



North Tuddenham Parish Council

Minutes of the parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at North Tuddenham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Harding, Stapleton, Smith (Part), Baxter and newly-elected Cllr Ellen Blake (Part) – Clerk and 5 members of the public in attendance

1.0 Chairman's Report

Cllr Harding's Report delivered including Matters Arising.

2.0 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest – Apologies received from Cllr C Blake. All standing interests remain unchanged. Cllr Stapleton declared a pecuniary interest in Item 9.1 NOTED

3.0 Previous Minutes

3.1 To review and agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September 2024 – Minutes of the meeting were read for accuracy and agreed as a true and accurate record of events. To be signed by the Chair.

4.0 To consider application for Co-Option to fill the Vacancy for Cllr created after the resignation of former Cllr Phillips.

4.1 To agree any proposal to appoint – Mrs Ellen Blake introduced herself to the Council and gave a brief resume of her experience and background. Cllrs discussed the application and Cllrs **voted unanimously to co-opt** Ellen Blake to NTPC to fill the Casual Vacancy. Cllr Blake signed the Acceptance of Office. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Blake to the Council and invited her to participate in the remainder of business on the Agenda.

5.0 Public Session – [Limited to 30 minutes public voice] and District Councillor Reports

5.1 District and Norfolk County Council Reports – any submissions shared prior to the meeting

5.2 Public Comment

Members of the public queried why there are speed limits of 30mph on some roads and not on other similar routes within the village boundaries. The Chairman agreed to investigate this further but warned that there had been numerous approaches to Highways which had been unsuccessful, largely as the criteria to meet speed reduction parameters was very specific.

A member of the public also spoke to Cllrs around a pending planning application.

A member of the public queried the upcoming offer of firewood as a by-product of the A47 works – Cllr Smith is currently liaising with Jim Freeman around this.

Clerk to North Tuddenham Parish Council: clerk.norhtuddenham@gmail.com

<https://north-tuddenham-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>



North Tuddenham Parish Council

6.0 Highways

6.1 To receive and consider any SAM2 Data available – Presented by Cllr Harding

SAM2 data shard and reported - some recorded speeds of up to 75mph were discussed. Police have been alerted to dangerous speeding along Mill Road and are intending to send out a patrol car when there is availability.

6.2 To receive the report of Cllr Smith on:

6.1.1 Northwestern Link Road – On hold - Still in consultation with Natural England

6.1.2 A47 Upgrade – This is ongoing and progressing well.

6.2 To receive any update around the Bus Service to North Tuddenham – Chair

Request for additional services made at the last meeting - Head of Passenger Transport has been contacted by Cllr Harding – increase of service levels will be part of the review pending the completion of the A47 upgrade – the PC will continue to pursue this in the intervening period.

6.3 To note any Highways Matters for attention – no further matters raised.

7.0 Village Amenities Update

7.1 St Mary's Church - Profile for recruitment of a new Vicar has been written. Interviews are likely to be held in February but there are no guarantees. £3000 has been raised this year but funds need to continue to increase to ensure the sustainability of the Church. Some repairs have been undertaken with a grant from the Diocese supporting. Discussions around the ability to pay the Benefice Share have taken place given the limitations of fund-raising for St Mary's. Cllr Smith reported this to be of ongoing concern.

7.2 Village Hall – Cllr Ellen Blake confirmed the installation of Wi-Fi at the Village Hall and explained that there was an incentive bonus scheme which would hopefully make costs sustainable and of little economic impact on the VH Budget. Demolition of an old storage building proposed and quotes for the same being sought.

7.3 The Common

7.3.1 To consider any proposal to bid for funding to support the project from

Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone Community – Deadline for applications – 29.11.2024 – This was discussed; the Village Hall is compiling an application for funding towards Solar Panels and a replacement storage shed.

7.3.2 Summary of the works undertaken. Members of the Wendling Bomber Group are planning to visit in 2025. Cllr Stapelton suggested that a function to mark the occasion should be organised. All in favour – **ACTION: Clerk to re-list for formal discussion.**

Some repairs to the Memorial need to be undertaken and some restoration work to the seat is also required.

7.4 North Tuddenham Community Association – Quiz night planned for 7th December 2024. Lots of tidying has been undertaken to the Mill Road/Main Road junction which is a PC owned asset. Thanks to Pat for organising this.

7.5 Recycling Project - Stock continues to increase and therefore there will be a further credit upcoming. Friday morning volunteers desperately needed to help keep this invaluable project going. There is also a stock of items that can be sold for further reuse. **ACTION: Cllr Harding to arrange an advertisement in the Mardle to appeal for**

Clerk to North Tuddenham Parish Council: clerk.northtuddenham@gmail.com

<https://north-tuddenham-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>



North Tuddenham Parish Council

Volunteers in the next edition. Longevity of the site of the project at Cllr Stapleton's house was discussed. This will be reviewed next year.

- 7.6 Community Car Scheme Update** – Project managed by Cllr Christine Blake will begin to be promoted and be available very soon. Volunteer Drivers are also required for anyone wishing to help.

8.0 Village Community Award Scheme 2024-25

- 8.1 To discuss and agree any nominations for this year's award** – Cllr Harding asked the Public Gallery if there was anyone that they would like to nominate. Nominations to be forwarded to the Clerk via email – <mailto:clerk.norhtuddenham@gmail.com>

9.0 Planning

- 9.1 To receive and consider any new Planning Applications – Cllr Hall**
PL2024/0802/VAR – Removal of agricultural occupancy condition – Justene, Low Road, North Tuddenham – Cllrs reviewed this application. It was unanimously **AGREED to support this application** – Cllr Stapleton declared an interest and agreed to abstain from any discussion and voting. **ACTION: Clerk to enter decision on portal.**
PL2024/0791/HOU - Conversion of existing workshop to home gym, shower room and store, construction of new workshop and store on to existing concrete pad
Cllrs discussed this application. It was **unanimously AGREED** not to object to this application. **ACTION: Clerk to enter decision on portal.**
- 9.2 To note the outcomes of any recent Planning Applications –**
None to note.
- 9.3 To receive any update around the Breckland Local Plan** – Currently on hold.
Defer for further updates.
- 9.4 To review Neighbourhood Plan Road Map to date and to vote on next stages around pursuance of a Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Harding addressed the meeting around this. **Points to note:** Reserves are not sufficient at present to sustain the PC contribution required. Given the ambivalence of central government's plans for the National Planning Framework at present, this would add additional risk to any commitment to a NP at the current time. As there are no guarantees that the Neighbourhood Plan would prevent unwelcome development in the village, Cllrs considered that it would be too greater a financial commitment at this juncture. Consideration of a survey/appraisal at some point in the future was considered the most appropriate action if the need to re-visit the NP option presented itself. Cllrs voted **Unanimously** to cease the Neighbourhood Plan Road Map and Working Group with immediate effect.

10.0 Finance

- 10.1 To receive and consider any Report from the RFO to include affordability of projects and forward planning of maintenance burdens.** Cllr Harding summarised the assets owned and managed by the PC and subject to maintenance on-costs. Cllr Baxter (RFO) spoke to the meeting around these assets and current ongoing spend on items such as defibrillator batteries and forecasted maintenance costs such as the repair or
Clerk to North Tuddenham Parish Council: clerk.norhtuddenham@gmail.com



North Tuddenham Parish Council

replacement of the Village Sign; concerns were expressed around what might become a financial burden to the PC funds moving forward. It was agreed to explore the village sign project in closer detail at the next meeting and dovetail any projected payments into Budgets in the form of maintenance reserves.

10.2 To Review and Agree any payments below including S137 payments: ALL AGREED (Cllr Baxter Abstained)

Payee	Invoice Details	£ Total	Section 137
V Turner	Clerk's Salary, On-Costs and Expenses	486.60 – Amended amount	x Poppy Wreath 24.49 Total
Parish Online	Geo/Mapping Subscription	60.00	
G Taylor	Grass Cutting on The Common	200.00	
Mr W Aylett	Website Hosing Reimbursement	38.96	
Community Association	Grant for Grass and Hedge maintenance 2024 – Mill Road/Main Road	180.00	x

10.3 To note Bank Account Balances

Current Account – 2946.67

Deposit Account – 6219.20

Monies received

September Precept Payment – 1900.00

Interest – 23.17

10.4 To consider and agree any Cllr or Clerk Training Requirements

Chairman's course previously agreed but has not been undertaken to date – Cllr Harding to select a date in the new year. Cllr E Bake to attend New Cllr training – **ACTION: Clerk to share options for next available courses with EB.**

10.5 To receive any update around restoration of the Village Sign and agree any budget

Proposals for spend to rectify the badly deteriorated sign were further debated. In terms of the impact of significant spend, it was agreed to devote further discussion at the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to add to agenda for next meeting.**

10.6 To receive and consider any requests for grant funding

10.6.1 Grant Request from North Tuddenham Community Association

For £180 to support costs of grass cutting and hedge trimming on PC Managed/Owned property – Unanimously Agreed – See above. – Section 137 allocated spend. Cllr Baxter abstained.

Clerk to North Tuddenham Parish Council: clerk.norhtuddenham@gmail.com

<https://north-tuddenham-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>



North Tuddenham Parish Council

- 10.6.2 To receive and consider Draft Budget for 2025-2026** – 2025/2026 Draft Budget was previously circulated to all members and those members of the Public in attendance. Cllr Baxter spoke to his report. It was unanimously **AGREED** to adopt the draft Budget for the coming financial year.
- 10.6.2 To receive and consider RFO's recommendation for 2025-26 Precept** – Cllr Baxter explained the rationale around a proposed increase in the Precept. In recent years the NT parish council has relied on income from volunteer recyclers and volunteer labour on the common. Getting volunteers is proving to be more difficult and those volunteers we have are getting older. It is therefore imperative that parishioners cover the true costs of fulfilling the parish council's duties and obligations if the volunteer element falls away. In addition, inflation in all operating costs has been of the order of 10% and the increasing burden on the parish clerk from council requirements and "red tape" need to be paid for. Accordingly, it has been necessary to increase the precept from £3800 to £5600 for 2025/26. The average increase per household is of the order of £13.22 per annum based on the tax base of 136.2 dwellings. A figure of £5600 representing an increase of £1800 was **PROPOSED**. This was unanimously **AGREED** (Cllr Baxter abstained) **ACTION: Clerk to process request with BDC**
- 11.0 To receive and note any correspondence received: All Noted**
Emails from Breckland District Council; Email from Galliford Try; Emails from NALC and Norfolk PTS; emails from CAN; Emails from Cllr Hawker; Emails from Cllr Bambridge; Green Spaces Norfolk; email from Marie Curie; Woodland Trust email; email from Cllr Bambridge; emails from residents; Reports from Cllrs Borrett and Bambridge; email from BDC around Rural Enterprise Funding; emails from Norfolk Constabulary
- 12.0 AOB – To be notified to Chair prior to the meeting**
Elsing Parish Council have requested hire of our SAM2 device; Cllrs agreed that this was not prudent because there may be insurance implications, and that the sign is intended for use for 365 days a year for speed-monitoring in the village. Moving forwards, perhaps an additional sign could be purchased with a match funding agreement.
Wood for making in to benches to be obtained from Galliford Try; Cllr Smith to liaise.
Village Flag to be taken down for the winter months – Cllr Harding to undertake.
- 13.0 To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting** as Wednesday 15th January 2025 – 7.30pm - at North Tuddenham Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.00 hrs with no further matters arising.

-
- 14.0 Meeting closed to public to allow discussion of Confidential Item around Clerk's Contractual Details**
-

Clerk to North Tuddenham Parish Council: clerk.norhtuddenham@gmail.com

<https://north-tuddenham-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>



North Tuddenham Parish Council

Clerk to North Tuddenham Parish Council: clerk.norhtuddenham@gmail.com

<https://north-tuddenham-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>