

WHINBURGH & WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Whinburgh & Westfield Parish Council on Tuesday, 15th April 2025 at 7.30pm in Whinburgh & Westfield Parish Pavilion, Whinburgh Playing Field, Shop Street, Whinburgh.

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

Also, present DC Paul Plummer and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensation for Councillors with a Pecuniary interest

There were none.

3. Public participation session

DC Paul Plummer reported that District Councils had asked for three Unitarys, and Norfolk County Council had requested one. This is to go before the Minister, and it should be decided by September along with whether a Mayoral election will be held next May. He advised the call for sites was open until the end of the Month.

In respect of the two proposed bungalows on the site of the old Mustard Pot, a decision on these had been extended until 13th June as they were waiting on information from different agencies.

After many complaints he informed the meeting, he was hopeful the new planning portal had improved.

Cllr Anema informed the meeting that Highways had placed a barrier by the culvert at Lolly Moor.

Cllr Plummer reported the Westfield Village Green continued to be maintained by the Westfield Village Amenities Association, while they still had the funds to do so. When this money has run out, he asked how will the Parish Council pay for the continued upkeep with its current budget? It was felt there was time to wait and address the costs when next year's budget is considered later in the year.

Cllr Plummer asked if having the Gov.uk emails was mandatory? The Clerk to look into this.

4. Standing item: Play equipment inspection

4.1 Monthly play equipment inspection

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

4.2 Playground moles

Cllr Gundry reported the mole hills were getting worse, and the grass had not been cut which has made the ground very uneven.

The Clerk to contact the grass cutter and ask when the grass will be cut. All **agreed** the Clerk would also contact a mole catcher and arrange for them to come out and the Playground would be closed while any traps are in place.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18th March 2025

The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Riches and seconded by Cllr Godliman. Cllr Anema and Cllr Plummer could not comment as they did not attend the previous meeting.

6. Items not on the agenda from the last meeting

- The Blocked Gully on Dereham Road, Westfield - Highways have confirmed they have resolved the issue.
- An email was sent to CC Ed Connolly on 1st April 2025 regarding Shipdham Road, Westfield speed review.

7. Correspondence received since the March meeting

Emails from residents, Norfolk ALC, Breckland Planning enforcement, Breckland Planning Policy Team, Local Government reorganisation – update, Breckland – Call for sites, CC Ed Connolly NCC Annual Report, Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Inspectors report, PKF Littlejohn external auditor, Breckland – Parish Council round table (wanted to know when AGM is as will be inviting Parish Councils in small groups to discuss and share views on the sites that have been put forward prior to a formal consultation - Mid to late May).

8. Planning

8.1. To receive and consider any new planning applications

PL/2025/0387/DCA - DCA Approval of details reserved by condition - Confirmation that conditions on 3PL/2019/1532/D have been complied with/discharged - plot 2 - Wild Oats Dereham Road, Westfield

The Clerk informed the Council this had already been decided and was showing Discharge of conditions on Breckland Planning Portal.

8.2. To note any planning decisions

None.

8.3. Other planning issues – Sale of Glebe Land, Westfield

Cllr Godliman informed the Council the sale by auction has been postponed to 8th May 2025.

8.4. Northfields discharge licence

Cllr Anema had attended a Riparian owner's workshop and mentioned the issues with the discharge from the Northfield's estate. He was informed that if the river dries up during periods of low rainfall, then they would have needed discharge consent, and the developer should have applied for this. Cllr Carrel questioned if this was a matter for the Parish Council or the Environment Agency and the householder.

After a discussion it was felt this should be mentioned when future planning applications are considered in the area.

Cllr Anema would follow this up with his contacts at the Environment Agency.

8.5. Proposed Solar Farm, Park Farm Shipdham

Letters had been received by residents in Whinburgh and Westfield regarding the proposed Solar Farm. Cllr Blanch had attended a public exhibition and informed the Parish Council they would be happy to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss their plans and answer questions.

It was **agreed** the Clerk would write to Regener8Consultations and ask if they would like to attend the upcoming Annual Parish meeting on 20th May 2025.

9. **U14's Football team to use the playing field next season**

The Clerk had been contacted by a local U14's football team to ask if it would be possible to hire the playing field for the next season.

Councillors were very keen for the playing field and facilities to be used. A number of questions were raised regarding insurance, parking and whether the field is big enough and whether it was for training as well as matches. The Clerk to invite them along the following Tuesday to discuss these questions.

10. **Fly tipping on Whinburgh Railway bridge**

The Chair reported more rubbish had been deposited on the bridge. She confirmed it had been sold as part of Home Farm to Ryan Robson of Morley Hall, and it still has not been registered on the Land registry site.

11. **Village checklist – 24th April**

Breckland had sent a checklist for completion by the Parish Council. This was discussed and completed.

12. Speeding on Dereham Road Westfield

Cllr Riches reported he had spoken to various residents in Westfield who have indicated they would be happy to join a Community Speed Watch group.

After a discussion it was **agreed** the Clerk would contact the Community Speed Watch and let the Councillors know what needs to be done.

13. Events

13.1 Whinburgh Dog and Steam event 16th August 2025

The Chair was pleased to report a meeting had been held which was very well supported by local residents, 13 had attended and others had expressed an interest in volunteering to help. Another meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. PACT will also attend and will be providing a judge for the event.

14. Memorial Tree for Simon Whiteley

Cllr Anema felt a tree should be planted at the Pavilion as well as the Church as Simon had been a Councillor for many years. He will contact Simon's daughter to ask her thoughts on this. The Chair suggested it could be planted near Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee tree. It was confirmed there would be a plaque placed on the tree.

15. Spring Clean

It was felt the shed needed to be cleaned out and this would be raised at the Annual Parish meeting to see if anyone would like to help with this.

16. Finance

16.1 The following payments were unanimously approved for payment (* already paid).
Proposed by Cllr Carrel and seconded by Cllr Anema.

To pay	Detail (invoices available for viewing)	Total	VAT	Ex VAT
Octopus	Electricity (1/3/25 – 31/3/25)	£59.26	£2.82	£56.44
Whinburgh Parochial Charity	Rent from Farm Business Tenancy	£250.00	-	£250.00
Everflow	Water (22/3/215 – 21/6/25)	£31.18	-	£31.18
Norfolk ALC	Annual Subscription 25/26	£155.77	-	£155.77
Ace Fire	Alarm Service Fee	£180.00	£30,00	£150.00
Clerk	March Wages and expenses	£320.19	£0.50	£319.69
HMRC	PAYE	£52.60	-	£52.60

16.2 The following receipt since the last meeting were noted

Detail	Total
Precept	£5,170.04

16.3 Update on a new bank signature for Barclays

The Chair reported she had been unable to go to the Barclays Hub in Dereham and would try again in the coming weeks.

17. Annual Parish Meeting (20th May)

It was **agreed** the APM would start at 6.45pm as in the previous year and the Clerk would provide refreshments.

18. General Parish issues (for information only)

The Clerk informed the Councillors one of the lights in the pavilion had failed the fire safety test. She had contacted Begley Electrical for a new part and she had asked for a quote for a new radiator to replace the broken one.

Cllr Plummer has noticed an increase in littering in Westfield.

Cllr Anema reported a motorbike being driven very fast down a local footpath in Westfield.

Cllr Riches had been contacted by someone expressing an interest in possibly renting the Charity land in Whinburgh. Cllr Anema is happy to be contacted if someone wants to have a look at the land. This will be added to the Charity Agenda in June.

The Chair had heard the Dereham Post Office might possibly close. This would be added to the June meeting.

19. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Simon Whiteley Memorial.

20. The next Meeting of the Parish Council meeting as Tuesday 20th, May 2025 at 7.30 p.m., in the Whinburgh & Westfield Parish Pavilion, Whinburgh Playing Field, Shop Street, Whinburgh.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.48pm