

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Little Dunham Parish Council held on Thursday 7th March 2024, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

Present: Cllr Simon Fowler (Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Parker (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jane Harding
Cllr Nina Forsyth
Cllr Alice Rossi
Cllr David Walker
Cllr Paul Dennis

County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
One Member of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Cllr Forsyth proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Harding and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no matters raised.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

In respect of District matters, Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that there would be a £4.95 increase in Council Tax, but Breckland remained the lowest in the country.

In respect of Planning, there are currently over 1,200 homes awaiting a solution to the nutrient neutrality issue. One mitigation being explored is to replace existing septic tanks with sewage treatment plants, free of charge to householders, with credits then available for developers to offset nutrient neutrality.

Biodiversity net gain is now a requirement for any developments above 10 dwellings but will apply to all developments from April.

The Local Plan, including consultation on the sites considered suitable for development, will be published soon.

In respect of Highway matters, the engineer has inspected the A47 to Gt Dunham road, programmed some potholes for repair, and will return when the road is dry and the degradation can be seen. The School Lane drainage problem has finally been repaired. The Chairman thanked the C/Cllr for pushing these matters through.

Finally, D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that there had been no news at all in respect of the solar farm.

6. To discuss Highway and Footpath matters.

a) Matters previously reported to Highways and any new issues.

Council noted the following updates.

- Roadside degradation, from Great Dunham to A47 – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris requesting survey – see item 5 above.
- Roadside degradation nr Village Hut has been reported to Highways.
- The broken kerb repairs have been washed away – Council agreed to remove this from the agenda as Highways will not make good.
- School Lane/Sporle Road junction drainage issue – now resolved.
- Speed Roundels – Highways requested to repaint them – works to be carried out in Spring.
- Two new SLOW's – works to be carried out in Spring.
- Ditch opposite new development – the landowner will be asked to clear the ditch as it is currently blocked and the water runs onto the road.

b) To receive an update regarding the Footpath and Trails Cutting for 2024.

There was nothing to report in respect of this matter.

7. To receive an update on the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Council noted that the speed sign is being moved regularly around the village.

8. To receive an update on the Vattenfall Community Fund and Wind Farm.

There was nothing to report in respect of this matter.

9. To discuss Planning matters.

a) Applications to consider.

There were no applications to consider.

b) To note any planning decisions.

Council noted that no decision had been made on the following application.

- 3PL/2023/0986/F & 3PL/2023/0987/LB – Cannister Hall, Palgrave Road - conversion of former golf workshop and store to two residential dwellings and diversion of public footpath.

- c) To receive an update regarding the approved application for a 190 acre solar farm at Church Farm, Newton and ongoing landscape mitigation matters.**

There was nothing to report in respect of this matter.

- d) To receive an update in respect of the Breckland Local Plan and consider any action.**

This item had been dealt with at item 5 above.

- e) To consider a Standard Light Clause to include in responses to planning applications.**

Cllr Dennis proposed approval of a light clause to be included in every planning application response, this was seconded by Cllr Rossi and unanimously agreed. This policy will help to control obtrusive light and the reduction of sky glow to enhance conditions for nocturnal wildlife and prevent more light pollution in Little Dunham. Standing Orders will be updated to include the policy.

10. To receive a report regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field and Play Area.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Walker and Dennis for their work renovating the play equipment, which was now all in good order. There is one tree which is being monitored and an inspection will be carried out.

11. To receive a report regarding the Amenities (Conservation) area.

Council noted that some trees overhanging a neighbouring property had recently been cut back and the mulch from these will be spread on the pathways. There has been some wind damage which has been cleared away and one tree is being monitored.

12. To receive a report regarding the Village Hut and Phone Box.

Council noted that the regular checks continued and all was in order.

Council agreed to remove the bench at the Village Hut from the asset register as it had been replaced with the Jubilee seat.

The Village Sign will be given a wash.

13. To receive a report from the Working Party regarding a replacement for the Village Hut.

On behalf of the working party, Cllr Dennis reported that the survey had been completed, with all the village having now been consulted. There is some degree of enthusiasm for a new hall although mainly from those who currently attend events. The group is meeting again next week to identify options and for these to then be circulated to the village.

It is hoped to be able to connect any new building to existing drainage.

The Chairman thanked everyone in the group for their contributions.

14. To consider adding an open calendar to the Parish Council website to publicise village events.

Cllr Rossi proposed, on behalf of a parishioner, that an open calendar be added to the website so anyone can contribute events, this was seconded by Cllr Parker and unanimously agreed. Cllr Harding will progress this matter, hopefully at zero cost to the Council.

15. To consider any correspondence received.

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Notification of Submission and availability of documents for inspection – no action was required.

16. Financial and Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2024.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To authorise financial payments as detailed below and note any receipts.

Cllr Parker proposed that the following payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Forsyth and unanimously agreed by Council.

P39	Clerk Pay & Allowance (Feb)	£155.22 (SO)
P39	HMRC – PAYE	£28.20
P39B	Clerk Pay & Allowance (Mar)	£131.22 (SO)
P39B	HMRC – PAYE	£22.20
P40	Hedge Cutting Contractor	£138.00
P43	Donation to PCC for grass cutting	£200.00
P39A	EON - Village Hut Electricity	£111.00 (DD)
P41	Water Plus – Village Hut Water (May 23 – Feb 24)	£38.35
P42	Clerk Expenses (Postage)	£5.44
P1	Norfolk PTS Subscription (2024/25)	£57.50

Council agreed to approach Water Plus to request that the water charges for the hut be considered under their corporate policy as a charity donation.

17. To note the meeting dates for 2024/25

Council noted the meeting dates for the year 2024/25.

- 9th May 2024 (Annual Meetings – commencing at 7.00pm)
- 4th July 2024
- 5th September 2024
- 7th November 2024
- 2nd January 2025
- 6th March 2025

18. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

19. To note the Annual Meeting of the parish council will be held on Thursday 9th May 2024, following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7.00pm, in the Village Hut.

The date of the Annual Parish and Annual Council meeting was noted. The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.34pm.

Signed:

Date:

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024					
Financial Report - MARCH 2024					
BUDGET UPDATE	Budget	To date	%	Bank Reconciliation	
	23/24		Spend	Balance at 01.04.2023	5,691.64
				Less expenditure @ 08.02.2024	6,097.52
				Plus Receipts @ 08.02.2024	8,221.49
PAYMENTS					7,815.61
Admin	2,475	1,082.54	44%		
Salary	1,897	2,002.74	106%	Bank Balance at 08.02.2024	
Village Hut	600	266.22	44%	Current Account	3375.07
Playing Field	110	108.73	99%	Savings Account	4,468.74
Open Spaces	160	190.95	119%		7,843.81
Grass Cutting	1,800	1,806.88	100%	less outstanding payments	28.20
Donations	200	200.00	100%	plus outstanding receipts	0.00
Defib	25	0.00	0%		7815.61
TOTAL	7,267	5,458.06	75%	including:	
VAT		525.46		Defibrillator	25.00
				S106 - Play Area	255.56
RECEIPTS			Received	Village Hut Reserves	1272.47
Precept	5,750	5,750.00	100%	Highway Reserves	1807.54
Interest	0	36.55		General Reserve	4455.04
Elections	220	240.00			
Recycling	150	219.13	146%		
Grants/Donations	0	0.00			
HMRC Refund	0	0.00			
TOTAL	6,120	6,245.68			
Surplus/Deficit	-1,147	787.62			