

WENDLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
WENDLING VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 20TH JULY 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present:- Cllr M Olley, Cllr S Warwick and Cllr S Knight

Others Present:- Dist. Cllrs R Duffield and R Atterwill, 9 electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence.

Cllr Warwick welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Foster and these were accepted. County Cllr M Kiddle-Morris also sent apologies.

2. To co-opt onto the Parish Council Mr David Kemble and for Clerk to receive the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Warwick proposed Mr David Kemble be co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr M Olley and carried.

3. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

4. To appoint a Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Cllr Warwick proposed Cllr Olley for the position of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year, seconded by Cllr Kemble and carried.

5. To confirm minutes of the Annual meeting held on 18th May 2023.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Olley proposed the minutes of May 18th be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Warwick and carried.

6. To discuss any matters from the minutes of May (not on the agenda).

There were no matters to discuss.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Cllr Atterwill stated that Breckland Council are reviewing its Housing Allocation Policy. Many people are in emergency accommodation. It does need to review its policy. There is just not enough housing stock. More houses are being sought. He reported that in Swanton Morley there is now a disability wheelchair enabling disabled people to use a swing. He encouraged people to spread the word as anyone can come and use it.

Cllr Duffield had nothing extra to report.

An ex-resident, who was present at the meeting, spoke about the state of St. Peter & St. Paul's Church. Cllr Warwick told her that for about the last 7 years the Parish Council has

paid for the churchyard to be kept tidy. There is no Parochial Church Council because it has been disbanded. Cllr Warwick has spoken to John Constance because he is in charge of finances. There is just under £3,000.00, which belongs to the Church but the money needs to be used for Public Liability. It will cost about £170.00 per year for the insurance. So the Church could keep going for 10 years as far as insurance is concerned. The Parish Council will continue to look after the churchyard and will make sure it is kept tidy. Invoices will be sent to the Parish Council and the Parish Council will pay them. The roof has been mended at no cost, so there is no leak anymore. There is not enough money available to pay for anything else. The Parish Council cannot contribute any money for repairs to any church property. The Church of England do have some money. Cllr Warwick has sent a message to the Diocese to see if they would consider helping. The Bishop said he will not be doing anything at all. The Church itself cannot be used. At the moment the Church has to remain closed. Cllr Warwick has a key and so does Mr Tony French. Up until the end of last year the Church was known as a Festival Service Church. The congregation and the number of people willing to come to the Church was very low, so there was no income. The Parish Council paid for the alarm to be fitted. Cllr Olley suggested that perhaps a group of people could clean it up and this idea could be advertised and that would prove how many people were actually interested in the Church. Rev'd Miriam Fife reported that the Church's Trust could be contacted. Another option is to form The Friends of Wendling Church group and someone in the Parish would have to take on the organisation of that group. The group would have to be registered as a Charity. It could be supported by the Church's Trust. There is electricity in the Church and that needs to be paid for. Cllr Warwick hoped that this group would be formed and that the churchyard could be kept clean and tidy. Cllr Warwick proposed that the Parish Council will commit to continuing to pay the churchyard cutting invoices, seconded by Cllr Olley and carried. Cllr Warwick will open up the Church when it is necessary if visitors come. Up until now Cllr Warwick has been quite involved with this situation but is now taking a step back. A resident present stated that many people were upset to learn that the Church was going to be closed, as there had been no notification about it and no meeting had taken place to inform the residents of this fact. She was assured that it was not the Parish Council's responsibility to arrange such a meeting, it should have been arranged and organised through the Church and it was not up to the Parish Council to let the residents know the situation. Cllr Atterwill thought it was a good idea for the Parish Council to apply for a copy of the Quinquennial report. It should be created every 5 years.

Every 4 years American visitors come to Wendling and they will be coming soon. They will visit the Village Hall and look at the mural created on the wall by Malcolm Cockell, which shows the planes flying over the village. They will visit other parishes and enjoy a lunch out with some Wendling residents.

Another resident reported that when it was recently very windy a part of a tree was blown down. Another resident came and chopped it off and cleared it away. He thought a thank you letter should be sent, so the Parish Council will deal with that.

7. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.

The Clerk had received an email from Breckland enquiring whether the Parish Council wished to purchase any dog fouling or fly tipping signs and they decided not to. There was also an email regarding mounting a surveillance camera and they do not wish to do this either.

8. To discuss any Planning Issues.

There were no planning applications to discuss.

9. To discuss the Proposed 'New Town' development.

There was not a great deal of discussion on this proposal and it is part of the Breckland Local Plan.

10. To discuss Highways Matters.

A sign needs renewing. Cllr Warwick will deal with this problem. Because of the rain, the drains are very blocked again and water has flowed down Hulver Street. Cllr Warwick will report it again. The speeding signs coming into Wendling cannot be seen very well because of overgrowth. Cllr Olley offered to deal with that problem.

11. To authorise financial payments and receive a financial update

Cllr Warwick proposed the following financial payments be authorized, seconded by Olley and carried.

Clerk's net salary for June and July £227.40 HMRC tax for June and July £56.80
Clerk's expenses for June and July £40.12
HMRC tax for April/May £56.80 Internal Audit £50.00
Wendling V. H. recycling credit payment S Warwick (laminating pouches) £11.95
G Hubbard (reimbursement) Coasters £207.00 + £40.50
Wendling Village Hall – recycling credit £233.95
Wendling Methodist Church – donation for Church Hire for litter pick £20.00

There were no questions regarding the financial update.

12. To receive an update on the proposed wooden book swap cabinet.

There is some progress on this subject. The casing of a new cabinet has been made and now the doors need to be made. The complete cost should be no more than about £120.00.

13. To receive an update on the proposed next Village Litter Pick.

Another Litter Pick will take place before the end of the summer.

14. To verify new arrangements regarding the churchyard at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church

This matter was discussed in depth under the Public Participation Period.

15. To receive an update from Cllr Olley regarding the Wendling Public Footpaths.

Cllr Olley has taken some photos and sent them to Norfolk County Council. There should be an enquiry later in the year about footpaths.

16. To discuss purchasing more lights for the bus shelter

The lights in the bus shelter were stolen. Cllr Olley proposed he buys some more, seconded by Cllr Kemble and carried.

17. To receive items for the next agenda.

Update on Village Litter Pick

Update on St. Peter & St. Paul's Church churchyard

Update on the situation regarding lights at the bus shelter

Update on the idea of putting some play equipment on some land

18. To confirm date, time and venue of the next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 21st September at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date