

TACOLNESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tacolneston Parish Council held at Tacolneston Village Hall on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs L. Pincher (Chair), B. Gulliver (Vice-chair), K. Darrell, S. Langley, B. Spratt, P. Butcher and D. Hayward.
Parish Clerk/RFO: D. Wickham
District Councillor K. Carsok, County Councillor C. Rowett & 2 members of the public.

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| 1. To consider approving any apologies for absence.
None were received. | 24/019 |
| 2. To receive any declarations of interest and dispensation requests on any items to be discussed.
Cllr Darrell declared an interest in item 10. | 24/020 |
| 3. Public Participation.
a) A report from County Cllr Rowett had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. She was awaiting responses to her enquiries of Norfolk County Council (NCC) in relation to the bus shelter and flashing school lights. The 2024-25 council tax had increased due to the increasing costs faced by NCC. Cllr Spratt was unhappy with the increase. NCC was asking for expressions of interest in relation to the Community Ownership Scheme, which provided assistance in buying/renovating community assets.
District Cllr Carsok reported that conversations were ongoing within South Norfolk Council (SNC) and Norfolk Constabulary in respect of the parked car(s) regularly obstructing the junction of Norwich Road and New Road. The Community Action Fund was reopening on 6 th May with an application deadline of 30 th June. The maximum per application was £20,000 and the disabled toilet at the village hall would likely be eligible. Match-funding was required.
b) The tree warden was in possession of fruit trees ready to be planted. Cllr Pincher noted that these had been earmarked for the village hall. The need for a food hub in Tacolneston was discussed. Cllr Spratt said the church already operated a similar scheme and Cllr Gulliver noted the Wymondham Outreach Programme delivered food to those in need. | 24/021 |
| 4. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2024.
Having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, it was proposed by Cllr Darrell, seconded by Cllr Spratt, and agreed by all that the minutes were approved as a correct record. | 24/022 |
| 5. To receive any updates from the Media and Communication Working Group.
A response to SNC's Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan consultation had been sent in accordance with the Council's agreed views. | 24/023 |

Signed:



Date:

8/5/24

6. **To receive any updates from the Pylons Working Group.** 24/024
Cllr Langley reported that Councillors in Norfolk were largely against the pylon plans put forward by National Grid, but that nationally the proposals had more support. Cllr Gulliver was angry about how little input local communities were afforded. The Council thanked Cllr Langley for her hard work on this topic.

7. **To adopt the 2024 Asset Register and Information Audit.** 24/025
Cllr Hayward questioned whether the dog litter bins were used. Cllrs Pincher and Gulliver reminded the Council that the local community had unequivocally requested the provision of these bins and that they were well-used. Cllr Darrell noted that local residents without dogs also wanted the bins to enable dog-owners to clear-up after their dogs.
Cllr Darrell proposed the two documents be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Butcher and unanimously **Resolved** by the Council.

8. **Financial matters.** 24/026
a) The bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.
b) Following receipt of the relevant invoices these payments were approved:

Payee	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross
D Wickham	Clerk's Expenses Jan and Feb	£98.62	£3.52	£102.14
D Wickham	Clerk's Salary March	£320.30		£320.30
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE March	£80.20		£80.20
D Wickham	Clerk's Salary and PAYE April	£400.50		£400.50
K Darrell	Hi-Vis Vests and Litter Grabbers	£74.54	£6.32	£80.86
NPTS	Annual Subscription 2024/25	£180.00		£180.00
TAFRA	Village Hall Hire	£64.00		£64.00
ParishOnline	Annual Subscription 2024/25	£70.00	£14.00	£84.00

9. **To discuss replacing the trees in McKee Drive.** 24/027
Following a lengthy discussion of the issue the Council unanimously **Resolved** not to replace the trees which had been removed following a complaint by a local resident. It was noted that it was never the Council's intention to have trees growing in the particular vicinity.
10. **To consider the future of the thatched bus shelter.** 24/028
Cllr Langley had obtained three quotes to re-thatch the decommissioned shelter which ranged from £3,800 to £4,500. Following a discussion of the benefits of either re-thatching or demolishing the shelter, the Council decided to delay any decision, until Cllr Langley had been notified of the outcome of the grant applications she had submitted. The Council thanked Cllr Langley for the progress she had made in relation to this topic.

Signed:



Date:

8/5/24

11. **To consider any planning applications:** 24/029
- 2024/0517: *Meadow View, Cheney's Lane: Single storey rear extension including rendering to existing brickwork and associated internal alterations.*
- The Council had no comments to make in relation to this application.
12. **To discuss school road safety issues.** 24/030
- The Parish Clerk had written to the new head teacher but had not received a response. Cllr Hayward offered to write to County Cllr Rowett regarding the status of the flashing school lights, and District Cllr Carsok regarding the Safer Neighbourhood Scheme. This suggestion was approved by the Council. Cllr Langley reported that she had met with the Woodland Club Committee and that they were unhappy with proposal of their car park being used by parents during school drop-off and pick-up times.
13. **To consider how to spend the £300 Clean Up & Bloom Grant.** 24/031
- Following a discussion, it was decided the Village Hall Committee would hold an event in the Spring to clean-up the play area and repair the gate, and hold another event in the Autumn to plant hedging around the play area. The grant funds would be used to fund this.
14. **To discuss the funding options for the Village Hall disabled toilet.** 24/032
- Cllr Butcher reported that plans had been drawn-up to either add a single disabled toilet (£20,000) or fully-refurbish the toilets with the addition of disabled toilets (£40,000). Following a discussion of other funding avenues, and the best way to future-proof the building, the Council **Resolved** by a majority to provide £8,000 from its Projects budget and General Reserves towards the cost of the disabled toilet scheme.
15. **To appoint the Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 financial year.** 24/033
- Following a proposal by Cllr Pincher, seconded by Cllr Darrell, the Council unanimously **Resolved** to re-appoint R Goreham as Internal Auditor.
16. **To consider the grass and hedge cutting tenders for 2024-2027.** 24/034
- Following full consideration of the three tenders received, with consideration being given to quality and cost, Cllr Gulliver proposed the contract be awarded to Ribbonsdale Nurseries for another three years. This was seconded by Cllr Spratt and **Resolved** by a majority.
- Cllr Spratt thanked the Council for providing the churchyard grass cutting on behalf of the Parochial Church Council.
17. **Public Participation.** 24/035
- There was none.
18. **To confirm the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting as 8th May 2024 at 7pm.** 24/036
- Agreed

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

Signed:



Date:

8/5/24