

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Thursday

14 November 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre

palgravepc@gmail.com

Present: Cllrs Cooper, Fausset, Hollowday, Hopkins, Pudney and Sneddon.

Also in attendance: The Clerk, County Cllr Fleming (for some of the meeting) and 2 members of the public.

- 11.14.01 **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was not being recorded.
- 11.14.02 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies accepted and approved from Cllrs Collins, Prendergast and Wheele.
- 11.14.03 **Co-Option and Resignation of Councillors:** Sadie Whitehead was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor with immediate effect and signed the Declaration of Office. Richard Goodchild sent his apologies and resignation as he is imminently leaving the area. He was a valuable Councillor very pro-active during his short term in office and will be missed.
- 11.14.04 **Declarations:**
1. There were no Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests declared and no requests for dispensations.
 2. Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the new Code of Conduct.
- 11.14.05 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 10 October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 11.14.06 **Matters arising:** There were no matters not listed elsewhere on the agenda.
- 11.14.07 **Reports for Information:** Report previously circulated from County Cllr Fleming who summarised the salient details. Apologies received but no report from Dist. Cllr Weller.
- 11.14.08 **Public Forum:** Parking issues received and discussed under agenda item 11.14.16a.
- 11.14.09 **Statutory Business and General Governance:**
- a) Vacancies: Note there is still 1 vacancy due to the departure of Cllr Goodchild.
 - b) The following policies were reviewed and approved: Lone Worker Policy: Filming Videoing etc at Meetings protocol.
 - c) Consultations: Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings consultation open until 19 November. Individual Councillors to submit their own comments
Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Publication of proposed Main Modifications and Additional Mods Invitation to make representations open to 13 December '24 – does not affect Palgrave so no comments.
Local Transport Plan for Suffolk public consultation open to 25 Nov 2024 – Councillors encouraged to comment as individuals. Document is available: www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP
- 11.14.10 **Planning:**
- a) There were no new planning applications for discussion.
 - b) Planning determinations notified by BMSDC which have all been approved:
DC/24/04316: Works to Trees in a Conservation area @ Orme House.
DC/24/03937: Works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation Order @ 4 Burlington Close.
DC/24/04556: Works to Trees in a Conservation Area @ Palgrave Village Pond / Border 4 The Paddocks.
 - c) Solar Farm updates: nothing to note.
 - d) Planning enforcement update: Holiday Site, Wood opposite St Johns. Expedited again. No further updates except acknowledgment of the social media information provided after the October meeting.
 - e) Other planning matters for information; DC/24/04556 above re works to Trees @ Palgrave Village Pond / Border of 4 The Paddocks submitted by the Clerk and approved by Chair and Clerk under delegated powers.
- 11.14.11 **Finance:**
- a) Payments totalling £2078.39 were approved and signed by Cllrs Sneddon and Hollowday - can be viewed on website under Finance.
 - b) Receipts: £65 monthly cemetery donation, £54.39 refund SCC for padlock purchase re Lows bollards. Applied for £730 from Dist. Cllr Weller's Locality Budget - response outstanding.
 - c) Bank reconciliation for the period to 31 October 2024 approved and signed by Cllr Pudney.
 - d) The accounts / budget information to 31 October 2024 (previously distributed) noted.
 - e) Precept correspondence; BMSDC approval received deferring precept submission until 7 Feb 2025 after final budget agreement at 6 Feb meeting, meaning the budget setting can be reviewed in December for final approval on 6 Feb 2025. Up to date budget information distributed.
 - f) Annual Charity Donations: It was resolved to split the £350 budget as follows: Headway Suffolk £117,

- g) Review of Open Space Society membership: It was resolved not to renew our membership to make cost savings where possible.
- h) Review of Christmas Lights for The Green. No further action at this present time.

