

North Creake Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of North Creake held at the Village Hall, North Creake on Thursday 10th October 2024 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors A. Bunkle (Chair) J Brettingham-Smith (Vice Chair), J Robinson, S Sandell, S. Baker and L Fletcher (Clerk/RFO).

No members of public attended the meeting

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rocklin and Cllr Culshaw. Cllr C.Morley, the borough councillor for the village, sent his apologies
3. Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items: None Declared
4. The Minutes of the meetings held on 12th September 2024 were circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that they were a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
5. Parishioners Questions and Statements: None
6. Oliver Brice, Rural Housing Enabler addressed the meeting. He explained his role as part of a national initiative to facilitate the development of Rural Exception Sites which are generally built outside of development boundaries to make use of cheaper land and provide properties that are restricted in perpetuity to use by local people. These developments are under the control of housing associations and are normally small scale between 4 and 20 properties but on average 8. These developments must be community led and a need for housing has to be demonstrated, as such a housing needs survey would have to be conducted, this would need to be sponsored by the appropriate housing association. It was agreed by the council to instruct Mr Brice to contact the housing association to see if they would be interested in taking this forward.
7. Reports from County and Borough Councillor:
None Received from the county councillor, Cllr C. Morely supplied a report by email which was circulated to councillors and noted.
8. Clerks Report / Matter arising from previous meeting.
The Clerk went through the Clerks report and updated the Council on matters from the September meeting:
 - a. Application to carry out work on the willow tree on the village green has yet to be decided by the borough council. It was agreed for Clerk to contact Althorp Estate to confirm what their plans are and to ensure that there is no clash with the village Christmas light display which uses the tree.
 - b. Installation of the picnic table on the village green has been completed.
 - c. Repair to steps on the zip line – no quotes for the work have been received as yet, Clerk has reminded the contractors approached for quotes.
 - d. Post made to village Facebook page regarding anti-social behaviour, no comments received but anecdotal evidence that there has been a decline in antisocial use of motorbikes
 - e. Hedges along West St & Wells Rd have been reported to highways but not yet actioned by them
 - f. The Clerk has started work on a draft Parish Council Action Plan
9. Training – It was agreed that considering expected change to planning rules by the new government that training should be postponed. Cllr Sandell to circulate latest available training slides.
10. Open Spaces
 - a. SAM2 signs – No data this month; Speeding offence update – No information received
 - b. Issues arising from visual playing field inspection – no further issues to raise – see item 7c
 - c. MUGA – Decision on CIL funding for the MUGA project expected before next meeting, signs are hopeful, but it is a large funding request. Cllr Bunkle to check condition of toilet on the playing field and whether this can be used by the installation team so that there is no need to hire a

portaloo. Clerk to check that there are no restrictions preventing construction of the MUGA under the original granting of the land to the parish. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Bunkle to get access to original parish council filing cabinet in village hall to check for any documents relating to the playing field.

- d. Christmas tree order – Cllr Baker reported that she visited the supplier and selected a tree within the parameters agreed at Septembers meeting (£145 + Del, approx. 4m tall) for delivery w/c 26/11/24
- e. Millenium green – Awaiting advice / quote from Acton engineering
- f. War memorial – Damage reported to council prior to meeting has been looked at and is due to normal erosion, it was agreed that no further action is required

11. Biodiversity –

It was agreed to allow ringing of birds for scientific study in the Stone Pit, on the understanding that it does not impact on the clay shooting club that use the site. The council will receive an annual report on the ringing.

It was agreed to investigate the potential restoration of the pond on the Parish Councils land at Shammer, Cllr Brettingham-Smith to discuss with the Norfolk Pond Restoration Trust and report back.

12. Footway lighting - no issues reported prior to the meeting.

13. Finance

- a. Late payments - None
- b. Accounts for payments approved.
 - Grant Tooth – Installation of picnic table - £500
 - Unity Bank – Service charge - £18
 - Clear Councils – Insurance - £634.81
 - nPower – Electricity for street lighting - £114.34
- c. Funds received – Interest on savings account £245.36
- d. September Financial statement – Item carried over to next meeting as Clerk in process of changing to bank reconciliation in line with best practice
- e. Re-tendering of electricity contract – no update received as yet from the energy broker
- f. It was agreed for the clerk to contact owners of holiday homes in the village to request contribution to the village as no precept is received from these properties
- g. It was agreed to start using the Scribe accounting system at £26 per month, (initial set up fee £229) to minimise continuity risk and to make the accounting systems, budgeting and auditing processes more efficient and to bring in line with best practice.

14. Correspondence received

- a. Clear Councils renewal – approved
- b. Community grants for village buildings – email forwarded to village hall committee

15. Highways

- a. Overhanging ivy along Burnham Road to be reported by Clerk to highways

16. Planning.

- a. No new planning applications received
- b. No planning decisions received

Date of next meeting 14th November 2024 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed: 7.50 pm

.....Chairman

.....Dated

THESE MINUTES ARE UNCONFIRMED UNTIL APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL