Group as to how much harm this does to our beautiful chalk river.

Speeding

I attended a meeting on speeding held by Duncan Baker. There are far more deaths from road traffic accidents in Norfolk than from other crimes. The Chief Constable is putting more resources into rural speeding and I have asked if these could be made available to our area. There are now automatic speed watch cameras with number plate recognition that other counties have linked into the police. I'm trying to get more details from the Chief Constable as this seems a good idea.

Housing wanted

I have been contacted by a resident who is looking for somewhere to live in or close to Blakeney from November so their child can stay at Blakeney School. They are prepared to rent or be a live in carer. Please get in touch with me if you can help.

