

North Creake Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of North Creake held at St Marys Church, North Creake on Thursday 9th January 2024 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors A. Bunkle (Chair) J Brettingham-Smith (Vice Chair), J Robinson, J Robinson, A Culshaw, S Sandell and J Rocklin and L Fletcher (Clerk/RFO).

No members of public attended the meeting

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Baker
3. Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items: None Declared
4. The Minutes of the meetings held on 12th December 2024 were circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that they were a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
5. Parishioners Questions and Statements: None.
6. County and Borough Councillor Reports – Report from Cllr Morley was noted
7. Matters Arising / Clerks Report
 - a. The Clerk reported that Oliver Brice had been advised to go ahead with the Rural Housing Needs Survey now that funding had been sourced from CAN, they draft survey was discussed and was agreed that the Clerk should feedback that questions 6b and 7b needed rewording as they were unclear.
8. Training – no new training opportunities available
9. Open Spaces
 - a. SAM2 signs – No updates on either SAM2 sign or speeding offences in the village. The Clerk reported that there were difficulties in getting the SAM2 signs down and that efforts had been made to get a new contact for the speeding data which were ongoing.
 - b. Play area – there were no issues to raise regarding the inspections
 - c. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) – The clerk advised that the order had now been placed with Calloo and work is expected to begin at the end of February. Clerk will draft a MUGA Usage policy ready for the next meeting and advised that council need to decide prior to installation where any excess soil should be used. It was agreed that a working party consisting of the Clerk and as many councillors as possible meet on Monday 13th January 8.30am at the MUGA site to discuss options regarding the soil.
 - d. The council discussed the quote received from Acton Engineering regarding enlarging the seat around the millennium oak and agreed 'in principal' to accept the quote, however they would like more information regarding the quote as it is not clear by how much the seat will be enlarged. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Actons for clarification.
10. Water and Drainage Management – It was noted that due to another malfunction at the pumping station on Wells Road that Anglian Water have again been tankering at the site, this work has now ceased but has left damage to the layby and road. Cllr Brettingham-Smith has been in touch by email with Anglian Water and will continue to pursue.
11. Biodiversity – Cllr Robinson advised that he had looked into the establishment of wildflowers further and that it was best to prepare the area in September with the aim of sowing the seed in October. It was agreed that Cllr Culshaw will take this forward in september.

12. Footway lighting – It was noted that there are two lights not working as you enter the village from Burnham Market, Clerk to report to contractors

13. Finance

- a. Late payments – None
- b. Payments approved – The following payments were all agreed:
 Althorp – Land rent - £25 (£15 +£10)
 Scribe – Accounts - £31.20
 Npower- Streetlighting electricity - £152.98
 Clerks Wages - £254.80
- c. Finance received – Interest £238.71
- d. Local Govt pay award – It was noted that due to the national local govt. pay award that the clerks monthly salary would increase to £265.72 and it was agreed that backpay of £98.28 would be paid

14. Budget – The proposed budget was discussed, amended and agreed. It agreed to set the Precept at £18807 which would mean a band D figure of £86.83 which is a reduction from £91.69 in the previous year due to the increased tax base resulting from the Second Homes Premium being introduced.

15. Correspondence – An email from CPRE was received and discussed, it was decided not to become a member of the organisation

16. Highways matters – It was noted that pot holes along Wells Road had been reported to highways to repair, it was also agreed that Cllr Bunkle will contact Althorp estate to discuss options regarding the laybay which the council lease from the estate. The Clerk advised council that members of the public, councillor and the Clerk can all report issues to Highways and that it seems the more reports of an issue that Highways receive the more likely they are to action them.

17. Planning

- a. Applications Received – it was noted that an application had been put in to remove a tree at Creake house, it was also noted that the tree had already been removed as it fell down during a recent storm.
- b. Applications permitted/refused
 24/01938/F – 38A Church Street - Approved

Date of next meeting 13th February 2024 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed: 8:02 pm

.....Chairman

.....Dated

THESE MINUTES ARE UNCONFIRMED UNTIL APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL