



Parish Council Meeting Minutes

For 10th March 2025,

7.00pm, at Dickleburgh and Rushall Village Centre

PRESENT: Cllr. Andrew Goodman (Chair), Cllr. Steve Adlam, Cllr. Lisa Buck, Cllr. David Leyserman, Cllr. Jim Kerr, Cllr. Pam Reekie, Cllr. Robert Theobald

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann Baker (Clerk), Matt Hill (RFO)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1 resident

150. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES -

151. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED – none

152. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Terence Blacker – ProW – the path, known as Green Lane, Rushall has still not been officially recorded, despite being used as a road at least a century ago for walking livestock to markets. He noted that many of the parish PRoW are not in a good state, impassable, with broken finger posts.

Mr. Blacker enquired as to who was responsible for cutting the PRoW, replacing the broken sign etc. The response was that the landowners are legally responsible for maintenance throughout the year. Previously the Parish Council had used contractors; Green Lane – Mr. A. Patterson had offered to take responsibility for this PRoW. Mr. Blacker requested that as a resident he was dissatisfied with the Parish Council's approach to requesting landowners to take up their responsibility. Could the council explain why our footpaths are worse than most others in the locality? The Chair agreed it would be an agenda item for April. Co. Cllr. C. Rowett – suggested the appointment of a Footpath Officer for the parish who regularly walks the paths, some Parish Councils provide access to equipment to walkers to cut/clear the paths as they walk. Co. Cllr. Rowett pointed out that NCC take a strategic approach to clearing PRoW and that last year Rangers had started in the west of the county to maintain PRoW, they didn't reach South Norfolk until late September, therefore only managing one cut per year; Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson spoke of an active warden – a councillor or volunteer take on duties for maintenance of the paths, which is carried out regularly. A request to Frances Salway to contact the Highway Rangers take some action too may assist. **ACTION** - Mr. T. Blacker will send a list of paths in need of attention to the Clerk. The Clerk will add maintenance of PRoW to April's agenda. The Chair thanked Mr. Blacker for his attendance and invited him to contribute to the agenda item next month.

Dist. Cllr. C. Hudson - reported on local matters:– the John Grosse site has been cleared for a community build with some consultation being prepared for the Spring – money has been allocated. It was pointed out that the view from the road across the Mere is well worth preserving rather than building on; the matter of Devolution will be considered at a special meeting around the 19th March, considering the effect on day to day functions, the possibility, given the potential increased work load that will emerge from the devolution, the role of County and District Councillors may change to a part-time job and may well adversely impact Parish Councils; A planning Application for The Men's Shed on South Green, Pulham Market has been submitted 2025/0482.

Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson – full report can be found in the Minutes paper file. Included were the minutes and links for the last Town and Parish Forum with link, the SNC budget was approved at last

full Council meeting; there has been multiple reinvestment in play areas in the district; Community Action Fund will reopen in April; there is a Nature Conservation Fund, for bids up to £10,000.00, to benefit the environment and residents, it is open to other Community groups; a grant for events to commemorate VE Day of up to £300, has been launched; Dist. Cllr. Thompson also spoke of the damage to the grass verge going towards Rectory Road following the recent hedge cutting; he had been asked about whether there was a consultation meeting planned for the Neighbourhood Plan Reg. 16, where residents could voice encouragement and hear people's views. IT was pointed out that Regulation 16 is managed by the District Council.

19.08 – CR arrived

Co. Cllr. C. Rowett - a full report can be found in the Minute File. The report included: various works going on locally - including the threat to the woods in Bunwell, the moving of Tilbury/Norwich Pylon project; the bus service to Pulham. The bus services across the area have improved, although there is more to be addressed; the Devolution Consultation had been launched and is open until the 17th March - with the idea of a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, with seats at the Council of Regions; there is also the Government's re-organization of local government – to amend district and county councils. A preliminary document outlining options of – one council, two or three councils, along with details of cost savings, redundancy, the hiring new staff with bigger portfolios etc. There could be problems dividing health, education, social needs, social care etc., thus the solution is not clear, nor which option would be more appropriate. The implications to each district - East Norfolk, West Norfolk and Greater Norwich are considerable – this consultation runs until the 21st March, when Government will consider and either agree to a proposal or come up with a different solution; the County budget – there are on-going debates about any funding, with very little room for any changes. The County are trying to balance the budget assisted by central government grants – to cover the increase in National Insurance etc.; NCC has been allocated a £56million grant to cover highway maintenance - all potholes should be reported to the County Council website; the Norfolk Rural Business awards have been launched – including categories for food, farm, new business etc. which is open until the 21st April; Central Government plans to put the North Sea at the heart of a 'clean energy,' strategy, with a proposal to unleash the merits of oil & gas, rather than more windfarms/renewable energy – as it is the wind farms generate too much energy to bring ashore and to the places where it is needed. International companies generally bring their own labour therefore no advantages for local trades people - further information can be found in the full report.

The Chair thanked all those attending and the meeting resumed at 7.52pm

153. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to approve them, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. L. Buck, unanimous approval.

154. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025, FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY:

- a. Website and domain changes** (min. 137a) - Clerk to liaise with Cllrs. S. Adlam and R. Theobald. The Clerk has written to Paston-Chase and Steve Jackman (Wix website designer) informing them of the changes as of April 1st 2025 to a gov.uk domain, emails and website
- b. Furze Green gateway signs** (min. 137b) - the risk assessment and method statement had been received
- c. Street light update** - TT Jones have installed the remainder of the street lights across the Parish
- d. Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan** (min. 139) – copies for public consultation (reg. 16) are available at the Village Centre and The Mariners Café in Rushall until Mon. 7th April 2025
- e. Response to NALC** regarding the change from co-operative to a company limited by guarantee - the Clerk had sent a response of approval re this matter
- f. Dog bin update** - a post will be required for the Burston Road bin. The Rushall PCC would be agreeable to the spare dog bin on St. Clement Common to be sited possibly on the PROW

fingerpost just outside the Church entrance. **ACTION** - Chair to contact CTS for posts and concrete. Cllr Buck to liaise with husband re siting the post and attaching the dog bin.

All other matters will be addressed during the rest of the meeting.

155. THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RFO, including notification of payments made over the last month:

a. Payments & receipts – the RFO had circulated a list of payments and receipts for the month. He provided a set of bullet points summarising the report with explanations for the variations between actual and budget figures.

It was resolved to accept the 'Payments and Receipts' and 'the year to date' spreadsheet - it was resolved to approve all, proposed by Cllr. D. Leyserman, seconded Cllr. J. Kerr, all approved

b. Update on: (i) lighting - the lighting at the Village Centre remains incomplete. It is not known at this stage when work will be finished but it seems it may not be in this financial year. Clerk to monitor situation. **(ii) door replacement** - Chapel Doors had completed their survey and have arranged for the doors to be commissioned. Timescales - expected to be 8-12 weeks. It is unlikely that this will be invoiced in this financial year.

c. CCLA update – the RFO spoke with company concerning the request for new mandate. After discussion it transpired a new mandate was not required and Terence Blacker (previous chairman Parish Council) would be removed from the list of signatories to satisfy CCLA's requirements. CCLA's checks are made through public information such as Minutes, Parish Council website, Charity Commission website. It is therefore essential these are kept up to date as many companies may use this form of checking in the future.

d. Approval of the appoint of the Internal Auditor as Robin Goreham - the RFO, Matt Hill recommended continuing with Robin Goreham, proposed Cllr. L. Buck, seconded Cllr. R. Theobald, all in agreement

e. Revised budget – In the light of comments in (b) above, the RFO will need revise the budget figures for the next financial year. This will be prepared and circulated for approval at the April Parish Council meeting

