

WHINBURGH & WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whinburgh & Westfield Parish Council on Tuesday, 15th October 2024 at 7.30pm in Whinburgh & Westfield Parish Pavilion, Whinburgh Playing Field, Shop Street, Whinburgh.

Present Councillors: Siân Carrel (Chair), Nick Anema (Vice-Chairman), Richard Gundry, Robert Plummer, Darren Godliman, Paul Blanch and Rebecca Wade (Clerk)

Also present DC Paul Plummer and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Riches.

2. Members declarations of interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensation

There were none.

3. Co-option of Paul Blanch

Paul Blanch was unanimously **ELECTED** as a Councillor. Proposed by Cllr Carrel and seconded by Cllr Anema. Mr Blanch signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and the Chair invited him to take his seat on the council.

4. Public participation session

Cllr Blanch reported the Doctors surgery in Toftwood would be closing and patients would be transferred to the Dereham surgeries. The Chair advised there is a consultation document and an online petition. DC Plummer informed the Parish Council that Mattishall Surgery will also need to find new accommodation in the next few years.

Regarding Car parking charges DC Plummer reported there is an upcoming Council meeting where Watton Town Council have submitted a petition with over 3000 signatures stating they do not want to pay parking charges. They may also ask for a judicial review. There is the possibility that if Town Councils don't want Breckland to charge for parking, Breckland may lease them to the Town Councils. He reminded the Council it is still in consultation and no decision has been made.

Cllr Plummer asked about the email received from a resident reporting the grubbing out of a hedge on the footpath leading from Shop Street. Councillors were unsure where the hedge was, the Clerk to email the resident and ask for clarification on the location and photos if possible.

The Chair asked if anyone knew of anyone who could cut the hedge on Shop Street outside of the playing field and the inside of the playing field as the residents who used to maintain this have moved away. Cllr Anema to pass details onto the clerk.

Cllr Plummer reported some residents in Westfield had received a letter from the Diocese of Norwich informing them they are considering selling a parcel of Glebe land in the Parish and asking if anyone is interested in purchasing it.

Cllr Plummer reported that from Monday 18th November 2024 anyone wishing to visit the Dereham recycling centre had to book in advance.

5. Standing item: Play equipment inspection

5.1 Monthly play equipment inspection

Cllr Gundry reported there were no issues with the play equipment.

The Chair reported she had seen dogs in the play area where children play, it was **agreed** the Clerk would purchase two 'No Dogs Allowed' signs for both entrances.

The Chair informed the Parish Council that the shed was extremely damp even though the roof had been repaired earlier this year and one of the tables had completely disintegrated. Mice had also got in. Cllr Godliman said he would have a look and see what repairs were needed.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17th September 2024

The minutes of the meeting were unanimously **approved** without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Godliman and seconded by Cllr Anema. Cllr Blanch abstained as he had not seen them.

7. Correspondence received since September meeting

Breckland Electoral Services, Safe Venue Hire, Update from Breckland on recent engagement events, Norfolk ALC, Breckland Planning Enforcement, NCC Programme Engineer, Mattishall & Lenwade Patient Participation Group, Norfolk PCC's Police and Crime Consultation, Breckland Local Plan update from Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen – Update on National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Norfolk Flooding Hotline, CC Ed Connolly's – NCC information for September, Norfolk County Council Highways Grit Bin Audit 2024, Highways regarding possible locations for Westfield Village Gates, Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd – regarding the location Westfield Fuel Allotments, emails from residents.

8. Planning

8.1. To receive and consider any new planning applications

3PN/2024/0041/UC - Prior approval for Change of Use of an Agricultural Building to the north of Home Farm into 4 dwellings (Class C3) and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Home Farm Shop Street

After discussing the application, the Parish Council unanimously Agreed to submit the following comment –

The Parish Council notes the comments made by Natural England and Environmental Health.

The Parish Council asks that if the Local Planning Authority is minded granting Q permission it is specifically for this barn to be converted. The Parish Council asks assurances are given that if another planning application is made to the Local Planning Authority that application will be treated as a new application (i.e. as if no Q permission had been granted) and the proper planning procedures are applied. The council is mindful of the fact that a previous Q application was granted for another property owned by a separate party but then an application to demolish and construct an entirely new property was lodged and granted.

8.2. To note any planning decisions

3PL/2024/0729/HOU - Demolition of single storey side utility room and replace with larger 3 storey extension & small rear single storey dining room extension. Lorient Dereham Road - **APPROVED**

8.3. Other planning issues

ENF/102/24/PAR – Chapel Farm, Whinburgh & Westfield, NR19 1AA.

It was noted that Breckland Planning Enforcement had informed the Parish Council this case has now been closed

9. Stegg's Lane Surveyors Land Fence

Various options were discussed including selling the land or renting it out, and it was agreed to leave it as it is at the present time. If the owners of the Brambles wish to discuss this any further, they would need to attend an upcoming Parish Council meeting.

10. Restoration of the Westfield sign by the Westfield Village Amenities Trust (WVAT)

Cllr Godliman reported the WVAT are supplying the post as well as the refurbished sign. He has spoken to a local welder who can weld a steel bracket to support the post and sign.

It was agreed to pay up to a maximum of £200.00 for the steel bracket and any installation costs incurred. Proposed by Cllr Carrel, seconded by Cllr Anema and all agreed.

11. Westfield Speed limit

The speed limit feasibility study undertaken by the Road Safety Team was discussed. It was noted that they recommend a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph, at a cost of £13,500 for which Highways have no funding in their budget. Various funding options were discussed. It was **agreed** the Clerk would email CC Ed Connolly in April to ask if he could contribute any of his allowance towards the costs. This would then be discussed in the April meeting.

12. Breckland's proposal to introduce car parking charges.

As discussed in the Public Session.

13. Memorial for Simon Whiteley

The Chair and Cllr Anema will ask Johanna and Simon's children if they had any ideas. This will be added to the next agenda.

14. Finance

14.1 The following were approved for payment * already paid

To pay	Detail (invoices available for viewing)	Total	VAT	Ex VAT
Ace Fire	Service Fee	£168.00	£28.00	£140.00
Octopus Energy	September Electricity Charges*	£24.23	£1.15	£23.08
Everflow	Water 22/9/24 – 21/11/24	£28.11	-	£28.11
Yaxham Parish Council	Half Clerk's CILCA training	£365.00	-	£365.00
Clerk	October Wages and expenses	£335.75	£0.49	£335.26
HMRC	PAYE	£23.40	-	£23.40

14.2 To following receipts since the last meeting were noted

Detail	Total
Precept	£4,595.59
Pavilion Hire	£24.00
Bank Interest	£62.72

14.3 To receive and consider the Financial Officers report

Cllr Gundry reported all was in order.

14.4 To consider a new bank signature

It was resolved to add Cllr Godliman as a new signature proposed by Cllr Carrel, seconded by Cllr Anema and all agreed.

15. General Parish issues (for information only)

None.

16. Matters for consideration at the next meeting.

Simon Whiteley's Memorial.

17. Next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Tuesday 10th, December 2024 at 7.30 p.m., in Whinburgh & Westfield Parish Pavilion, Whinburgh Playing Field, Shop Street, Whinburgh.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.09pm