

# RUNCTON HOLME PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm held at Runcton Holme Scout Hut.

**Present:** Councillors: S Partridge (Chair), D Caley (Vice-Chair), N Cooke, I Oakley, T Oughton, M Stevens and 4 members of the public  
Clerk: P Winson

### 192/23 To receive apologies

Apologies received from A Marriott, R Pearman and Borough Councillor J Moriarty.

### 193/23 Declarations of Councillors Interests and requests for Dispensations

S Partridge declared an interest in item 201/23.

### 194/23 Agree Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed.

### 195/23 Public Speaking

- a) Borough and County Cllrs: Cllr Moriarty had sent his apologies and sent the following report: At last week's Full Council meeting it was agreed as follows:

There will be a charge on long term empty properties premium after 12 months from April 2024.

A 100 per cent premium will be charged for second homes falling into Class B from April 2025. The Council Tax support scheme will be made more generous for those who are struggling from the cost-of-living crisis from April 2024.

The Council agreed to an updated of its whistle blowing policy.

Areas on Harding's Way have been designated as a Village Green.

A further item on funding council companies to build houses where the market has failed was deferred as the meeting time of three hours had elapsed.

Herewith a link to the monthly news update so you can sign up for regular news.

[https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/#sc\\_body](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/#sc_body)

In the meantime the following text provides a two section summary of all energy efficiency schemes and initiatives being delivered by the Housing Standards team at the borough council.

#### **Energy Efficiency Improvement Schemes:**

Housing Standards have now issued 115 declarations of eligibility for ECO Flex following our Statement of Intent going live on 27/02/2023. ECO Flexible Eligibility enables local authorities to declare households as eligible for fully funded retrofit improvements and further information regarding applications and details around the scheme can be found through the attached - [Energy Efficiency Assistance Schemes | Energy Efficiency Assistance Schemes | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)

ECO Flexible Eligibility isn't the only scheme available to accommodate full house retrofits. The second wave of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) is being administered by the Norfolk Warm Homes team, which is a consortium made up of all local authorities within the county. HUG 2 is open for applications until March 2025 and can accommodate both full house retrofits and singular retrofit measures to properties off the gas network. Further information regarding eligibility can be found through the attached - [Norfolk Warm Homes](#)

Whilst both the ECO & HUG schemes primarily facilitate the implementation of full house retrofits, the Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) can facilitate both loft and cavity wall insulation. Please contact [HousingStandards@West-Norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:HousingStandards@West-Norfolk.gov.uk) to see if you're eligible.

#### **Community Engagement & Councillor Engagement:**

Working with departments across the council and various charitable organisations across Norfolk, 21 Beat Your Bills events took place in 2023.

2024 is already shaping up to be a bumper year for public engagement across King's Lynn & West Norfolk and the following events are already scheduled:

- **King's Lynn** – 03/02/2024 09:00-15:30 (Creating Communities)
- **Marshland St James** – 12/02/2024 10:00-14:00 (Beat Your Bills)
- **Hunstanton** – 27/02/2024 10:00-14:00 (Beat Your Bills)
- **Downham Market** – 26/03/2024 10:00-14:00 (Beat Your Bills)
- **Downham Market** – 20/04/2024 10:00-15:00 (Earth Day Festival)
- **Feltwell** – 15/06/2024 10:00-15:00 (Beat Your Bills)

The Beat Your Bills roadshows aim to provide information regarding grants, support and general assistance to our local residents.

Councillor & Parish Council engagement is a very important exercise to undertake on a regular basis.

More often than not, we find that a number of households are reluctant to proceed with certain energy efficiency schemes due to a fear of being scammed or employing a 'cowboy' contractor to carry out works. When households, especially elderly households, are uncertain of the legitimacy of the schemes they will often approach their councillor or parish councils for guidance.

Therefore, it's vital that our councillors and parish councils are fully aware of the opportunities available.

Jacob Medlock will be personally giving talks/presentations at the following:

- **Terrington St Clement Parish Council** – 21/02/2024 19:45-21:00
- **Downham Market Town Council** – 19/03/2024 19:00-20:30
- **Care & Repair** – 20/03/2024 09:30-10:30
- **Councillors Briefing Session** – 26/03/2024 16:00-17:30
- **Hunstanton Town Council** – 27/03/2024 18:00-20:00

Further talks/presentations will be scheduled in throughout 2024.

b) Members of the public: None.

