

## SOUTH CREAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of South Creake Parish Council held in the Memorial Pavilion on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, from 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors, P Abbey, T Allen, J Amor, S Baldwin, P Collins, L Goodall, R Chantree and B Rosen.

Parish Clerk and County Councillor M de Chenery.

Members of Public: 7

1. Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Sexton and Morley

3. **Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items:** None.

4. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th of December 2023 were proposed by Cllr Allen, seconded by, Cllr Collins and all in favour.

5. **Parishioner's Questions and Statements:**

Mr. P Hart (Secretary, SCWMI Committee) gave an update as follows:

Compliments abound for the Pavilion Christmas Lights and grateful thanks extended to Nigel, Ray and "Peanut" for their first-class display.

The December coffee morning was well attended and generously contributed to the raffle, raising £166 specifically for the Fakenham Salvation Army.

As winter take hold, the Pavilion is promoting the weekly warm hub which is a social afternoon with refreshments on Thursdays. The Community shop is also available, and all are welcome.

Mr. N Sandford gave a very thorough update on his Burn Flood Prevention Idea – see appendix 1

A great deal of discussion took place regarding the recent flooding and the dredging of the river after the removal of weeds/vegetation was agreed to be the way forward along with the cleaning of the drains and mains sewer. Cllr Rosen suggested that we hire a specialist to complete a survey and arrange a quote.

Cllr de Chenery will raise this with the Chief Executive at NCC and MP. Cllr Allen raised the point that we need to discuss the 2 owners of the land which could be used to take flood water first. Cllr Abbey has a contact at the Environment Agency and is happy to send an email, he will also forward a copy of the email from Mr. Sandford.

The issue of worsening potholes following the flood waters was also raised.

6. **Reports from County and Borough Councillors and Police:**

Cllr de Chenery reported that he has been spending a lot of time with the mental health trust and travelling to Ipswich regularly. His general report will be sent to the clerk for information.

Cllr Morley sent a report via email: I have to attend a Cabinet meeting called at the last minute to review future plans. This will help budget setting which I am completing ready for February Council.

Finance plans will include charging empty homes double council tax from 1/4/24 and on second homes from 1/4/25.

We are making representation to our MPs about the financial settlement for next year being too low. It appears we may have to limit council tax increase to £5 per household with no extra Treasury support to last year's figures.

This means that with high inflation, wage costs and energy prices, we will have to use general and earmarked reserves to balance our budget and facing a black hole in the accounts 2 years out.

The Local Plan is under consideration and will be out for consultation shortly. There are 2 sites in the plan for allocating extra spaces in South Creake, namely, Creaksville and Oak Tree Lodge. Full details should be on the council's web site.

**7. Matters Arising** from the last meeting:

- a. Wood carvings update – Cllr Allen will chase the sculptor
- b. Replacement trees – now looking at the Spring for planting

**8. Open Spaces:**

- a. SAM2 signs – Cllr Abbey advised that a data download would take place via Cllr Sexton.
- b. Quotations for grounds maintenance 2024 – Clerk has only received the one quote from the current contractor, and it was decided to accept this as proposed Cllr Abbey, seconded Cllr Rosen and all in favour. Clerk to advise accordingly. ACTION: Clerk

**9. Footway Lighting** – no issues reported

**10. Finance**

- a. To approve the January (to date) payments – Proposed Cllr Goodall, seconded Cllr Baldwin and all in favour.
- b. To approve the December bank reconciliation, bank statements and payments/receipts – proposed Cllr Collins, seconded Cllr Abbey and all in favour.
- c. To review the third quarter financial report – all in favour and within the budget expectations.
- d. Budget/Precept for 24/25 – it was agreed to set the precept at a 5% increase and accept the budget as proposed by Cllr Baldwin, seconded Cllr Abbey and all in favour. Amendment to be made to the reserves regarding playing field maintenance.
- e. Clerk will send out the updated Financial Reserves Policy in line with the budget. ACTION: Clerk
- f. The forms have now been completed for the closure of the Santander account and the funds will be transferred into our savings account. ACTION: Clerk

**11. Correspondence:**

- a. Clerks Report: working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft budget, financial review 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and reserves policy along with the Biodiversity Policy which was approved by all. The NALC membership will be £179.18, and this was approved by all. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations approved by all.
- b. Items need for the next newsletter – flooding and biodiversity
- c. Shed at St. Mary's Church – this is added to the meeting as received after the agenda was issue. Clerk to advise them to contact planning directly and include Cllr Morley in the email. ACTION: Clerk

**12. Highways Matters**

- a. Matters reported to the Clerk prior to the meeting: Flooding matters as discussed under item 5.

