

Kirklington Parish Council Meeting

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting on 3rd February 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Cllr Bob Radford (RSR)(Chair), Cllr Ian Woolridge (IW), Cllr Andrew Twidale, Cllr Nigel Chattin (NC), Cllr Sarah French (SF), Cllr Patrick Mitchell (PM), Cllr Graeme Wheatcroft (GW), Cllr Bruce Laughton (BL, Cllr P Rainbow (PR), Helen Cowlan (HC)(Clerk)

Public: 2 members

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

4. Clarification was made that January's minutes should have recognised the hard work of the flood wardens, although since the meeting efforts have been made by Church Wardens in their area too. It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 6th January 2025 be approved as a true record – proposed Cllr Woolridge, seconded Cllr Twidale.

5. Adjournment for matters to be raised by the public for future consideration, and County/District Councillor items.

Residents / business owners from Belle Eau Park gave an overview of the current position in terms of lorry numbers, and how they could be reduced with improved signage, but unfortunately Lineage have not been communicating with them recently despite attempts to contact them. Cllr Laughton confirmed that although Belle Eau Park's split means that they have two MPs, Robert Jenrick covers Lineage and his office should be made aware of the history and situation. **RESOLUTION - it was resolved that the Clerk will liaise with PA Sue Gray who can advise if, for example, they could write to them to encourage engagement and responsibility being taken.**

Feedback has been received that the school car park is not being used effectively, as staff are parking outside the entrance and the parking area is being used as a play area. It was agreed that this causes concerns in terms of safety both within site, and on School Lane, especially as this could limit access for emergency services. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk write to the School outlining concerns and enquiring why parking is not being used in line with funding that was provided.**

Correspondence has been received from someone who is looking at buying a property in the village, and is concerned about flooding. It was agreed that whilst, anecdotally, there haven't been any issues with the property itself, they should refer to reports, map and assessments attached to a previous planning application which would give further information. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that Clerk respond accordingly.**

Cllr Laughton gave an overview of potential changes in light of the Government looking to move to more unitary councils. Proposals need to be submitted by the end of March for consideration. NCC is proposing that their boundary stays the same and need to review what would be best from a financial point of view – balancing accounts but also considering impacts on residents and services provided to them. This could mean that District Councils are abolished and it is not yet known what impact there will be on Parish Councils. County Council elections will still go ahead in May as any new changes are likely to be during 2027. Unitary Councils would take responsibility for everything that District Councils currently do and whilst change will incur some cost, it is expected to deliver net savings overall. The Mayoral authority has just had an allocation of £66m for capital projects (which will include the A614 project) – NCC added an extra £9m into Highways last year and the Mayoral Office will (almost) match this by adding £8.5m. It is planned that funding will be put into improving rural transport e.g. via further roll-out of MyNotts bus services.

Cllr Laughton confirmed that the double yellow lines on Southwell Road near School Lane have been 'signed off'. The implementation date for the installation of average speed cameras is to be confirmed. Cllr Laughton will follow up on the school playing field issue.

Cllr Rainbow advised that she and Cllr Holloway have been reviewing investigations into an oil leak in waterways at Belle Eau Park to which they were alerted by Lineage. The Environment Agency has been on site, there have been attempts to block the flow further downstream, and the RSPCA have had to rescue birds covered in oil. It is believed the leak is linked to theft / vandalism at a business in Belle Eau Park.

The Church has given formal thanks for the Parish Council's donation.

6. Planning

- i) 24/02135/TWCA – The Old Farm, Main Street – pruning to clear power lines.
Outcome – permission granted (info only).
- ii) NCC Footpath Modification Order 1084 – adding a footpath to run from Edingley to Southwell Rd. **RESOLVED – it was resolved that the Clerk submit a response of 'no objection'**
- iii) 24/00342/ENFB – Top o'the Hill, Main Street – NSDCs Enforcement Team have completed a site visit, do not believe that works have the appropriate planning permission and so enforcement action may be taken.

7. Flooding

The group continues to follow up on actions and are awaiting the fitting of a screen to filter debris in the southern dyke. Cllr Woolridge confirmed that NCC have been contacted to request that gullies are cleaned out (specific locations given on A617 and on the Mill bridge due to danger caused in icy conditions). Details will be given to the Clerk to chase, and escalate to Cllr Laughton if needed. They will also be mentioned at a site visit which is taking place later in the week. No timeframes have been quoted for works within the village as yet but potentially in Spring.

8. Outstanding actions review

Funding – updates will be provided in due course, and no further applications can be made until received.

Belle Eau Park – a resident has tried to encourage action from Lineage to no avail, and the Dog Fouling – a reminder has been sent out and further issues should be raised as needed.

Potholes – all potholes have been reported.

9. WINGS

No further issues have been raised. The Principal has been invited to attend a PC meeting and has been provided with dates for the next couple of meetings.

10. Financial matters

- i) Balances – current account £5919.99, deposit account £8211.30, CIL £12297.90, Flood Fund £3073.21 (funding application approved and funds received).
- ii) Clerk payment – payment for January was unanimously approved – proposed Cllr Radford / seconded Cllr Chattin.
- iii) Flood Reserves Expenditure – payment has been made for the Aquasacs and grant funding from NSDC received.
- iv) Review any other payments needed since last meeting – none made.
- v) Review any other payments due –
NALC Annual Subscription – £128.50 – unanimously approved - proposed Cllr Radford, seconded Cllr Chattin
- vi) *Christmas Tree* – Cllr Radford has researched and found approximate costs in the region of £500 for a permanent tree. It would need to be sited in a position which had light all round to ensure even growth (so the current position used would not be suitable). There is potential to site the tree towards the front but further advice is being sought for consecrated ground, and feasibility of installing electrics for lighting – Cllr Wheatcroft will be approaching the Church Warden / Diocese.

Cllr Radford gave formal thanks to Cllr Woolridge for the accounts.

11. Traffic Report

18/1 – A617 near Eakring road junction / sugar beet pad – approx. 10.30am – further details unknown.

1 / 2 – A617 near sugar beet pad – white van in hedge – cause unknown – emergency services attended.

3 / 2 – A617 near sugar beet pad – white vehicle – details unknown as yet.

12. NALC Consultation

The Clerk gave an overview of a consultation about being able to hold Councillors to account and there being recourse / consequences for inappropriate behaviours and failing to meet the Code of Conduct. Examples could include suspension, communications bans. There is a hope that there will be development of structure and consistency for accountability. After discussion it was felt that while there may be some 'rogue' councils, the majority followed appropriate expectations and that there was concern about associated costs with the administering of it. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Parish Council was happy to follow NALC guidance – proposed Cllr Woolridge, seconded Cllr Mitchell.**

13. Potential changes to website and email addresses

The Clerk gave an overview of a move towards having '.gov.uk' websites and email addresses. Not only does it provide consistency and professionalism, Councillors should have specific email address which are dedicated for (Parish) Council business. This is particularly important in the event of Freedom of Information requests being received as this would prevent private emails accounts having to be accessed. The Clerk has done research and established that costing across different providers is broadly similar. HugoFox currently host the Kirklington Parish Council website and can provide the change to '.gov.uk' at no extra cost. Providing 'gov.uk' email addresses would cost approx. £22 p/mth. At this time, the change is encouraged / best practise, but not compulsory. **RESOLUTION – it was unanimously resolved to proceed with the domain name change, but not change / provide email addresses until compulsory to do so.**

14. Fly-tipping and poaching

Concerns about fly-tipping on Eakring Road have been raised with NSDC but no action seen yet – Cllr Rainbow to follow this up. Feedback states that poachers have been seen on local fields, which has been reported.

15. Computer and stationery

The version of Windows on the PC computer is being phased out so the Clerk will review whether or not the new version will be compatible / whether a new computer will be needed (although it may just be that some functionality is reduced). The Clerk requested permission to purchase ink and stationery (folder, notebook, wallets). **RESOLUTION – it was unanimously resolved that supplied be purchased.**

16. Correspondence

- i) NALC updates – lobbying to support remote meetings and NPPF updates
- ii) NSDC – Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan consultation – deadline 19/2 for comments.
- iii) GNR – consultation on environmental aspects of solar park proposals; dates for future meetings were provided – deadline 20/2 for comments.

Additionally, all Councillor were reminded that Register of Members Interests Forms should be updated if information has changed.

17. Date of next meeting – confirmed as *3rd March 2025 at 7.30pm*

Meeting ended at 21.30