



COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Becky Furr
2 Hall Cottages, The Windle, Acle, Norfolk, NR13 3JT
Tel: 07446 542156
Email: coltclerk@gmail.com

Minutes of Coltishall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 6.30pm in Coltishall Church Rooms

Present

Chair: Richard Germany.

Vice Chair: John Haschak.

Councillors: Nicola Chaney, Hayley Sands-Moore, Michael Spinks, Michelle Thackham, Joanne Young and District Councillor Jo Copplestone.

Also, Becky Furr – Parish Clerk, Robert Oakes - Coltishall Allotment Association Chairman and nine parishioners.

Public Participation

Cllr Copplestone gave a report on news from Broadland District Council. Please see the end of these minutes for the report.

The help hub van will be at Coltishall Village Hall car park every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm till the 30th April. Anyone can visit for advice and support about various matters including health and wellbeing, benefits, money worries and carer/relationship issues.

The clerk reads a report from Cllr Whymark about County Council matters. Please see the end of these minutes for the report.

A parishioner asked whether the conservation document between BDC and the Broad's Authority still applies, as this could be useful to challenge planning in conservation areas. The parishioner referred to a particular development on Church Loke which the parish council will continue to monitor.

Main Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were ACCEPTED from County Cllr Whymark.

2. Co-option

It was unanimously AGREED to co-opt Joanne Young.

3. Declarations of interest and request for dispensations

Cllrs Germany, Sands Moore and Thackham are tenants of Coltishall Allotments.

Cllrs Chaney, Germany and Spinks are trustees of Coltishall Commons Management Trust.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held 6th February 2024 were APPROVED and SIGNED as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters Arising

The clerk circulated a report in advance of the meeting.

6. Planning Applications

- 2024/0601 - Single storey side extension at 6b Westbourne Road. NO COMMENT.
- 2024/0510 - To allow increased height at first floor workshop garage building at Oak View Hall Farm (was Dairy Farm). OBJECTION – the development is out of the settlement limit and dominates the rural landscape.

7. Finance

a) Payments Received and NOTED		
Broadland District Council	Clean and Bloom Grant	£300.00

The Derbyshire Environmental Trust	Grant Claim for Cricket Pavilion Renovation	£2980.00
b) Payments Previously Agreed and NOTED		
Clifford Moate	Groundsman Work - January	£570.00
Hyspek Property Maintenance	Bespoke doors for cricket pavilion	£3576.00
c) Payments APPROVED		
Becky Furr	Clerks Expenses including allotment posts for numbered signs and litter picking equipment	£381.98
Ashley Ad's	Dog fouling signs for the allotments	£178.56
Garden Guardian	Wildflower Trim at the Churchyard	£72.00
D Bracey	Annual Play Inspection	192.00
NPLAW	Legal Work (close file re. CVH&RG conversion to CIO)	30.48
Parish Online	Design new website	310.80
Peter Croot	Tree Warden Expenses	75.14
Clifford Moate	Groundsman Work - February	465.00
d) Payments for information only – previously agreed direct debits and standing orders		
B Furr	Clerks Salary for February	£1236.56
Norfolk Pension Fund	Clerks Pension for February	£414.56
HMRC	Tax for February	£207.02
EE	Clerks Mobile for February	£6.00

8. Allotments

Mr Oakes expressed his concern about various incidents of anti social behaviour he and the committee have experienced from tenants and members of the public when challenging people who are not abiding by the tenancy and site rules. Main issues have been people trespassing onto other peoples plots, dog fouling and not keeping dogs on short leads. This has resulted in Mr Oakes wanting to resign as chairman. 3 members of the allotment committee were present to advocate their support for Robert and both the chair and clerk agreed that they would like Robert to stay.

There was a lengthy discussion about the role of the Allotment Committee in facilitating the rules as set out in tenancy Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council. It was reiterated that the parish council is responsible for enforcing rules to plot holders. Cllr Copplestone suggested that a respect strategy should be put in place via the Marlpit and that future incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported to PC Lucas Ward. The clerk will also email all tenants about the respect policy.

It was AGREED to refund Mr Musson £7.08 for the hinges he purchased for the allotment gate. Plot 65 has quit with immediate effect, however there is still debris on their plot. It was AGREED the clerk will inform the tenant that this must be cleared.

The allotment AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th March at 6.30pm in the Church Rooms.

9. Coltishall Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity

The clerk advised that the financial audit has now been completed and trustees are now in a position to review hiring rates and agreements. The clerk will arrange a meeting with working parties interested in putting draft agreements together to be approved.

10. Play Area

The play area's annual inspection was carried out in February. There was some minor work identified regarding the surfacing. It was AGREED to purchase grass seeds and top soil. This work will be carried out by the groundsman.

11. Highway and PROW matters

- a. The clerk reported that NPLAW have issued the legal notice in respect of the public consultation regarding yellow lines for Wroxham Road. Residents have until the 4th April to respond.

- b. The pedestrian crossing assessment for the High Street has been completed. This concluded that a zebra style crossing would be most suitable. The cost of this is approximately £250K. The B1150 Special Interest Group are negotiating with the consortium and North Norfolk District Council who are building the homes in North Walsham to fund the pedestrian crossing as part of the mitigation measures to Coltishall as a result of increased traffic through the village.
- c. The drains past the railway bridge on Frogge Lane are still blocked and the pavement on Gt Hautbois Road near Frogge Lane is overgrown with nettles and weeds. The clerk has already reported this to Highways and will contact Cllr Whymark for support.
- d. Coltishall Commons Management Trust has agreed to adopt the two footbridges. Their clerk is obtaining quotes, which will be shared with the parish council to consider a donation.

12. Tree Planting

The clerk reported that BDC will be removing a damaged Oak Tree from the Bure Valley Railway Path and have offered to plant an Oak Tree on parish land. It was AGREED this should be planted on the cricket field, where a damaged tree was recently removed. Mr Croot – Tree Warden had suggested the tree is planted to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. The clerk will discuss this with BDC, as it may not be the most suitable time to plant the tree.

13. Items for the next agenda

Parish Partnership Bid – Narrow road signage for Station Road

14. Next Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 6.30pm in the Church Rooms, Rectory Road. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.29pm.

News from Broadland District Council

The Council met at the end of February to discuss the Revenue Budget & Council Tax for 2024/25, the Capital Strategy for the next five years, and the Council Plan & Delivery Plans for the coming years.

Government issued a finance settlement on 18th December of a 3% funding guarantee, and we were informed by the new administration that a further 1% of Government funding had been added to match current inflation of 4%, for 2024/25. Despite this increase, the Rainbow Alliance cabinet asked for a maximum council tax increase of £5 for our households, which would produce circa 6% increase in district council spending power. The Conservative Group strongly opposed this increase and did not believe this to be an acceptable or an equitable burden to our taxpayers.

The previous Conservative administration had not increased Broadlands share of council tax over the last two years, taking prudent steps to collaborate with South Norfolk Council to achieve savings of £8.6 million, moving the two councils into the Horizon Building to save on running costs, which enabled us to deliver first class services to the ratepayer at the lowest possible cost.

As Shadow Portfolio Holder for Finance, I proposed an amendment to reduce the Rainbow Alliance's proposed increase to council tax of the maximum of £5 to just £1.50 for a Band D property, which the Section 151 Finance Officer confirmed, 'would deliver a robust and balanced budget, that ensured the level of council reserves remained adequate'. By tabling this amendment, the Conservative Group continued our ambition to give the best value to our hard-working residents, by keeping Council Tax as low as possible.

Despite our best efforts to provide effective opposition to the new administration we were outvoted, and the Rainbow Alliance increased Council Tax for households in Broadland by the maximum amount possible, which you will notice in your Council Tax Bill's.

Kind regards, Cllr. Jo Copplestone
Cllr.jo.copplestone@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

News from Norfolk County Council

The main news is the setting of budgets, as you will see when your Council Tax hits the mat NCC have increased the general precept by 2.99% with an additional 2% for Adult Social Care and the Police and Crime Commissioner has raised the precept by £13. NCC have launched the Rural Business Awards, with many different categories including Best Drink Maker and Best Farming Champion. The deadline for entries is 19th April, for details go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkruralbusinessawards . Hope to see you next month.

Regards
Fran
Cllr Fran Whymark
Proudly Representing the Wroxham Division

Draft