

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SPIXWORTH PARISH
COUNCIL HELD AT SPIXWORTH VILLAGE HALL ROOM 84 AT 7.30pm
ON TUESDAY 2nd APRIL 2024**

PRESENT

PARISH

COUNCILLORS: Mr M Knight (Chairman)
Mr P Rowe
Mr K Harkin-Perry
Mr S Cullington
Mr P Daly
Mr J Hancock

DISTRICT

COUNCILLOR Mrs S Holland

PARISH

CLERK: Mrs C. Lake

Reports and Parishioner's Question Time

Norfolk County Council (NCC) County Council Dan Roper sent the following report to council in his absence. The prime issue that has arisen at NCC regards the Western Link and the challenge of new guidance from Natural England that makes it unlikely that the Council will secure the necessary Licences to proceed with the road. The full issues are set out as follows:

Recent developments:

- In October 2023 Norfolk County Council (NCC) received approval for the Outline Business Case from the Department for Transport, which provides a commitment to fund £213 million towards the total cost of the project, with the potential for the Government's contribution to be uplifted to cover all the costs.
- Since then, NCC has been finalising its planning application and is due to submit that very soon.
- For more than a year, NCC has been in discussion with Natural England (NE) about a protected species licence, required to permit construction in an area where barbastelle bats are present.

We submitted a draft bat licence in January 2023 with initial feedback provided by Natural England in March 2023.

A further draft submission, addressing the initial comments from Natural England, was submitted in December 2023 and Natural England said they would provide feedback before the end of February 2024.

We were confident that we could comply with all the requirements and that NCC would ultimately be granted the relevant license in order to commence construction.

- Without informing anyone in advance that there was going to be a change, Natural England published new guidance on 8 March 2024 relating to the barbastelle bat. A week later, we received significantly amended feedback to the draft licence which put in doubt the ability to achieve it. It is clear that without further clarification or change, this new guidance will affect our ability to obtain a protected species licence, and therefore the ability to build the Norwich Western Link.

The Council is looking at ways to challenge or overturn the guidance from Natural England via MPs and other channels. It has been stated that it is still the intention to submit the Planning Application but this must now be in doubt.

Broadland District Council (BDC) District Councillor Sue Holland reported that the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) has now been adopted. Nutrient Neutrality bid put forward before Christmas of 9.6 million.

Issue with council tax and garden and waste bill system has now been

AGENDA

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies were received from Councillor S Vincent and Councillor J Beiley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Knight declared an interest in item 7.4 of the agenda.

3. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

No applications were received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th of March 2024 were agreed, proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Rowe, and were signed off by the Chairman as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

None

6. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY ACTION PLAN UPDATE.

Plan circulated to council for updates.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Balances were noted. The following payments were authorised in accordance with the budget as per the tabled scheduled 2nd April 2024 were agreed.

7.2 The Bank Reconciliation as of the 31st March 2024 balanced and was agreed by the Council.

7.3 The clerk provided an update on the ground maintenance quote for Maisie's Meadow. The council agreed to the quote in principle on the basis that clippings were cleared after cutting. Norse confirmed that this was included in the quote.

7.4 The Friends of Spixworth schools applied for a grant of £500 towards fixing and adding to the infant schools existing trim trail. The grant was agreed by council.

MARCH PAYMENTS

14/03/2024	Web Hosting Fee	IONOS 1 &1	13.56
15/03/2024	Final payment for Play Area and MUGA	HAGS-SMP LTD	22,183.28
15/03/2024	Final payment for Play Area and MUGA	HAGS-SMP LTD	7,314.60
15/03/2024	Final Payment for Play Area and Muga Late payment charges	HAGS-SMP LTD	2,973.98
15/03/2024	Final Payment for Play Area and Muga-Administration Fee	HAGS-SMP LTD	270.00
18/03/2024	Final payment for Play Area and MUGA	HAGS-SMP LTD	70,079.65
22/03/2024	Parish Clerk March 2024 wages	Mrs C Lake	1,624.70
22/03/2024	Administration Officer Wages March 2024	Mrs M Orford	1,050.90
22/03/2024	Transfer to Savings Account	Barclays	82,981.28
25/03/2024	Parish Council Office Electric	ENGIE	81.87
26/03/2024	Pension Contribution March 2024	Norfolk Pension Fund	911.01
26/03/2024	HMRC Tax Payment March 2024	HMRC	468.18
28/03/2024	Village Keeper March 2024 Wages	Mr C Chaney	333.40

MARCH RECEIPTS

14/03/2024	Annual Allotment Rent and damage deposit	Allotment Tennant	80.00
15/03/2024	Annual Allotment Rent and damage deposit	Allotment Tennants	160.00
22/03/2024	S106 Payment- 2nd and final instalment for Play Area and Muga Invoice (HAGS)	Broadland District Council	82,981.28
22/03/2024	Transfer of s106 funds paid in for Play area and Muga minus VAT	Barclays	82,981.28
28/03/2024	Payment received in error	F.E Blundell	40.00

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OUTSTANDING PAYMENT LIST AGREED AT APRIL MEETING.

PAYMENT TO BE MADE ON	PAYEE NAME	PAYMENT DETAILS	AMOUNT £
3/4/2024	Cozens	Streetlighting Maintenance Fee-Feb 2024	102.00
3/4/2024	Spixworth Village Hall	PC Meeting Room Hire-March 2024	16.00
3/4/2024	Mrs C Lake	PC Office Sundries	11.95
3/4/2024	Mayday	Printer Monthly Maintenance Support 29.2.24-29.3.24	34.83
3/4/2024	Mayday	Printer Monthly Maintenance Support 31.3.24-29.4.24	47.93
3/4/2024	Spixworth Village Hall	PC Meeting Room Hire-Feb 2024 x2	32.00
23/4/2024	Mrs C Lake	Parish Clerk April Salary	1650.00
23/4/2024	Mrs M Orford	Admin Officer April Salary	1047.00
30/4/2024	Mr C Chaney	Village Keeper April Salary	440.00

8.PLANNING MATTERS**Ref:** 2024/0748**Location:** Foxley Wood, Buxton Road, Spixworth**Proposal:** Widening of driveway**Comments.** Councillor Cullington questioned the reasoning for the widening the driveway. Councillor Holland advised that she would check the details with planning. The clerk was asked to email Broadland for further information.**Ref:** 2024/0660**Location:** 76 Crostwick Lane, Spixworth**Proposal:** Outline planning permission for two dwellings.**Comments:** The council agreed that although the application is in keeping with the street scene they cannot support at this stage due to lack of information about the proposal.**9. AMENITY MATTERS**

9.1. The council discussed the letter of complaint sent to HAGS in relation to how the council complaint was dealt with and concerns regarding the MUGA surface. Councillor Cullington made reference to Councillor Vincents previous comments that the contract needs to be looked at again and for the council to decide if they take legal action against HAGS.

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Councillor Knight made comment that the council should take the complaint to the Ombudsman but need to make clear what we are not happy about.

Councillor Holland agreed that the council should pursue the matter if they are not happy.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Nothing to report.

12. UPDATE ON SPIXWORTH PLANNED EVENTS.

The council thanked Paula Harkin-Perry for putting together a plan for events taking place in Spixworth. To date only one group had come back with information. It is hoped that more people will respond with event details which will be published on the council's website page.

13. TO AGREE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Parish council meeting will be held on the 2nd of April 2024

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.31pm