

# TACOLNESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of Tacolneston Parish Council held at Tacolneston Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs L. Pincher (Chair)\*, K. Darrell\*, S. Langley, B. Spratt, P. Butcher and D. Hayward.  
Parish Clerk/RFO: D. Wickham  
District Councillor K. Carsok, County Councillor C. Rowett and 3 members of the public.

- |  | Minute Ref No: |
|--|----------------|
| 1. <b>To consider approving any apologies for absence.</b><br>Apologies were received from Cllr Gulliver. The Council <b>Resolved</b> to accept these apologies.   | 24/001         |
| 2. <b>To receive any declarations of interest and dispensation requests on any items to be discussed.</b><br>None were received.   | 24/002         |
| 3. <b>Public Participation.</b><br>a) A report from County Cllr Rowett had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. The election of the directly-elected leader of the council had been delayed until 2025. Cllr Rowett was still working on the previously discussed issues of extending the Flexibus service to include the village, the timing errors of the school warning lights and a trod footpath. Cllr Spratt hoped the Council Tax would not be increased for the upcoming year. Cllr Rowett responded by saying that central government had provided substantially less funding for the upcoming year than Norfolk County Council (NCC) had requested and this, together with the quickly growing population, meant that the Council Tax would likely need to increase to enable NCC to provide public services.<br>District Cllr Carsok reported that grants were available to cover the costs of damage caused by the recent flooding. The Mobile Help Hub vehicle had been delivered and was currently being tested. Clean Up and Bloom grants of up to £300 were available to local groups and the application process was very simple. Cllr Langley offered to apply for such a grant to purchase fruit trees.<br><br>b) A local resident highlighted the fact that the postmasters from Tacolneston and Fornsett had been prosecuted in the historic Post Office scandal, that was currently the subject of a parliamentary select committee enquiry, and were likely wrongly-convicted.<br>A complaint was received in relation to a car which routinely parked at the junction of the B1113 and New Road causing an obstruction. Cllr Carsok offered to refer the issue to South Norfolk Council Parking Enforcement. | 24/003         |

Signed:



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4. **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023.** 24/004  
 Having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, it was proposed by Cllr Darrell, seconded by Cllr Pincher, and agreed by all that the minutes were approved as a correct record.
5. **To receive any updates from the Media and Communication Working Group.** 24/005  
 There were none.
6. **To receive any updates from the Pylons Working Group.** 24/006  
 Cllr Langley noted that the actor Ralph Fiennes had recently made a short film opposing the pylon proposals and supporting an offshore network.
7. **To approve the 2024-25 budget and precept demand.** 24/007  
 Cllr Darrell proposed the budget be approved with no increase to the precept of £18,000.00. This was seconded by Cllr Spratt and **Resolved** by the Council.
8. **Financial matters.** 24/008  
 a) The bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.  
 b) Following receipt of the relevant invoices these payments were approved:

Payee	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross
D Wickham	Clerk's Expenses Nov and Dec	£83.32	£0.67	£83.99
D Wickham	Clerk's Salary January*	£500.30		£500.30
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE January*	£125.20		£125.20
D Wickham	Clerk's Salary February	£320.50		£320.50
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE February	£80.00		£80.00
Westcotec	SAM2 Battery	£91.50	18.30	£109.80
Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Felling of 2x Sallow Trees	£750.00	£150.00	£900.00

\*includes Local Government pat rise backdated to April 2023.

9. **To consider the need for rain shelters at the school bus stop on New Road.** 24/009  
 Following a suggestion from a local resident the Council discussed the need for rain shelters. The Council was of the opinion that this was not a good use of limited public funds, as it did not involve any safety issues. It was also noted that the land upon which any rain shelters would need to be sited belonged to Saffron Housing Association, and not the Council.
10. **To discuss the future of the thatched bus shelter on Norwich Road.** 24/010  
 An estimate of approx. £6,000.00 to re-thatch the bus shelter had been received. It was noted that the shelter had been decommissioned and was now largely decorative.

Signed:



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This item was adjourned to the next meeting. In the meantime the Clerk would write to NCC Highways to enquire whether they had any plans to take action in relation to the bus shelter. Cllr Langley would also seek quotes to re-thatch or demolish the bus shelter and look into the availability of any potential grants.

11. **To consider any planning applications:** 24/011
- 2023/3857 - Land West Of The Fields Tacolneston Norfolk  
Proposal: Development of 21 dwellings, garaging, open space, vehicular and pedestrian access, drainage and other associated works and infrastructure.
- Following a discussion of the pros and cons of the application the Council **Resolved** to oppose the application due to the lack of any affordable housing in the current proposals.
- (\*Cllr Pincher left the meeting at 8.20pm due to ill-health. Cllr Darrell was elected Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.)
12. **To discuss school road safety issues.** 24/012  
It was noted that a new headteacher had joined the school recently. The Clerk would forward the correspondence between the Council and the previous headteacher to him for his information.
13. **To consider any action required in relation to the milestone on New Road.** 24/013  
After a brief discussion the Council decided no action was required.
14. **To discuss the grass/hedge cutting contract.** 24/014  
The Council agreed to seek three quotes for the next three-year contract.
15. **To consider the biodiversity duty imposed on Parish Councils.** 24/015  
The Council had discussed biodiversity before Christmas and had noted that it had planted numerous new trees around the playing field, on the advice of its tree warden, and was planning to plant more. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the school might like to assist biodiversity by holding outdoor classrooms in areas such as the churchyard or playing field.
16. **To discuss the South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan.** 24/016  
After a brief discussion it was agreed the Media and Communication Working Group would respond to the consultation reflecting the Council's views before the 5<sup>th</sup> February deadline.
17. **Public Participation.** 24/017  
There was none.
18. **To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024** 24/018  
Agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.43pm

Signed:



Date:

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