

MINUTES* OF TRIMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Wednesday, 13th November 2024** at Pilgrim Shelter, Loop Road, Trimingham, NR11 8EG.

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Elizabeth King (Chair), Patrick Carpmael, Richard Wallis, Chris Harrison, Terry Brown, Lynn Charlesworth, Daniel Gotts, District Councillor Angie Fitch-Tillett, County Councillor Ed Maxfield.
Eight members of the public attended.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS held September 11th 2024.

These were accepted and signed as true and correct.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Cllr. Brown informed the Council that the homeless man in the village has moved on and away from the parish since the last meeting.
- b) Litter bins – have been paid for and will be delivered to the Hall this week.
- c) Dip by school house – the Chairman reported the work has been done very nicely and that Highways made a good job of it.
- d) 2025 Norfolk Marathon update – clerk has arranged for Steven Hitcham, Director of Norfolk Marathon to meet with Cllrs King and Brown on November 23rd to discuss the arrangements made for stewards' parking and other issues to ensure a smooth route as the event on April 13th passes through the village.
- e) Closure of public conveniences in district – Cllr Carpmael asked DC Fitch-Tillett why there were closures and he couldn't imagine why a town would think this a good idea. DC Fitch-Tillett replied that the LibDem leaders at NNDC had overspent, so toilets had to be closed to save money. Stalham raised a petition against the closure of theirs. Cllr Carpmael asked if she was aware of money being spent in the wrong directions; DC Fitch-Tillett reported of the threat of closure of the Cromer Tourist Information Centre to which she will put pressure against its closure as it attracts 80,000 visitors annually. She and her colleagues are meeting with the Financial Director on Nov.15th.
- f) Loop Road potholes and cutting back of grass banks – the Clerk has contacted Highways about this but as yet has had no reply.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr King explained that NNDC have received complaints about Green Gables but expected NNDC to only write more letters to the owner. A member of the public said a firework let off from the site on Guy Fawkes night went straight over the roof of his premises, and another member of public reported very loud bangs going off and had seen cans of chemicals being thrown on the fire, resulting in Norfolk Fire Service being called out to attend to the bonfire. He had also contacted the Police who told him there was nothing they could do about fireworks being set off.

6. HIGHWAYS

Update on traffic calming/speed limits – the Clerk reported a traffic speed management study had been carried out in June. On 4th October the Parish Council had a meeting at the Pilgrim Shelter with Tim Adams, NNDC Leader, Phil Reilly and Kevin Allen, Highways, and County Councillor Ed Maxfield. The traffic

calming measures and new speed limits through the village have now been given the green light, which means there will be a 20mph limit imposed on the road near the church with an implied footway for the benefit of pedestrians. The current 30mph limits will be extended at both ends of the village and will also include Church Lane and Middle Street. The Parish Council will have to contribute towards the scheme. The Clerk added that instead of applying for funding for a replacement bus shelter, the Parish Council may consider this to be a more important option, especially as the village has been waiting for several years to have speeding measures actioned. A member of the public asked if the 20mph limit will be effective. Cllr King replied that they will all be enforceable. Clerk will contact Highways to ask for confirmation of where speed limit signs will be erected.

7. PLANNING

Following Cllr Brown's request for the clerk to enquire with NNDC Planning Dept as to the clarification of the building works being carried out at Cliff House, the clerk informed the Parish Council that her enquiry had been registered and their assessment of any appropriate action could be taken after their site visit. No further update has been received.

8. COASTWISE Update

Cllr Harrison reported that the purpose of the Coastwise group was to look at research and actions to protect the coastline. It does not now include building sea defences which is the one that would have worked for all of us. Instead, DEFRA donated £15m for certain projects to help slow down erosion within our village and to the east and west of it. Their first action was to take advantage of Geoff Pardon's experience and local knowledge and look at underground water because although the sea takes away cliffs at the toe, underground water is produced all the way along to Sidestrand, having a massive effect on cliff erosion. Various companies tendered for the survey contract which was granted to Mott Macdonald. Their draft report was released 2/3 weeks ago. Changes to agricultural practices will be needed, along with more drainage work and clearing of ditches to allow water to come away from the cliff and head down into the River Mun, which is a protected river. Cllr Harrison is hoping to action this shortly. At the west of the village, it is protecting the landscape with ditches, clearing ditches and vegetation, and changing agricultural practices. Cllr Harrison added, as per the report, he has stopped growing arable crops, put in new hedges and putting the fields back to where they were. Putting in boreholes to drive the water down and into the chalk was an option investigated several years ago, but the cost was too prohibitive.

Cllr Brown said that the report had numerous options: some are very practical but if you go back 50 years a lot of the groundwater on the west side of the village used to go around the village and into the River Mun. Now the waterways and ponds are clogged full of silt and the water cannot get away into the river, so the water sits in the osiecarr and goes through the land instead and out to the cliffs. Another option in the report is for Middle Street where there used to be a village pump and a pond, which can still be seen today. A Coastwise Café event is being held on Thursday where all this information will be displayed on big boards. This is running in conjunction with the University of East Anglia. We have invested a lot of time and effort into getting to where we are with this report that's been produced, but we now need to see something actually happen.

Cllr Wallis said he was incensed with the report as there is more emphasis on further studies. He had sent a series of emails to Coastwise but was dissatisfied with the response, unhappy with who had organised all the Coastwise cafes, meetings, fancy workshops and working groups. Cllr Wallis asked why we are suddenly being told what to do by NNDC when they can't even get their own act together and are

almost bankrupt. DC Fitch-Tillet said that we have to do it DEFRA's way which is why we use Mott MacDonald.

Cllr Harrison said he will make a start, as Feasibility studies will cause delays. When Cllr Wallis said there was no mention of housing in the report, DC Fitch-Tillet said the report refers to land only, not housing. Cllr Wallis said he is adopting Cllr Harrison's attitude and will do his own thing as he is concerned his house will go into the sea if he waits for Natural England.

Cllr Harrison reported that he needs permission from the Environment Agency to clear his own ditches. DC Fitch-Tillet said she will take this up with Henry Cator who is President of the Drainage Association.

CC Ed Maxfield asked how the water can be taken away. Cllr Brown said the whole system of ditches in the area need clearing and that we need to see things happen now, especially as it's public money being used.

9. PILGRIM SHELTER & VILLAGE HALL.

The **Pilgrim Shelter** has received another year's funding from the UEA. The trees above the building have been trimmed back because they were rubbing on the roof. There are plans to trim further and to remove the dead elm.

The Christmas Tree Festival is being held on December 14th.

Cllr Brown would like to see the building used more as it's cosy, warm and has internet access. It is also very economical to rent.

The **Village Hall** hosted a fabulous Trosh. Cllr King thanked Cllr Harrison for making easy access for the vehicles. There were more visitors than last year.

The Hall is well used during the week, the NHS will soon begin using the committee room regularly, initially for 6 months. Tea dances have recommenced. Cash bingos continue to grow in numbers with more parishioners attending. A Christmas community event is being held on December 15th and assistance at the event would be appreciated, adding that the village hall committee would welcome anyone with a few hours to spare to join, as more volunteers are needed.

10. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

County Councillor Ed Maxfield has provided his report adding that he will include the erosion problem in his next report.

District Councillor Angie Fitch-Tillett has also provided her report.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Green Gables Campsite: referred to in Item 5.
DC Fitch-Tillet then left the meeting at 19.55 hrs.
- b) County Council reports on cutbacks. The Clerk said she was unhappy that the Parish Council should be expected to agree to NCC's new proposals for cutbacks when insufficient information had been provided; Parish Councillors needed to make a balanced decision, particularly when such huge sums of money are involved. Cllr Brown agreed that we should ask NCC how much analysis has been carried out? The figure is about £44 million; Cllr Brown asked CC Maxfield for more information who replied that school transport for SEND is a huge pot of money that they have to spend on transport for children with behavioural issues or complex needs. Cllr Brown said he could not understand why we have seen the explosion of taxis for these pupils. 28 taxis were counted on one afternoon alone carrying pupils from neighbouring Sidestrand School. The Clerk said she had no faith in NCC spending money wisely and tax payers are the ones who are paying for all this. CC Maxfield said it has not been the case where they had massively overspent, but they've had hugely increased demand and a reduction in their income. He added there were large chunks of spending that they could have done more efficiently but when you're talking £50m - £200m at a time, against the council's overall budget of £1.5 bn. The finances of the County

Council is very complex and he would be very interested for the Clerk to ask NCC questions.

12. GENERAL MATTERS ARISING:

Asset Register – the asset register has been updated. Value of assets £109,327.

Benches – The two new benches have now been delivered. Cllr Gotts has agreed to set them out in the village.

Speedwatch – Cllr Brown reported that two people have left but three new people have come forward to help, and that he will arrange training shortly.

Confirmation of 2025 meeting dates – January 8th, March 12th, May 14th, July 9th, September 10th, November 12th.

Community Beat Officer – the Clerk had sent an invitation for the Officer to attend, but had not had a reply. It was noted that SNAP meetings had been held in the district.

Trimingham Trosh 2025 – no date had been fixed yet, but Cllr Harrison agreed to be on the gate and Cllr Wallis on the other as it worked well last time.

13. FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

Current invoices due: payment proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Brown.

PKF Littlejohn (External Auditor)	£48.00
Key cutting (for notice boards)	£35.10
Josh Weekes (grass cutting/maintenance)	£240.00
Community Heartbeat (defibrillator replacement light)	£31.14
Poppy wreath (for Remembrance Day)	£25.00
R B Handyman Services (refurbishment of 2 notice boards)	£410.69
Pilgrim Shelter (hire)	£5.00
Total:	£794.93

BUDGET for 2025/26.

The Clerk will be able to complete the budget after a Schedule of Dilapidations is carried out on the Pilgrim Shelter, so it can be established how much should be allocated in the budget towards any repairs or maintenance for the coming year, and for that reason the budget will now be held at the January meeting by which time the Schedule will have been received.

Balance of bank accounts as of today November 13th stands at:

Business Premium (interest) account: £11,066.02.

Current account: £22,577.20.

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at The Pilgrim Shelter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.25 hrs.

Signed: E. King – Chairman.

* These are Draft Minutes only until agreed at the next meeting.

Ms J Collingwood
Trimingham Parish Clerk