

SKEYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT SKEYTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2024. 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Cllr: M. Hicks, Vice-Chairman Cllr: S. Bunting, Cllr: H. Randell, Cllr: I. Stevenson, Cllr: A. Morton, Cllr: G. Berry, Cllr: M. Scott, NNDC District/County Councillor S. Penfold and Mrs. D. Fields Parish Clerk. Also, Parishioners Emma Daynes and Glynn Mokes.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the meeting dated 6th November 2023, were signed and accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3. Matters Arising.

- a) Tanker cutting verge and edge of road. Mr. Glynn Mokes explained to the Council that an 18tonne Binder lorry was emptying the septic tank at least three times a week. The grass verge has been ploughed up and looks like a ploughed field and the edge of the road is breaking up through the weight of the lorry. The lorry drivers have been told not to drive up the driveway because of the stop cock. The property is owned by Victory Housing who want to replace the septic tank but the resident of this house does not want her hedge or her garden destroyed. The damaged to the verge of the road is causing water to run down creating a gully. NNDC/County Councillor S. Penfold has written to Victory Housing twice and will contact them again.
- b) Tree preservation order on trees belonging to Josh Cook. This was first brought to the attention of the Council 6th February 2023. The preservation was brought about because the resident who lived opposite Mr Cook's house was not happy with his view being spoilt. The resident has since moved and as the trees have no value Mr. Cook would like the order removed and he will set some native specimen trees. Also, the existing trees have lost branches in the road due to the high winds we have been having. NNDC/County Councillor S. Penfold to contact NNDC again.
- c) Defibrillator. Emma Daynes is kindly checked the defibrillator monthly for us. The telephone box needs the cobwebs removed and Emma said she would do this. Chairman M, Hicks explained where the trip switch is situated. The Chairman thanked Emma for all her help.

d) Up-date Emergency Plan

Clerk has carried out up-dates and will finish off as soon as possible and forward updates to Councillors.

e) Bio-diversity Plan

This means to manage land owned by Parish Councils, Farmers etc., Improve bio-diversity by making space for wildlife, natural habitats and planting hedges, wild flowers etc., There are grants available for this although difficult to obtain. Councillor A. Morton has set new hedges in Skeyton, consisting of wild rose, hawthorn etc.,

f) Kings Portrait. Vice-Chairman S. Bunting has kindly framed a portrait of King Charles 111 and renewed Queen Elizabeth frame also. They now have pride of place in Skeyton Village Hall.

g) Employment Law Change

The Parish Clerk has printed off the new laws, but they do not apply to Skeyton at the moment.

4. Correspondence

a) Upcoming Public Information Day – Vattenfall

This will take place in Aylsham Town Hall on Thursday 15th February 2024 – 09.00 – 12.00. 1700 – 20.00. Poster to go on Notice Board

b) Also, an email had been received concerning upgrading septic tanks, From a Company called Nutrient Neutrality Free Upgrades.

5) Planning

a) Norfolk's Light Pollution

Correspondence has been received from CPRE asking the Council to help reduce light pollution by encouraging restrictions on the use of outdoor lighting should planning permission be granted.

b) Understanding Planning.

NNDC are holding a seminar to help Councils understand the rules of planning. This is being held on Monday 26th February 2024.

6) Finance

a) URM _ Bottle Bank.

From 30th November 2022 to 31st August 2023 the bottle bank has cost the Council £111.24. The Clerk sent a claim to NCC and we have received £207.62 making a profit of £96.38. The Clerk suggested we purchased some spring bulbs and set them around the Village Sign. To be decided later.

b) Bank Statement.

The Parish Council has a balance of £1,363.28

c) NALC

Is an association of Local Councils which we pay a subscription every year. Last year it was £112.51 for 2024/25 it is £118.83 payable in April 2024. We received a monthly update from them and we also use them for legal advice.

d) Clerk's Wages and Tax paid. Also, a cheque for new picture frames has been paid.

7. Highways

a) Potholes.

Pothole outside the Goat Public House.

Dangerous potholes on road going to North Walsham.

A company called Glover group came along and cleaned out the grips in doing this tarmac was taken off the surface of the road. Along the causeway a bus got stuck due to grips not being cleared properly to being dug out too much. Some grips were created where originally there were none.

Chevrons need replacing (black/white) on the bend outside Whitwell Hall Farm.

Cross road NR10 5AN, the County Circular footpath is impassable on foot. Sediment builds up and needs clearing, this was done several years ago.

A sign was requested at Church Hill to warn people of Slippery/icy conditions. The Council was told no such signs were erected in Norfolk. Councillor I. Stevenson spoke to a highways contractor who said there was such a sign and told him reference 5599 was such sign. This was seconded by Councillor A. Morton.

Signs were also requested to help people locate Skeyton Village Hall. Councillor M. Scott said he was prepared to meet with Highways to help with their location.

Report from NNDC/County Councillor S. Penfold.

Both Councils are financially struggling. Trying to balance the Budget. Looking at what things need to be trimmed. NCC Adult Social Care/ Childrens Care, only provide statutory care, getting bad. Proposals to consultation. NNDC Liberal Dems cut budget deficit by one and a half million. Huge increase in homeless people and families, causing increase in accommodating them in Broadland and Norwich. Alex Clarke looking at parish land for affordable housing. North Norfolk Sustainable Fund of £220,000 has been paused for the time being. Council Tax in Norfolk to be increased by 4.99% North Norfolk by 3%. Full Council at County, it was proposed to help people with fuel poverty, but unfortunately, this was defeated. Several New Rural Business Awards. New bridge opened at Great Yarmouth, restricted flow of water by a third.

8) Any other business.

Chairman Mike Hicks announced he would be standing down in May as Chairman, but would still remain on the Council.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 13th May 2024. 7.30pm