

MINUTES OF SLOLEY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held **Thursday 1st August 2024** at 7pm at Sloley Methodist Church, Frankfort, NR12 8HG

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Gerard Mancini-Boyle, Leigh Rumsby, Robert Sadler (Chairman) and Anthony Smith.

Apologies: Caroline Churchill and Saul Penfold

District and County Councillor: Nigel Dixon (to 20.08)

Clerk: Aileen Beck Members of the Public: 5

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 27th June 2024 were agreed and signed by the chair of the meeting as a true record.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Dixon: Norfolk Roadside Nature Reserve along Broad Lane (item 7a) – verges have been allowed to mature to create habitat and food sources for various forms of wildlife. Concerns from member of the public about overgrowing and the knock-on effect on visibility and pedestrian safety. Residents to view and comment with feedback.

NNDC Overview & Scrutiny committee has been looking at poor ambulance response times for parts of the district and how that could be improved in remote areas to make use of the 'golden hour', whether it be community first responders or emergency services. Link for services to be sent to Parish Clerks for circulation.

General Election impact - at county and district levels decisions will be made that impact this parish and neighbouring ones, such as house building targets which means the review of the NNDC Local Plan could be affected.

Cllr Mancini-Boyle: Email to be sent to the Parish Clerk regarding response times. £50k hardship fund available from Cllr Wendy Fredericks. There is a new Highways officer, details to be given to the Clerk. New NNDC Planning Officer in place with a view to streamline the system.

Cllr Sadler confirmed that the donation purported to have been made in respect of the defibrillator was not in fact given to council.

Poors Charity – query raised by resident whether in view of the recent government Winter Fuel Payments decision the payments made by the charity would be increased. AGREED: Clerk to contact the Charity Commission, confirm that residents would like 5 trustees, as opposed to the 4 in the governing document given to council and that Nicola Wardle resigned over a year ago. Query when the next AGM is to be held. Phil considering joining council and it was agreed by council that Bee Sadler to join the Poors Charity as a Trustee.

Church Lane/Road – Cllr Sadler to find out whether the road can be named, so will contact environmental services at NNDC. Hole needs to be reported to Highways (insert website link and telephone number)

Holes under the railway bridge – Cllr Sadler told that the holes could not be filled while the road was flooded; continue to report problems to Highways.

5. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There is one councillor vacancy – to be advertised and applications accepted ready for co-option at the September meeting.

6. PLANNING

- a. North Norfolk District Council's draft Housing Allocation Scheme and raise awareness of the consultation which closes on Monday 19th August 2024 was noted. www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/housingallocationsschemeconsultation
- b. Delegation arrangements for any planning matters that may arise before the next scheduled meeting: clerk to circulate details when notifications issued, Cllrs Smith and Churchill to view and pass an opinion onto council before a response issued to NNDC by the Clerk.

7. VILLAGE AND HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a. It was noted that the District Councillor has been informed a Norfolk Roadside Nature Reserve, numbered 141, to be established at Broadlane in Worstead/Sloley parish.
- b. The Norfolk Speed Management Strategy dated January 2023 as discussed during July's meeting was noted – document available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/39697 – due to speed of vehicles using Sloley roads. Consideration of SAM unit, agreement with Highways about locations in 'hot' spots in the village and data downloaded for use.
- c. Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26: closing date 6th December 2024: consider an application for a mobile SAM sign.
- d. To receive an update on the telephone box and defibrillator grant application. Cllr Smith put in an application for match funding with DHSC Community Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Fund submitted 1st July 2024 for 50% of the cost. Match funding could cover the remaining 50%, consider approaching local businesses for the remainder of the cost. Cllr Smith has cleaned up the phone box and replaced the lights.
- e. Maintenance of the churchyard: residents have approached the Parish Council with concerns about the state of the churchyard. People have quoted for the work, with suitable public liability insurance, and council minded to use its funds to cover the cost of a cut to enable people to access the graves. Chair to collate costs and liaise with the church.
- f. Concerns that have been made known to council and to receive any updates from previous meetings: Tree safety, Chair to contact NNDC Environmental Services if landowner doesn't take any action together with an email from the council confirming that residents have raised concerns, if necessary.
- g. Update regarding the potential cluster meeting with local parishes: no report this month. Worstead run comes through Sloley, suggestion that next year Sloley sets up a refreshment table for the runners.

8. FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. To receive an update on council's finances and audit procedure. Following a call to Unity Trust Bank this afternoon, the councillors present signed a RESOLUTION to request that the clerk be added onto the account as quickly as possible, with copies of the statements being released to her so that end of year procedures can be completed. Therefore, the internal audit (to be carried out through Norfolk Association of Local Councils) and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has yet to be completed for 23/24. Clerk had previously requested an extension from the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn to 31st July 2024. Today a further email has been sent to keep them up-to-date with the problems being encountered.
- b. The Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and council risk assessment were approved.

9. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA

Next Meeting: 26th September 2024 then bi-monthly.

Deadline for requests for inclusion on the next agenda to reach the clerk: 16th September 2024.

Meeting closed 20:50