**196/23 Matters Arising** from previous meetings, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**197/23 Correspondence**

Funding offer for a cycle rack – agreed to express an interest.

Invitation to meet with the Leader of the Borough Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February, D Caley to attend.

Various correspondences – emailed to Cllrs.

**198/23 Meeting with MP Liz Truss**

Discussed items to be discussion. Key issues: A10 junction, Doctor and Dentist availability, request support for Watlington Road Trod, state of the highways, flooding, potholes etc. Lack of highway maintenance. Meeting to be held at the Social Club on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm.

**199/23 Play Area**

No report. Bin doors have been left open. Fencing attached to the gate near the road has not been secured properly and the gate has been damaged. Agreed to look at this on Friday after the meeting.

**200/23 Playing Field**

- a) On proposal from S Partridge and seconded by M Stevens, all agreed to accept the 5% increase on grounds maintenance fees.
- b) M Stevens has done some work to the trees on the other side of the field. He suggested a working party to complete this work and it was agreed that Councillors would meet on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am.

**201/23 Social Club**

- a) The Firs - Meeting. D Caley took over as Chair for this item only. All agreed that the proposed meeting will be to discuss their trees on the boundary, any damage that is being caused and discuss any possible mitigation.
- b) CCTV – No update as the Social Club have not held a meeting to discuss this yet.

**202/23 Highways**

- a) Updates and Issues to be reported: Clerk has previously circulated update: White lines have been approved but works not yet completed.

A10 signage, contractor advises that 4-way traffic control is required so this has delayed the installation considerably as this can only be done in the evening.

Chased Andy again re School Rd pinch point and he is visiting this week and will confirm the specification. I reminded him that Derek had asked for flexible posts and he said that there was also the option of ones that could be dropped down with a key.

He is putting spec together for Downham Rd Trod so that we can consider for next CIL application.

Woodlakes hedge - he said that NORSE were doing some work for NCC which amounted to 1/2 days work and, to make the hours up, they asked them to cut the Woodlakes hedge starting at the Stow Bridge end as the 30mph signs were obscured. They didn't complete the whole hedgerow in the time and the cost has been recharged to Woodlakes.

The flooding on the road near Thorplands Lane is scheduled to be addressed. This is thanks to Derek helping them out.

Winter 2023, there was a request for jetting of the pipes/drains near College Lane on School Road, but the contractor couldn't find any?  
Some white lines have been done now but Common Road junction needs to be done. Woodlakes, there is no smell currently. The hedge does need to be cut as it is overhanging and hitting vehicles, clerk will contact highways.

- b) SAM2 update. Currently with Wimbotsham, due back at the end of March.
- c) School Road. No update.
- d) A10 concerns. Junction sign still to be replaced. No update.

**203/23 Dog Bins** They have not been moved yet. Will advise clerk when done so that she can inform the Borough Council.

**204/23 Defibrillators**

All ok and not been used. T Oughton will check whether the pads can be used on children.

**205/23 C.I.L Funding**

Watlington Road Trod – clerk has spoken to Andy Wallace and chased him on the specification for the approved pinch point on School Road and for the proposed Watlington Road Trod. M Stevens suggested a Trod for Common Road down to Holme Close but it was agreed that the Watlington Road Trod was the priority.

**206/23 Newsletter**

It is being put together. Distribution list was discussed as some properties aren't receiving the newsletter.

**207/23 Planning/Licensing**

Nothing to discuss.

**208/23 Gov.UK Email address**

On proposal from N Cooke and seconded by D Caley, all agreed to accept NALCs offer of a gov.uk domain name, website and unlimited email addresses for all councillors and staff at a cost of £112 for 2 years.

**209/23 Finance**

- a) Payments agreed: Scouts (Hall Hire) - £10.00, SLCC - £69.00.
- b) Accounts to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 agreed and signed.

**210/23 Councillors Concerns and Items for Next Meeting Agenda.**

Need to think about parishioners' priorities, T Oughton has written an article for the newsletter. Village walkaround when weather better. Post-box still wrapped up.

**211/23 Confirm date of next meeting.**

Date of next meeting is 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm and will be held at the Scout Hut.

Meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Signed: .....

Date:.....