156. COMMUNITY GRANT WORKING PARTY - the working party had received a request from an applicant currently at University. The applicant was seeking financial assistance to help cover the costs of three essential maritime courses on the university course, which were being offered at a reduced price. Her voluntary work includes: young leader for the cubs and scouts in Dickleburgh and help running sailing sessions. With these qualifications they will be safer at sea and able to do increase their participation in volunteering as well as greatly assisting with a chosen planned maritime career. To enhance income and savings towards this course, a number of part-time jobs are undertaken. All criteria are met. The Community Grant Working Party resolved to recommend that the Parish Council award a grant of £500.00. Following discussion it was resolved to award a sum of £500.00, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. L. Buck, all agreed. The RFO recommended the grant should be paid in the new financial year. It was felt by the Working Party that the application form itself needed some minor adjustments. **ACTION** - RFO to arrange payment of the grant after the 1st April. Cllr. P. Reekie will check the grant application form proforma and circulate some possible amendments to the Community Grant Working Party for consideration.

Dickleburgh & Rushall Parish Council has the power to make this grant under the Local Government Act 1972, s137

157. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AS RECEIVED FROM SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL:

a. Planning Application 2025/0661 Land south of Semere Lane, Dickleburgh – request for Environmental Impact Assessment for the erection of a solar farm. **ACTION** – Chair and Clerk to prepare a response and circulate to all

b. Waveney Holiday Park 2024/3439 Lawful development of the site - the Clerk has written to Planning Officer - Chris. Rickman, to date there has not been a response; **ACTION** - Cllr. L. Buck is creating a map to show bio-diversity corridors linking the site to other parts of the Parish

c. Removal of the hedges on the Chenery site - nothing to report to date

d. Receipt of Consultees reports of Planning Decisions made by SNC:

158. HIGHWAYS AND PROW REPORTS:

- a. **Street signs** repair/replacement - **ACTION** - Clerk mailed the officer at SNBDC, response awaited
- b. **Meeting with Daniel Yellop (NCC) Co. Cllr. C. Rowett, Cllr. A. Goodman re Bus route 84** - this had been a useful meeting – Daniel Yellop indicated the he would look to see if amendments can be made to the route which takes in more of the Parish and waits at the Falcon PH and Surgery, Pulham Market, before returning through Rushall and Dickleburgh. The plan if it works will direct residents going to the surgery to take the free service, which the bus company will invoice D. Yellop at Norfolk County Council
PROW : the state of public rights of way were discussed at item 152
- c. **Update on PROW 3** - nothing to report. The point at which the PROW 3 moves from the kerb is gravel, which is in-keeping with rurality. Once the development is underway and afterwards cars may assume the right to drive over PROW 3 to access the new properties, it is at this stage that the land owner may feel the need to upgrade to tarmac, the Parish Council does not see this as appropriate. **ACTION** - Clerk to contact planning to ascertain how this can be protected in its present state
- d. **Registration of Green Lane, Rushall** - the clerk has written again to Frances Salway, a response with link to a form has been received. **ACTION** – Clerk to examine and circulate to all, to determine the next steps.
- e. **PROW cutting** – April agenda item

159. PLAYING FIELD REPORT:

- a. **Receipt of play inspection weekly reports** – Spiders web equipment - **ACTION** - quote from NGF still awaited, a follow up email and phone call to be sent;
It was suggested that these reports should fall under the remit of the Property Working Party Group, which comprises of Cllrs. Goodman, Leyserman, Kerr and Matt Hill (RFO) and to add the Clerk (as the line manager of the Caretaker) - **ACTION** - Clerk to speak to Hadleigh Drake, and inform him of the group, a training session will be arranged for inspecting the play equipment, along with a rota for the more detailed monthly inspections alongside a member of the Working Party Group
- b. **The Playing Field hedge (min. 128b)** - this has been cut. The long hedge been cut really well, it will improve over a two year period. However the state of the path through to Rectory Road has resulted in several complaints to Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson - buggies and mobility scooters were struggling due to dirt/soil left on the path - a large tractor had been used resulting in the tread badly marking the soft turf on west side of the path with ruts and on the east side leaving deposits of soil on the pathway. There were some lesser marks from the tractor along the trod (cinder path), the edge of field was not so damaged. **ACTION** – Clerk to approach Hadleigh to clear path to best of his ability; Ask R. Alexander if there is an improved option, appreciate the work being completed but they had left a mess and several complaints had been received. A suggestion was made about the possibility to hand cut in September - **ACTION** - an agenda update item for April
- c. **Installation of a solar powered light on the post at the 'Entrance' to the car park** - Cllr. P. Reekie will report at the April/May meeting

