

# NORTH CREAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors A Bunkle (Chair, Parish Council), J Robinson, Sandell. the Clerk, Sarah Harvey, Borough Councillor C Morley and five members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor A Bunkle.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. **Apologies**  
Apologies of absence were received from County Councillor A Jamieson and Parish Councillor J Brettingham Smith.
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** Cllr A Bunkle advised that he was a Trustee of North Creake Village Hall and Cllr S Sandell a Village Hall committee member.
4. **Minutes**  
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, copies of which had been circulated were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Chairman's Annual Report:** no report was received.
6. **To receive other reports from community representatives and organisations**
  - 6.1 **County Councillor's Report:** It was noted no report had been received from the County Councillor A Jamieson.
  - 6.2 **Borough Councillor's Report:** Borough Councillor C Morley reported on the activities of the Borough Council throughout 2022/23.

'Current Position following recent elections.

Because no party has a majority the leaders of the elected members are discussing a way forward with the chief executive. The Independents, Lib Dems and Greens have formed a partnership (although, unlike members of political parties, Independents vote as they wish). Labour are still considering and the Conservatives are trying to persuade people to join them. Needs to be sorted this week.

Through the year.

It has been a difficult year as working got back to nearer normality post covid. However, inflation, from whatever source, has placed many households in very difficult circumstances. For example, there are just over 71,000 dwellings which attract council tax and around 12,000 of these have discounts or exemptions, which shows the need or level of extra support that is needed for many people in the Borough.

There has been a range of grants to help with energy etc but the evidence in the change in shopping and need for food banks shows the degree of help needed.

Pressure was also put on our finances by, amongst other aspects, energy inflation, reduced visitors to Kings Lynn and the agreed wage awards being higher than the amount by which we could raise tax. Therefore, looking forward and to keep council tax as low as possible, we need either more business rates or more households to improve their financial position. Both are unlikely and as a result, our forecasts show a black hole in the accounts in 3 years' time. This situation also highlights that we need more than a fair deal if Devolution goes ahead, and we are dependent upon funds from an elected Mayor in Norwich. We will have to get on board of the negotiations and stand our corner.

Although we have been awarded £25m for projects in Kings Lynn and via the County's levelling up money, £24m for road improvements to the Southgate entrance into the Town, these projects consume a large proportion of staff time and consultant fees. Again, putting pressure on the budget.

We failed on a bid for money to replace Hunstanton Oasis at considerable time and energy from County and Borough officers. I hope this form of “bidding war” stops with Devolution or a change of or within, Government. We are going to spend a lot of money on these projects over the next 3 years and there are many reservations about the value they will bring. Not least the Lottery Heritage Fund who thought our Guildhall Project was too ambitious. The next Council Administration may have to scale some of these back, or at the least, keep a tight hold over the works and payments. In fact, there is much work to do in the Council over getting things right, first time, and control.

On a lighter note, Coronation coins are to be given to all Nursery and Junior school children. Hopefully, they will be kept alongside their late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee coin for future generations.

Thanks to all who voted for me but of course, I will represent all in the Ward equally.'

### 6.3 Other Reports

6.3.1 **Burnham Market Area Community Car Scheme:** no report had been received.

6.3.2 **Village Hall Report: A report was read on behalf of Mr P Lines, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.**

'In October of this year, 2023, it will be the 90 th Anniversary of the opening of this very fine and historic Village Hall. It is hoped to have a small celebration to mark this event.

It has seen the gradual resumption of some Hall activities. The Creakes Drama group, the hall biggest user, presented a successful comedy in November 2022 and are in the process of rehearsals for another play in June of this year. Their continued use of the hall is very helpful for rental income.

Maintenance and cleaning has been kept up, with over £1500 being spent, with repairs to roofing and heating system have been made, expensive but necessary and, at present the Hall is in good physical condition.

Good control of available funds makes the VH financially secure.

The VH website, managed by Andy Culshaw, has remained in operation and has been useful in communicating information to the community.

Val Baxter has left the Committee and we have welcomed Grant Tooth in her place.

I take this opportunity to thank the Committee members for their generous gift of personal time and effort which enable this fine hall to carry on for the benefit of the Village of North Creake.'

6.3.3 **Shooting Club Report:** Mr L Wainwright reported on the annual activities of the Clay Shooting Club during 2022/23.

'Firstly, apologies from the Chairman John Wainwright and the treasurer John Acton as they can not make it this evening and apologies for not attending other annual parish meetings.

We have 30 members to date and average 18 to 22 each time we shoot. During the Covid Lockdown it hit the club hard paying for insurance and rent without any form of money coming in, but we have recovered.

We have fully moved to fibre wad cartridges for the last 18+ months. We spend 30 minutes to 1 hour tidying up old spent cartridges wad and clay's and also have a member who takes all spent items for us.

January 2023, we had a meeting to discuss putting up the membership from £10 to £15 to help with the rise of insurance and to help cover some of the rent, all were in agreement. Also, in 2023 we had a lot of maintenance on traps such as electrical components on the controllers, springs, throwing arms and batteries, due to wear and tear.

We would like to thank you the Parish Council for the continuous use of the Stone Pit and keeping the rent at £100.

The club's finances are doing well, and we would like to donate £100 to the parish funds'

7. **Parishioners Questions:** A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for all of the work they were doing on behalf of the village. A concern was raised regarding areas of hedging that had been removed and replaced with fencing in the village.  
Cllr A Bunkle advised that the hedge that had been removed without permission along West Street had been reported to the BCKWLN.  
Cllr S Sandell suggested that when the Parish Council responded to planning applications particular attention could be paid to whether the application involved the removal of hedging/trees.  
The Clerk advised that she understood it was unlawful to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the BCKLWN.

With no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.50pm.

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Chairman

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Dated