

BRININGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 30th January 2025,
at Briningham Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

This meeting was recorded

Present: Cllrs, Helena Gregory (Chair) (HG), Hugh Crossley (HC), Tracey Gardner (TG), Chris Rix (CR), Jackie Rix (JR), Parish Clerk – Kerry. Harris (KH), NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown (AB), 6 members of the public

25/01 Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence.

HG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting is being recorded.

There were no apologies.

25/02 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations for any agenda item

There were none.

25/03 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2024.

These were Approved by All on a Proposal by CR and seconded by TG and were signed by HG.

25/04 Matters arising in the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda.

HG read out a statement: regarding a query at the November meeting expressing concern about the level of the Clerk's pay. She has now investigated this and confirmed that expenditure in this area has been significantly reduced. She advised the member of the public to view the AGAR which are available on the website and offered to meet with anyone who still had concerns.

25/05 Open forum for Public Participation.

(i) A member of the public reported that a glass panel in the phone box had been broken on the same night as other vandalism took place in the village.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the speed vehicles travelled on the village roads and the speed limits in the village. The member of the public requested that the PC spend some of their reserves on a feasibility study for reducing the speed along the B1110 and introducing a 20mph speed limit through the village.

HG will contact the police regarding speeding on village roads.

A member of the public updated the PC about the smashed window to his property: he had CCTV of the perpetrator which was now with the police. The same individual had visited the property twice.

(ii) To receive reports from NCC Cllr Aquarone and NNDC Cllr Brown
No report had been received from Cllr Aquarone

Cllr Brown (AB) reported on the current uncertainty regarding the County Council elections this year which will not take place if Norfolk is added to the priority list by Government to become a Unitary authority; tourism statistics for 2023 – visitor numbers were slightly down on 2022, but total spend was slightly up; Government proposals for planning decisions whereby almost all decisions will be decided by Officers rather than going to Committee; no increase for rural areas in the Local Government Finance Settlement; Planning Infringement - there will now be 10 years for bringing

enforcement action; an update on the Hunworth Bell Planning Application and Tree Management Advice – this will be added to the PC's website.

AB gave an update on the proposed reform of Local Government by central Government: to remove the 7 District authorities and County Council in Norfolk and replace them with a single unitary authority. Currently the timing is unknown, including whether there will be County elections in May, but this should be known by the middle of February.

AB informed the PC that the Second Home Premium had been Approved by NNDC yesterday evening and this meant that 25% of this premium would come to NNDC. This amount will need to be renegotiated each year. North Norfolk has the second highest number of Second Homes in the country (after Westminster).

25/06 Financial and Governance Matters

- (i) To Approve the cashbook, Receipts and Payments since the last meeting.

The Balance in the Current Account is £4,235.71. The Balance in the Business Premium Account is £10,271.87. The Balance in the NS&I Account is £6,541.61.

Receipts since the last meeting – Allotment fees £377.00; NS&I Interest £95.62, Barclays Interest £38.16

Payments to be Approved: C. Harris (Clerk's Salary, October to December) £513.10; HMRC (Tax on salary) £128.40; Briningham Village Hall (Hall Hire) £37.50; C. Harris (Clerk's expenses, November, December and Microsoft renewal) £69.44.

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by HC and Seconded by JR.

- (ii) To receive an update on proposals to digitise Parish Council meetings and operations

The Deputy Prime Minister has announced that the Government is keen to allow local councils a choice regarding holding remote meetings. Emergency powers were granted during the pandemic to allow this, but those powers ended in May. The Clerk read a report from Wales where this already happens: *"We have a TV set up in the corner of our chamber with a laptop plugged in via a HDMI cable. We use Zoom and have a camera positioned on the wall for a view of the whole chamber which also connects to the microphones."* This was noted.

- (iii) To review and Approve the following policies: Reserves, Risk Management, Freedom of Information – Guidance:

The policies were Approved by All on a Proposal by TG and Seconded by CR.

- (iv) To Approve the Budget and Precept for the 2025 – 26 Financial Year.

Cllrs discussed the Budget Proposals and the Second Homes Tax implications. They unanimously Approved a Band D Tax Charge of £32.16, making a Precept of £2,360 on a Proposal by HG and Seconded by JR.

- (v) To Approve £15.70 = 20% Training fees for the Clerk to attend the NPTS Spring Seminar

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by JR and Seconded by CR.

25/07 To note vandalism over the New Year period

This was discussed during the Open Forum. HG reiterated her shock that such a thing could happen in a quiet rural area and stated she was very sorry for the three households affected. A resident stated that the phone box would be repaired using the resident's own funds. He was thanked.

25/08 To receive an update and Approve any Action on Highway matters

All local potholes have been repaired

25/09 To receive an update on any Planning matters and Approve any action.

PF/24/1643 – Briningham House: Erection of detached stable block - Approved

PF/24/2213 – Glaven Oaks: Erection of detached outbuilding (garages and workshop) – Approved

PF/24/2594 – Meadow View, Burgh Stubbs: Erection of detached annex building – Pending consideration

25/10 To receive an update on Allotment matters and to Approve any action

- (i) To consider and Approve any action on renting unused Allotments to non-residents

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by HC and Seconded by CR.

- (ii) To Approve the erection of an Information Notice for the Memorial Field Allotment Area

HG will investigate the requirements for a Noticeboard and the information it should contain

- (iii) To consider and Approve any action on security and access onto the Memorial Field Allotment

TG expressed concern about Travellers or others entering onto the allotments. It was agreed that vehicular access needs to be maintained. There are 3 points of access.

CR will make enquires about gates. They can be paid for from capital funds.

25/11 To receive an update on biodiversity in the Parish and to Approve any action

JR has noticed winter flowering heliotropes near the pond.

The April survey undertaken last year will be redone this April for comparison

Some planting has been done in the Churchyard.

25/12 To note any Correspondence

NAS Autumn magazine

NNDC further Consultation on the Local Plan

NPTS information

NCC Cllrs January report

Council Tax base changes

Fakenham Police Meetings

NNDC affordable housing report

MP Aquarone end of year report

Flood & Drought Summit invitation

25/13 To set dates for future meetings

Provisional – Thursday May 1st or (if the NCC elections go ahead) 22nd

25/14 Any other business – for information and future agenda

None

25/14 To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed:

Date: