

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF SPIXWORTH PARISH
COUNCIL HELD AT SPIXWORTH VILLAGE HALL ROOM 84 AT 7.30pm
ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024**

PRESENT

PARISH

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

PARISH

CLERK: Mrs C. Lake

COUNTY

COUNCILLOR: Mr D Roper

Reports and Parishioner's Question Time

Norfolk County Council (NCC) Councillor Roper reported £231 million has been put forward from DfT (Department for Transport towards the Norwich Western Link, the current bid stands at £274 million it is hoped that the DfT will increase their contribution so that the local contribution needed towards the cost of the project would be slightly less. A planning application will be finalised and submitted early next year.

The devolution deal has been passed which has secured investment of more than £600m over 30 years. The next stage will be new governance arrangements being brought to the full council in July 2024.

From 31 December 2023, you can take a small amount of DIY waste to your local recycling centre free of charge, up to a maximum of two 50 litre sacks or one item per visit. It is still not known what the old Mayton Wood site will be used for.

From the 1st of February 2024, all disabled concessionary travel pass holders who live in Norfolk, will be able to travel by bus for free 24 hours a day, seven days a week when travelling within the county.

.....
Chairman 6th February 2024

Councillor Roper has spoken with the Highway Engineer Richard Pearson concerning the potholes and damaged speed humps on Crostwick Lane in Spixworth. Response to repair these potholes and damaged road service had slowed due to a period of heavy rainfall and flooding.

Councillor Knight expressed his concern regarding funding cuts to the special needs home to school funding.

Broadland District Council (BDC). Councillor Holland reported that there is a huge problem with homelessness, Broadland District Council have a duty to improve this but is struggling like many other District and Bourgh councils with available funding. Properties have been purchased to try and bring down the costs using Bed and Breakfasts, but it is likely that council tax will increase.

Councillor Rowe asked if the District Council is obliged to give pay rises. Councillor Holland advised that wages have not been kept up with the current cost of living and so must negotiate with Unions.

AGENDA

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apology was received from Councillor S Vincent and accepted by the Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

None

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd of December and the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 22nd of November 2023 were agreed, proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by councillor Rowe, and signed off by the Chairman as a true record.

5. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY ACTION PLAN UPDATE.

The clerk circulated an updated report to the council.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Balances were noted. The following payments were authorised in accordance with the budget as per the tabled scheduled 9th January 2024 were agreed.

6.2 The Bank Reconciliation as of the 31st of December 2023 balanced and was agreed.

Councillor Rowe made comment that the Parish Council savings deposit account interest rate with Broadland DC was poor. Clerk to find out current interest rate with Broadland.

6.3 The council agreed for the clerk to apply for the clean up and bloom grant from Broadland District Council.

6.4 The chairman confirmed that the new tax base rate for 2024/25 would be £61.64 per band D property.

DECEMBER PAYMENTS

13/12/2023	IONOS 1 &1	Web Hosting Fee	12.00
21/12/2023	ENGIE	Parish Council Office Electric	89.33
21/12/2023	Mrs M Orford	Wages December 2023	1,062.05
21/12/2023	Mrs C Lake	Wages December 2023	1,476.17

DECEMBER RECEIPTS

15/12/2023	Spixworth Social Club	Photocopying fee to Social Club	2.50
15/12/2023	Spixworth Village Hall	Admin Officer Wages June 2023	820.79
15/12/2023	Spixworth Village Hall	Admin Officer Wages July 2023	820.79
15/12/2023	Spixworth Village Hall	Admin Officer Wages August 2023	820.79
29/12/2023	F.E Blundell	Annual Allotment Rent and damage deposit	80.00

OUTSTANDING PAYMENT LIST AGREED AT DECEMBER MEETING.

10/1/2024	Mayday	Monthly Maintenance Support for printer and ink supply	49.48
10/1/2024	Spixworth Village Hall	PC meeting room hire	16.00
10/1/2024	Cozens	Instillation of Christmas Tree	5,754
10/1/2024	St Peters Church	Annual Donation for Churchyard maintenance	960.50
10/1/2024	Mayday	Monthly Maintenance Support for printer and ink supply	77.43
10/1/2024	ICO	Annual Renewal Data Protection Fee	40.00
23/1/2024	C Lake	January Wages	Est 1,480
23/1/2024	M Orford	January Wages	1,055
31/1/2024	C Chaney	January Wages	334.00

7.CLARIFICATION ON APOLOGIES AND DISPENSATIONS

The chairman wanted to give the council clarification on apologies and absences from meetings. Councillor Knight advised that if a councillor misses three meetings in a row, then the clerk will be asked call and make the councillor aware if four meetings are missed in a row then the chairman will make contact. If a

councillor cannot attend for personal reasons, then they can contact the clerk or chairman.

Councillor Holland apologised that her absence from some of the parish council meetings was due to work and family medical matters and that a reminder regarding attendance does help.

8.NEW.GOV.UK EMAILS FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS.

To avoid councillors having to use their personal email addresses for council business Councillor Knight suggested introducing new.gov.uk email addresses. The clerk advised that IONOS who the council uses for their current domain names and webhosting quoted £12.50 per month for 10 licences to create new email addresses. The council agreed this cost and asked the clerk to set up the new licences.

9.PLANNING MATTERS

Ref: 2023/3825

Location: Moorsticks, Buxton Road

Proposal: Variation of condition 13 of ref 20160759

Comments. The Parish Council supported the application no comments.

Ref: 2023/3707

Location: Foxley Wood, Buxton Road

Proposal: Removal of condition 4 of ref 20160759

Comments: Councillor Holland noted that the whole development has now become one. Councillor Knight noted that the council opinions on the application have not changed but have no further comments on the application.

10. AMENITY MATTERS

10.1 HAGS have allowed their sub-contractor to lay the artificial grass on the MUGA despite reporting to the council that the original surface that they inspected in July was now not suitable and needed a subbase costing a further £12,571.43. Although an independent safety inspection was carried out and marked as safe the Parish council are not happy with the current surface and feel it has been poorly laid and is not sufficient. Councillor Knight has asked the clerk to write to HAGS contract manager and state that the council want a formal complaint raised with a reference number. HAGS should have stated that there was an issue with the original surface of the MUGA when they first inspected it in July. The chairman advised that he and the clerk would draft another complaint letter in the meantime the council have agreed to hold off paying the final invoices for both the MUGA and play area until our requests have been met.

10.2 Councillor Field provided several options of an alternative logo for Spixworth Parish Council. The council agreed to a new logo, councillor Field will forward this onto the clerk to add to template letterheads.

10.3 The Parish Council recently took ownership of a new piece of amenity land on Crostwick Lane now known as 'Maisie's Meadow' to encourage tree canopy growth in Spixworth Broadland District Council have introduced a new mini forest

project in conjunction with Norfolk County Council Defra shared outcomes fund trees out of woodland project. A small selection of trees will be planted on the amenity land which will be monitored by Norfolk County Council project manager until March 2025. The Parish Council agreed and signed the memorandum of understanding.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS

11.1 The clerk advised the council that there have been several complaints from parishioners concerning the dangerous overgrown hedge on Arthurton Road, Buxton Road junction end. The clerk has contacted Norfolk County Council to try and obtain contact details of the landowner. Councillor Rowe advised that he had a contact and has passed onto the clerk to make contact for the hedge to be cut back.

12. TO DISCUSS PROPOSED EVENTS PLAN

Councillor Harkin-Perry suggested creating a list of Spixworth events which could be added to the Parish Council website. Various local organisations were contacted and asked to provide any information on upcoming events happening in Spixworth. At the time of the meeting only one response had been received. Councillor Harkin-Perry advised that he would bring the letter sent out to organisers to the next meeting and contact organisations via email. It was also suggested to include the letter in the Parish magazine in the hope that more people come forward. Councillor Field advised he will draw up a template for annual events.

12. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Councillor Daly advised that the council have held several open mornings which has provided lots of feedback from residents of what they would like to see in Spixworth. He expressed that the council need to start allocating money toward specific projects for Spixworth and to add the strategic plan to the website.

Councillor Knight advised that the council need to agree amounts for earmarked reserves.

13. TO AGREE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Parish council meeting will be held on the 6th of February 2024

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