

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 28 February 2024

Present: Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking (Chairman)
Councillor - Mr Michael May
Councillor - Mr Ross O'Hara
Councillor - Ms Abigail Smith
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

Prior to the meeting commencing, 10 Minute Public Forum – one member of the public was present who was primarily interested in the future development in Sicklesmere; the Chairman relayed information from the WSC drop-in event showcasing the local plan and the person was directed towards the ongoing public consultation.

Cllr. Karen Soons was unable to attend and sent her apologies.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None. All present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the previous meeting held on 17 January 2024.** Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. May; duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January, not already on the agenda** –
 - 4.1 (4.1) Cllr. May reported that the salt/grit bin had been delivered, although WSC had not as yet filled it; he would contact them again. **Action: Cllr. May**
 - 4.2 (10) The Clerk had established that the flint wall surrounding Nowton Park was not listed or legally protected. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain who was responsible for the maintenance of the wall. **Action: Clerk**
 - 4.3 (11) Installation of SID; to be deferred until the next meeting.
 - 4.4 (12) Community Engagement. Further dates for Community Self-Help Scheme training had been put forward by WSC. The training dates would be deferred until volunteers, other than Parish Councillors, came forward from the village. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Public Forum** – no members of the public were present for this item.
6. **Co-option to the Parish Council** – no applications or expressions of interest had been received; this would remain a standing Agenda item until such time as the position was filled.
7. **Finance** – Current Account: £689.71; Business Account: £4,959.94. Total: £5,649.65

Two cheques were approved and signed:

100454	Clerk, reimbursement of grit bin purchase	£150.47
100455	Clerk, reimbursement of stationary purchase	40.93

 - 7.1 Cllr. O'Hara had completed the Internal Control Report, including the Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2023, reporting no issues.
8. **Adoption of ICO Model Publication Scheme** – Councillors resolved to adopt the ICO Model Publication Scheme, as previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. May and signed by the Chairman.

9. Planning –

- 9.1 DC/24/0132/HH High Green House, High Green, Nowton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5LZ. Householder planning application – a. open front porch following demolition of existing front porch. b. single storey front, side and rear extensions following demolition of existing garden/utility room. c. external alterations to fenestration. d. construction of swimming pool. After discussion, Councillors agreed to support this application. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.2 DC/24/0133/LB – Application for Listed Building consent, see above application. Councillors agreed to support this application. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.3 DC/24/-165/FUL Apple Tree Farm, Low Green, Nowton, Suffolk IP29 5ND. Planning Application – partial conversion of agricultural building to dwelling (Class C3) After discussion, Councillors resolved unanimously to support this application. **Action: Clerk**

10. **Vehicle Speeding** – whilst the results were known from the recent survey this issue was still ongoing; a location survey would be needed, SID, etc. To be deferred until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

11. **Local Plan Consultation** – The Chairman had attended the WSC drop-in event showcasing the Local Plan on the 7 February and circulated a report to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman expressed his personal feedback, stating that he was disappointed at the apparent disconnect between the different departments and agencies.

12. **SALC Member Survey** – One request was put forward by the Chairman, that on-line Parish Council meetings are permitted in circumstances where a Council found itself inquorate if unable to physically meet. It was felt that this would be of particular help to smaller Councils, such as Nowton, and might well encourage more parishioners to put themselves forward to become Parish Councillors. The Clerk to complete the survey and include this request. **Action: Clerk**

13. **Award Certificates** – Cllr. Soons had alerted the Council to a new initiative, whereby Award Certificates would be given to parishioners or Councillors who it was felt deserved recognition for their work within the parish; up to three names could be nominated. After discussion, Councillors resolved to put forward one name and it was hoped to hold a small gathering in the Village Hall to present the Award Certificate. Details would be publicised in due course. **Action: Clerk**

14. **Road Safety, Crime/Public Nuisance** – Pot holes were an ongoing concern and Cllr. May reiterated the damage to the edges of roads caused by lorries carrying sugar beet. Flooding along Nowton Road was also discussed and it was noted that some clearing of drainage pipes had been carried out, but it was thought not by Highways.

14.1 NSWA BSE AREA B Network Coordinator, Andy Tucker, had produced the 2023 Neighbourhood Watch Report for Nowton and the Chairman had produced and circulated a Crime Data Report for Nowton to Councillors and also tabled printed copies at the meeting.

14.2 The Chairman reported that since the last crime report in February 2023, the comparable reporting period represented the highest number of reported crimes in Nowton, at 19 incidents. However, the Chairman explained that these were sometimes one in the same crime incident. A point to note was that crimes were

often being incorrectly 'tagged' as incidents taking place at Nowton Cricket Club and greater clarification as to the actual location of incidents was required.

14.3 Three burglaries had occurred in Nowton last year, the first since 2019. The Chairman suggested that through the Neighbourhood Watch a reminder be sent for parishioners not to become complacent and to offer some form of Neighbourhood Watch education.

14.4 Disappointingly, after the Council had recently spent funds on repainting the bus shelter, graffiti had been noticed on the inside wall. The Chairman kindly offered to attempt to remove the graffiti with cleaning solvent and re-paint, if necessary.
Action: Chairman

14.5 Cllr. Smith raised the issue of a lack of parking spaces for residents in Cooper Lane. Whilst this was outside the Council's remit, parishioners could email the Clerk with their concerns and the Council might then be in the position to raise the issue with the responsible housing association.

15. Correspondence – All email correspondence had been circulated to Councillors as and when received by the Clerk; the *Clerks & Councils Direct* February issue was handed to Councillors to read and circulate.

16. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 24 April, 7pm Nowton Village Hall - it was agreed to change the date of the next meeting, due to two Councillors being unable to attend, from the 17 April to the 24 April. **Action: Clerk**

Future meetings in 2024: 22 May (Annual PC meeting, followed by Annual Assembly of the Parish) 3 July; 4 September; 16 October; 4 December. *All dates subject to change.*

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.10pm

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Signed

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Date