**13. Planning**

- a. To consider plans at the time of publishing:  
**23/02074/F** - Installation of a Shepherds Hut style building in residential garden for ancillary residential use at Sutton House 33 Back Street South Creake Fakenham Norfolk NR21 9PG- it was agreed to make a “no observations” comment and all in favour with Cllr Amor abstaining. For information: 23/00273/TREECA | Fell cherry trees on the South side of the church. Deadwood one Horse Chestnut and crown raise two Horse Chestnut to 4m. Remove fallen branches from the Cypress tree. | Church of St Mary Church Lane South Creake Norfolk
- b. To consider plans received since publication of agenda - None
- c. To note application decisions:  
None
- d. Appeal to refusal- 23/00066/REF | Construction of new garage for Goldcrest House | Goldcrest House Avondale Road South Creake – Appeal lodged  
Horseshoe Farm Roman Road South Creake Norfolk - Alleged unoperational development

**14. Allotment Matters**

To receive a report from the Allotment Subgroup:

Cllr Amor gave an update and will be sending out a letter regarding unattended plots.

It was also agreed that tenants rent would be due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and clerk to set up the payment requests for March.

We have a new Tenant of 33b Back Street, and an existing Tenant has taken over 19B. The Parish council may need to help remove the items, but new tenants are going to start clearing and will be in touch if they need help. We have confirmed they can get their own skip, but it must be kept within boundary of allotment.

33B Back Street has a lot of old rubbish and items left by the previous tenant and the tenant in 19A has taken over 19B

One Tenant from Back Street wishes to move to Leicester Road. We are checking on which would be the best. This would leave 28A Back Street free. Allotments in Back Street 39-46 and the Horse Paddocks have been affected by the floods.

Renewals: We do need to ensure that someone from the Allotment sub group/Parish council/Clerk checks the allotments are cleared of rubbish before the end of their tenancy as similar rubbish issues may occur on 33 B Back street.

Outstanding items - Pot holes in Leicester Road track.

The Skip has been collected.

**15. To propose items for the Parish Council website:** Biodiversity Policy / thank you for Christmas Lights.

**16. Parishioner's Participation:** Cllr Allen to forward costs of the new bench to Cllr de Cheney

The Tennis Club will be commemorating their centenary this year and events are planned. Tennis pavilion site to follow up on.

Clerk to send a thank you letter for the wonderful Christmas tree

**17. Date of next Parish Council meeting and any agenda items:**

It was noted that the next meeting was to be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 at 7.00pm.

Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed: 8.36 pm.

**APPROVED JANUARY PAYMENTS**

C Boyden	Salary	230.83
HMRC	PAYE	57.60
SSE	electricity	105.15
Pavilion	2023 Room Hire	166.00

Signed : .....

Date .....

## APPENDIX 1

### Burn Flood Prevention Idea January 2024

The Burn is canalised and restricted by man-made structures for most of its length from at least Southgate Road through the village and beyond, The natural ability to flood onto water meadows and wetlands has been lost as has the slowing of flow by meanders.

However, the temporary blocking of the culvert under Southgate Road by weedy debris washed down by the river showed how the water will back up and flood wetland. This did eventually cause flooding of the road so the blockage was cleared.

Elsewhere in the UK successful schemes to slow flow rates in headwaters of rivers have prevented flooding of settlements, I have visited a scheme at Finchingfield in Essex.

By introducing carefully placed leaky dams, partial obstruction of the flow by large woody material (tree trunks anchored) or sluices and possible introduction of new meanders the summer and normal winter flow is maintained but in times of flood these restrictions result in water meadows and wetlands being flooded, the water will gradually subside when conditions start to dry.

There seems to be potential for this natural flood prevention to the East of Southgate lane up to Swimmers Barn and beyond up to Leicester Square Meadows. Likewise at Waterden North/East of the church.

Clearly there are problems to be overcome

Firstly reaching agreement with landowners and occupiers of the land for partial loss of productive land

However with the new ELMS ( Environmental Land Management Scheme) potential for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality there maybe financial support and hopefully the EA and others would contribute

Secondly, the risk of flooding other nearby properties, roads and other infrastructure including surface water drains so careful survey work and design would be required.

Third getting all the organisations to agree and support EA, Anglia water, NCC and myriad of bodies involved with rivers and land drainage, plus local opinion

The Finchingfield dams have been created by beavers in an expensive fenced enclosure by a very enthusiastic landowner ( I am not proposing that). But it has stopped the village flooding.

There are benefits for natural habitat and wildlife in the increased wet areas.

Judicious tree planting can also slow flow.

Similar work but not primarily for flood prevention has been done on the river Nar.

If the Parish Council think this is an idea worth exploring I will be happy to discuss further. Others may have already had similar thoughts and be well ahead of me.

Nick Sandford

Signed : .....

Date .....