

**The Minutes of Gt Ryburgh Parish Council Meeting held on 25 April 2024 at
7.00pm at Memorial Hall Annex, Gt Ryburgh**

Present: **Cllr G McCarthy** **Cllr C Weston** **Cllr H Palmer**
 Cllr M Lawrence **Cllr C Buxton** **Cllr L Merchant**
 Cllr R Kelly

Also in Attendance: Sarah Bristow (Acting Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

- 1 To consider acceptance of apologies for absence.**
None Received.
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations by Councillors in any of the Agenda Items listed.**

Cllr Buxton gave a personal interest in agenda item 9.3.

- 3. Adjournment of Meeting to allow for public questions. (15 mins max 5 mins per Speaker.) These items were not on the agenda, but Council gave permission to the public to address the council.**

No questions received.

4. To Receive Councillor Reports

- 4.1 County Councillor – Cllr Aquarone.
Cllr Aquarone has given his apologies, please see report attached.
- 4.2 District Councillor – Cllr Hankins
Cllr Hankins gave the following update.

Blue Boar Public House

Planning advice is being discussed with NNDC that could lead to an application to convert the pub in to 7 residential dwellings. 2 large properties and 5 very small dwellings. The need currently is for affordable family dwellings of which these are not. There are also two separate offers for the purchase. At the same time an application has been made to register the pub as a community asset. This process takes around six weeks for a response and if granted may delay/stop any development.

Revised Waste Collection program.

Cllr Hankins advised that it looks like it has gone well, he has not had any adverse reports from the Stibbard Ward.

Crisp Maltings

Cllr Hankins advised that he had heard through informal contacts that there is currently a concern surrounding the timing of the planned expansion plan. In addition, there are issues with the proposed HGV traffic control plan.

Fulmodeston

The travails at the Poplars Chicken Farm continue with the latest nuisance problem, noise from the recently installed new cooling fans. Steve Hems NNDC Environmental Director attended the recent parish council meeting to reassure residents that the council were doing all that they could within their powers to support the residents through this difficult time. No abatement notice is currently in place, but the Council are working hard with Banham Poultry to obtain the best outcome.

Postal Service

Cllr Hankins advised that some villages are currently only receiving their mail once a week. Cllr Hankins advised that due to having the Maltings within the village you are receiving the daily service still.

Reminder Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 2nd May.

The Chair thanked Cllr Hankins for his report.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 February 2024

5.1 To approve the minutes

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5.2 To take any matters arising

No Matters Arising.

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13 March 2024

6.1 To approve the minutes.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

6.2 To take any matters arising.

No Matters Arising.

7. Finance:

7.1/7.2 Banking Arrangements/Monthly Accounts for Payment

Cllr Weston explained that the new mandate got lost along the way and he had picked up another version this evening and it is hoped that this can be signed and sent off urgently. In the meantime, we have cheques that the old signatories are prepared to sign until the mandate is updated. The Acting Clerk advised that a list of all payments be sent to the councillors and listed in the minutes of the next meeting and urgent payments so there is no loss of services be made. The Mandate to be checked to make sure that on-line access is granted for the new signatories. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk is necessary to pull off a new mandate giving on-line access.**

7.3 Grasscutting Contract.

The old contractor is not able to continue. A specification sheet is needed
It was resolved for Cllr Buxton to speak with the previous contractor to obtain the details so that the Council can go out to tender.

8. Highways

8.1 Road Sweeping

Cllr Buxton advised that the Road Sweeping in Little Ryburgh still has not been achieved. The Acting Clerk advised that she had reported to the Highway Engineer, but no update has been received. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to chase the Highway Engineer.** Cllr Palmer advised that they had recently tarmacked the road which was an improvement and they had undertaken a good job.

8.2 HGV Road Traffic Ryburgh C335 Order 2023.

The Acting Clerk advised that this was also report to the Highway Engineer and advised that the consultation process had not been completed correctly. Cllr Hankins advised that there had been 10 objections, so it is needed to be re discussed.

9. Village Matters

9.1 Flooding

Cllr McCarthy advised that there has not been the heavy rain as previous, and he had not witnessed any flooding. Cllr Buxton advised that the ditch by the Brambles has been cleared and looks to have helped the situation. Further on now needs work to complete the task.

9.2 Crisp Malting – Invitation for a rep to attend a meeting and give an update.

The Acting Clerk advised that she had not heard back from the gentleman that Cllr Merchant had given her. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to try and contact him and if still no response to get back to Cllr Merchant who could give me details of his manager. It was also resolves for the Clerk to contact NNDC for any updates on the plan.**

9.3 Asset of Community Value

A letter had been received from Eastlaw advising that GT Ryburgh Unincorporated Body had put a request in register the Blue Boar as a Community Asset. A decision will be made by the 28 May 2024 at the latest. There is a need within the village for youth provision to stop the current anti-social behaviour. The group are asking for the provision to remain the public house with some food, and games facilities e.g. pool table etc so that there is somewhere for the younger members of the community to frequent.

9.4 Review of Village Dog Bins

There is a problem regarding the Playing Field, now that it has been opened up to allow for dogs to use, the owners are being responsible as asked but are putting the waste in the litter bins and the volunteers who empty the bins are not happy with undertaking such waste. **It was resolved that the Council when they have got access to their money and understand their financial position they will look to put or move a dog bin to this location.**

9.5 Request for Road Signs for Litter Picking

The village wildlife group undertake a litter pick each year and due to personal safety have purchased some signs to warn people that people are on the road picking litter and to be aware. The group would like that Parish Council to purchase them from the group. The Acting Clerk advised that the council are unable to purchase items retrospectively. **It was resolved for the group to look for something else that the Council can purchase on their behalf which would benefit the village.**

9.6 Village Broadband

The Acting Clerk had received an email from a Parishioner who was concerned regarding the speed of the broadband in certain parts of the village. E.g. around Hillfield Lane. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to check out the NCC Scheme regarding getting good speed broadband to all and see if the village is on the scheme and if not to try and place the village on the scheme going forward.**

9.7 Blue plaque scheme

Cllr Buxton advised that he was not sure where the council were on this process. It was something that was started by the previous council, but he believes was never completed e.g. the plaque was never ordered. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to check if the application had been made and if not to undertake.**

10. Planning Applications and Determinations: Applications

No applications received.

Determinations:

No determinations received.

11. Governance:

11.1 Parish Councillor Emails

The Acting Clerk advised that Norfolk ALC had been successful in obtain the grant money. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to apply to get the council .gov emails and website.**

11.2 Councillor Training

No current training needs.

11.3 Council to vote on agreeing model Grant Award Policy.

The Councils cannot recall it being sent. **It was resolved for the Clerk to resend round to all councillors and for the item to remain on the next agenda.**

11.4 Council to look at Playing Field Grant

The Council had been advised that the Maltings had agreed to pay for the playing field grass. **It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to ask if any grant from the Parish Council was required.**

11.5 Council to look at Trustee appointments to outside bodies prior to Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Acting Clerk advised that appointments to outside bodies was usually agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting and needed the information for the agenda. Apparently, a representative from the Council use to sit on the Playing Field/Village Hall Committee. **It was resolved for Cllr Buxton to check their constitution and advise the Clerk.**

12. Bio-Diversity Policy

12.1 Council to vote to adopt Model Policy.

It was resolved for the Council to adopt the Model Policy which might be updated after work with the village group was established. The Acting Clerk to make it Ryburgh's and to get on the website.

12.2 Council to agree work on Action Plan.

It was resolved that the Council would work on making the Action Plan appropriate to Ryburgh.

12.3 Council to look to work with village groups going forward.

It was resolved to contact village groups with an interest in Biodiversity and to look to have a meeting with all interested parties at the end of the summer early autumn.

13. Annual Parish Meeting

13.1 List of groups to invite.

The Acting Clerk advised that she had been sent a list but no contact details. **It was resolved for Cllr Buxton to get the contact details to the Acting Clerk so that invites could be sent.** Leaflets have been received and are due to be delivered to every household.

14. Parish Clerk/RFO

14.1 To vote on the Appointment of a New Parish Clerk/RFO.

Interviews and references had been sort and **It was resolved for Laura Trabucco to be appointed as the new Parish Clerk/RFO.** Everyone welcomed Laura on board.

15 Correspondence: (see associated papers) To review and consider any action necessary

The Council have only just got back the laptop. The Acting Clerk advised that all correspondence that she has received has been circulated and if necessary, made an agenda item.

16. Items For Next Agenda

It was resolved for the following to be added to the next agenda.

D-Day – Tree

17. Dates of next Meeting.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 22 May 2024 the Annual Parish Meeting will take place prior to this meeting at 6.00pm.

It was resolved to pass the following resolution: "That by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

18. Personnel Issues

To confirm terms of Parish Clerk/RFO Contract.

It was resolved for the Acting Clerk to draw up the new contract and circulate to the Councillors prior to sending to Mrs Trabucco.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting closed at 20:25pm

ACTION POINTS

Cllr Buxton

- Speak with previous Grasscutting Contractor re specification List.
- Check out if council rep required for P/Field/V-Hall Committee.
- Get contact information to Acting Clerk re village groups.

Cllr Weston

- Circulate Payments List.

Acting Clerk

- Request a New Bank Mandate to cover on-line access.
- Chase Highway Engineer re Silt still on the road in Little Ryburgh.
- Ring the poss rep re the Maltings.
- Get any updates regarding the Maltings proposed plan from NNDC.
- Check with NCC re Broadband Scheme
- Check out Blue Plague Application
- Arrange .gov emails and website.
- Re-send grant application policy.
- Make Bio-Diversity Policy – Ryburgh's and place on Website.
- Draw up new Clerk contact.

Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone steffanaquarone@gmail.com | 07879 451608.

April 2024

Footpath story

After two years of consulting, campaigning, and lobbying, I'm delighted that the administration at Norfolk County Council is taking forward my Footpath Toolkit idea! My interest in establishing and improving circular walks came about when a group of young people in Melton Constable sent me a letter during Covid lockdown, expressing their frustration at the lack of local circular walks. I shared their feelings - especially as these walks are needed in order to enjoy the countryside safely, away from the risks of rural roads. The project will begin by consulting with stakeholders to update the existing Parish Paths pack and make it into a more practical and useful guide for communities to improve local walking routes. I hope that this toolkit will soon be made available, as it's often the case that all that's needed are a few simple things fixing - like blocked access, unmaintained paths, or simply publicising the routes.

Norwich Western Link

After years of work and nearly £50m already spent, it now looks like the Norwich Western Link has hit a major roadblock due to the Environment Agency refusing to grant it a license. There is clearly a serious congestion issue in the West of Norwich that needs addressing. But as far back in 2017 I was unconvinced by the speed at which alternative schemes were dismissed in favour of a project which has now ballooned in cost to over £250m and is set to cause untold damage to a major conservation area and Site of Special Scientific Interest. I have in fact resigned my only political job (leader of the Liberal Democrat group) over this issue in 2021 because I couldn't support the road and I remain unconvinced that adding this road offers good value for money as a way of enabling economic growth. My hope is that changes can be made, and a "plan B" developed that meets the need to reduce congestion before any more money is lost on the project.

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