- 160. A DATE FOR THE SPRING LITTER PICK** - It had been agreed the date would be Saturday 5th April, 9.30am – 12 noon at the Village Centre, the Rushall pick over the weekend of 4th, 5th, 6th. **ACTIONS** - Clerk and Cllr. L. Buck to liaise: (i) the Sea Scouts/Beavers, School, Smurfit Kappa, the Half Moon Inn, social media to be contacted (ii) Maps, routes, safety notices, signing in sheets, large rubbish sites, printed and shared (iii) additional equipment – litter pickers, hi-viz waistcoats from SNC (iv) possible refreshments at the Village Centre on the Saturday

161. VILLAGE CENTRE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING DICKLEBURGH FOOTBALL CLUB - following the meeting of the Village Centre Committee it was resolved to recommend that the Parish Council enter into a one year contract with the club, keeping the fees the same as Scole United FC paid, as a way of supporting the new club. A review of the contract should be conducted towards the end of the first year, with the possibility of a more realistic fee being charged moving forwards. **ACTION** - Clerk to contact Robert and Hayden of the decision, in a formal email. Cllr. J. Kerr will verbally pass on the information. Clerk to circulate the previous agreement to members of the Village Centre for amendments/comment

162. A SHORT REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE CLERK HELD BY NCC REGARDING INLAND FLOODS AND DROUGHT SUMMIT - including various accounts of experiences, information about what had changed since the floods of 2021, ongoing actions and presentation from a Dutch expert – the need for action, prevention and mitigation now.

163. INFORMATION TO NOTE: (i) **NALC Devolution Consultation** – this is live until 13th April, information and posters had been circulated, a Parish Council response had been encouraged by NALC (ii) **SLCC BioBlitz** – Parish Councils have a duty to consider the biodiversity in everything that they do (Environmental Act 2021 – requires a short report every three years, including this year). South Gloucestershire have published useful guidance for town and parish councils to use ‘Local Nature Action Plans.’ This could be of interest to residents, the Commons Committee, and the Waveney Volunteers group. **ACTION** - Clerk to email the Waveney Volunteers group and Commons Committee members with a South Gloucestershire link to the reports format.

164. MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS:

- **Clerk** - (i) a concern regarding the new street lights, TT Jones had been contacted (ii) The Annual Parish Meeting is also in April – as Easter falls late, the Clerk suggested Monday 28th April, in order to have time to prepare a theme/topic/incentive for the event – agenda item for April 14th
- **Cllr. J. Kerr** – reported that he had been approached by residents regarding the bus stop opposite the Church - parking is occurring in the layby preventing passengers unloading due to these parked cars and vans. The matter had been mentioned to Daniel Yellop who will investigate and liaise with the Clerk. A query about the Clothes Recycling Bin at The Little Chippy was raised, this appears to have disappeared. The Clerk suggested they speak with Mr. Veli Er (the tenant) as he had it installed
- **PRoW** - this was covered in item 152, with the suggestion of a PRoW co-ordinator
- **Cllr. P. Reekie** – the Burston Road allotments – deer had been munching the growing plants, vegetables, which is causing dismay from the holders. There is some fencing at the old allotments - possibly this could be removed and brought to the site - Cllr. P. Reekie will approach Ben Grief. The distance of fencing required would be 43m – the question was asked if there was funding new posts? **ACTION** - RFO will liaise with Cllr. P. Reekie regarding a budget for allotments

165. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING & RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA:

MONDAY 14TH APRIL 2025, AT 7.00PM AT DICKLEBURGH & RUSHALL VILLAGE CENTRE -
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – SUGGESTED DATE 28TH APRIL - THEME/TOPIC

The Chair thanked all Councillors for their attendance and contributions,
The meeting closed at 21.56 pm

SIGNED

DATE

