



# Sculthorpe Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7pm, Village Hall

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Parish Councillors present: Simon Read (Chairman), Roger London, Penny Ramm, Gillian White, Tony Walters and Ken Dawson. Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk), Michael Dalby (County Councillor) and Tom FitzPatrick (District Councillor). There was 4 members of the public present.

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**1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed those present. There were no apologies received. Gillian arrive for item 8

**2. Receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations by Councillors**

There were none.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 1 November 2023 to be approved**

The minutes were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting**

There were none.

**5. Receive reports from NCC Cllr & NNDC Cllr, if attending**

Tom FitzPatrick (District Councillor)

Discussion included the preparation of the budget, the sustainable communities fund which may be under threat, but which Cllr FitzPatrick will be opposing. A new swimming pool will be built in Fakenham, will take approx. 3 years and to be located beside the sports centre, and a briefing on NHS dentistry challenges (the link to the included in the newsletter).

Cllr Walters wished to thank Cllr FitzPatrick for his help over the years and explained that he will be resigning from the Parish Council after tonight's meeting.

Michael Dalby (County Councillor)

Report circulated to Councillors.

**6. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public**

Members of the Village Hall Committee were in attendance and enquired about ownership of the Village Hall. Following lengthy discussions, Cllr Read and the Clerk advised that the Village Hall was created by the Village Hall Charity, and therefore was not the responsibility of the Parish Council, except that it is to be retained as a community asset, which has been explained previously. Following

lengthy discussions, the Council agreed in principle that the Hall Committee charity could resume complete responsibility for the hall, subject to a written proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

On a separate note the new newsletter editor asked for inclusions from the Parish Council as often as possible.

## **7. To receive updates from council members and agree any action required**

### 7.1 Speed Watch & SAM2 report

Sept

Location: OS The School

Traffic Report From 01/09/2023 15:00:00 through 14/09/2023

85th Percentile Speed 27.2 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles 1574

Max Speed 40 MPH on 01/09/2023 19:00:00

Total Vehicles 1852

AOT Ltd quoted double the price of Westcotec for new brackets. Cllr Read agreed to continue moving the existing brackets for the time being and not purchase additional ones. Clerk had enquired about solar panels to charge the batteries, however solar panels would only top up the charging (not charge the battery completely) and would cost around £900. It was therefore agreed not to go ahead with his option at this time. The electricity cost to charge the batteries is yet to be confirmed.

### Speed Watch

Cllr London reported that there have been no visits since the end of November due to the weather but a new speed camera and tripod will be arriving soon.

### 7.2 Village Hall Committee report

In addition to discussion under item 6 the last cake and cuppa afternoon will go ahead on Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. From 27<sup>th</sup> February onwards they will be held on Tuesday mornings 10-12noon to see how it goes.

## **8. Open Spaces**

### 8.1 To discuss and report any highways issues that may have arisen

Cllr Read has reported the water inspection cover on the pavement in Moor Lane, that pops out of place, to Anglian Water.

Cllr Read also noted that a Telecoms Company has dug up the end of Creake Road to lay cables and has left a lot of shingle and debris behind which looks a mess. This has been reported to the Highways Inspector who will follow up with the Telecoms Company and ensure this is put right.

It was also noted that another small post at Crockly Pitt has disappeared and should be replaced with a large post, as this was agreed by Highways in the past. This will be monitored.

The sign for Creake Road, on the A148 from Kings Lynn is covered with overgrowth (sign on left hand side).

As the buses pass Crockly Pitt the road is getting wider and closer vehicles getting closer to the water. The buses are going so quickly along the road and vehicles are having to reverse up and are doing so onto the green triangle which is ruining the grass.

8.2 Blacketts pond area update, if available

A neighbouring resident expressed concern with the large tree close to the boundary of the pond. However, this has been identified as privately owned land and is therefore the landowners responsibility. Following discussion it was agreed to continue with the original plan to spread the pond spoil onto the old lorry park and let it dry out, digging a trench may also be considered if necessary

8.3 Agree a maintenance plan for the play area.

NGF Play do not offer this service however, Cllr Read contacted NGF Play, who installed the equipment, and there is a 15 year warranty cover on the wooden poles. They have agreed to visit site in the next few weeks to inspect them and confirm what is covered under the warranty. Further update to follow. Soulcraft has quoted for affected areas for £600 approx. to bring the whole area back to minimal risk. The Council therefore agreed to accept Soulcraft's quotation.

Cllr Read agreed to follow up with the mole hill contractor as there are many mole hills in the play area at the moment.

EG Care has been invited to quote to fill the divots around the play equipment matting, however this has not been received yet. Agreed to consider this with the grass cutting quote.

8.4 To ratify decision to purchase additional brackets for the SAM2

Following discussion it was agreed not to go ahead with this for the time being.

**9. Planning Matters**

9.1 To receive results of applications

**PF/22/0329** | The Old Rectory, Creake Road, Sculthorpe

Demolition of hay barn and erection of building for use as art gallery with self-contained serviced artist accommodation/holiday let. PC comment – NEUTRAL | NNDC decision – PENDING

**PF/22/2425** | 11 - 15 The Street, Sculthorpe, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 9QD

Change of use of adjoining com. bldg with extensions & external alterations to provide 2 storey extension. PC comment – NEUTRAL | NNDC decision - APPROVED

**PF/23/1178** | Dels Nursery, Barsham Road,

Creation of vehicular access to highway for delivery vehicles.

PC comment – SUPPORT with comments | DC decision – APPROVED

**LA/23/2071** | 4 Moor Lane, Sculthorpe, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 9PY

Internal works inc. removal of pre-war fireplace and tiled hearth, non-historic and mixed brickwork held in place with cementitious products; re-instalment of righthand aspect of the front wall of chimney breast, taking chimney wall back to its original size; installation of steel lintel below the remaining part of the original wooden lintel still present

PC comment – SUPPORT DC decision - APPROVED

9.2 To receive and consider new applications

There were none.

**10. Receive and consider Correspondence**

Email from Robert Smith (Harbour Master) – the removal of the trees on A148 were removed to excess and Parish Councillors agreed to this. However this is not the Parish Councils responsibility. Cllr Elburn added that they had to be taken care of as it was becoming a danger to road users.

**11. Financial Matters**

11.1 To approve the bank reconciliation and payment of accounts list

The Council RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation and payments list below

Payments

Clerk	Salary (Dec-Jan)	£536.25
EG Care Ltd	Grass Cutting (Nov)	£124.80

Receipts

Barclays Bank	Interest on reserves	£133.99
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11.2 To agree budget and set the precept for 2024-25

Following consideration, the council approved the budget presented and agreed to set the precept at £9419, which represents a 0% increase on last year's precept.

**12. Receive items for next agenda and note the date of the next meeting**

Items for inclusion at the next meeting:- Cllr co-option, confirmation of Village Hall responsibility

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 March 2024.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26pm.

Signed by Chairman: ..... Date: .....