- 11.14.12 **DDNP update:** Report circulated re meeting 28 October, attended by Cllr. Concern over the approval of 112 dwellings in Scole when only 50 were allocated on the approved DDNP. A new Palgrave representative required asap.
- 11.14.13 **Palgrave School:** MSDC planning have advised that the school does not need require planning permission to increase the replacement fencing to 5 foot, as it is still within the 2 metre limit. Work can't commence until the UK Power Networks pole is mended.
A meeting date has been agreed for the School WP to discuss the playground.
Parking at school times: The school is arranging a meeting with Highways to discuss the worsening traffic situation - awaiting further details. Two thirds of the children attending the school are from outlying area, so cars are needed. County Cllr Fleming, Cllr Fausset and the Clerk to request a meeting with the PDCC Chair to discuss. **Action:** Clerk to arrange asap
Post meeting arrange a school meeting, including the Junior Road Safety Team to monitor bad parking.
- 11.14.14 **Flooding:** No further updates. Still awaiting action from BMSDC re 1 Goulds Close flood defences. Chased for further response re blockage outside Oak Tree Cottage, Crossing Road.
- 11.14.15 **PDCC grant request:** The PC is running over budget year on year partly due to the cost of owning the Village Green, while trying to keep the precept as low as possible. CIL money is used where feasible. There is no spare money to fully support a grant request of this nature. The Clerk has provided various funding avenues for investigating and contact details for help with finding available sources of money.
- 11.14.16 **To consider matters and any actions required for those relating to the Community of Palgrave -**
a) Highways & road related issues; Kerb – Highways accepted our £500 offer towards the extra cost. The No Access sign at junction of Priory Road and the no access road has been replaced post meeting. Road line markings at junction Crossing Rd/ Upper Rose Lane will be paid from County Cllr Fleming's LHB budget. Our thanks to her for making this possible. No timescale as the work will be carried out when the lining vehicle is next in the area.
Taxi constantly parked on the grass outside the Church on Lion Road – Clerk has received various complaints about this vehicle. It is eroding the grass and blocking the view from the junction. **Action:** It was resolved to obtain the vehicle information and request the owner to move the vehicle elsewhere
b) Speeding: Cllr Fausset provided updated data showing the average speed on Crossing Rd is within 30mph, averaging at 28mph. The road lends itself to giving the impression that drivers are going faster but this is not supported by the evidence produced. Speedwatch may be the only way to reduce speeds further on this road. **Action:** Clerk to include Speedwatch criteria in the Star and call for volunteers 20mph campaign; No further updates received despite several emails chasing the outcome.
c) The Green and pond updates -
i. Drainage out of the pond to Lows Lane – two quotes received for review. Cllr Fausset to ask the companies about ongoing maintenance costs for ease of before committing to a specific supplier. It was resolved to approve works up to the value of £1600 plus vat. **Action:** Cllr Fausset to arrange. The outstanding posts and rails at the ditch are pending until the above has been completed.
ii. Pond risk assessment updated. Solar Lights / deep water signage still o/s. **Action:** Clerk to purchase
iii. Access Road tree canopy plan revised. **Action:** Planning permission to be submitted asap and quotes
iv. UK Power Networks – on December agenda due to late correspondence received in this regard.
d) Other Open Spaces:
Footpaths – the footpath along Church View terrace is badly broken up. Needs reporting / repairing asap. **Action:** Clerk to take photo and submit report to SCC
The Spinney and Himalayan Balsam as previously minuted. **Action:** Clerk to contact the David West to enquire further about this. Mortlocks have confirmed they will try and remove what they can and endeavour to destroy what remains after the harvest next year.
Palgrave Village Sign – still awaiting the work on the plinth to be completed despite several chasers. **Action:** Clerk to contact Mike Goater as a last resort

Bus Shelter – leaves need clearing out of the gutters and again when all the leaves have shed to prevent the fascias rotting. **Action:** Cllr Sneddon to ask a.n.other if they can do this small task.

Bus timetable board needs re-fixing to the inside wall. **Action:** Clerk will get this done asap

The Lows footpath – the voluntary group under the direction of Heribert Westerfield have done a wonderful job. They are continuing to carry out work at the end of the path on the other side of the river. The Parish Council extends their immense gratitude to everyone who has been involved in this project. A more robust strimmer has been donated to the PC. It was resolved that the cost of servicing it including any additional blades required will be paid for by the P.C.

e) Churchyard and Cemetery update: Meeting held with Church Warden, PC and grass contractor with agreement to slightly raise the blades when cutting the churchyard to allow for the unmarked graves as previously minuted. Cemetery: New person appointed to maintain the grave area and first cut carried out this week. Additional hedge / tree work also completed as contracted. The cemetery looks much neater. It was agreed with the cemetery committee to defer the consecration of the new grave area until the spring. **Action:** Clerk to diarise consecration

11.14.17 **Community Clean Up event 12 October:** Event went well with many tasks carried out. Receipts for refreshments o/s for reimbursement. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Sneddon re receipts. To retrieve excess teas / coffees from the PDCC

11.14.18 **Correspondence** –All relevant correspondence distributed. Information received from BMSDC re merging their policy in regard to the Gambling Act. It was resolved not to submit any comments. Information received regarding the purchase of St.John's House by Evolve Estates who are leasing it to Trent Cliffs Private Healthcare. The hospital will be operated by Revitalise Care (another part of TCPH). **Action:** Clerk to enquire if this will be a mental health unit

11.14.19 **Motion under the Public Bodies** (admission to meetings) Act 1960 – The Chair gave a summary of the Staffing Committee meeting held earlier. See the separate minutes for more information.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 12 December 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Caroline Emeny (Clerk to Palgrave Parish Council)

FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 October 2024

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. Sort codeStatement no's 068 & 021 dd 31/10/2024

Current account statement balance	£ 5,139.84
Savings Account statement balance	£ 52,552.72
Overall Total Reconciles with Accounts Balance As Per Spreadsheet	£ 57,692.56