

**Draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting of Nordelph Parish Council
Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6.30pm at the Village Hall, High Street, Nordelph**

**Parish Councillors present: Sarah-Jane Capsey (Chair), John Lyus, Helen Thomas, Sue Venn & Pete Gray.
Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.
Apologies: Councillor Sally Favell, Borough Councillor Spikings, County Councillor Dawson & Borough Councillor Rose**

Minutes (draft)

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 To consider and approve apologies for absence

Apologies had been received prior to the meeting as listed above and the reasons for such approved.

3 To receive a report from the Chairman

The Chairman provided a report outlining the last year's activities within the Parish Council some of which included:

- The decision to not pursue with the installation of a bus shelter at Silt Road for the school children due to a lack of appetite for one.
- A plaque was purchased for the bench on the High Street in memory of the late Ron Stannard who served as Parish Clerk for Nordelph for more than 54 years.
- Councillor Favell joined the Parish Council as a local councillor.
- The small gate at the entrance to the cemetery has been refurbished, painted black and reinstalled.
- The flag pole situated in the Hall Car Park has also been repaired this year.
- The area around the war memorial was given a coat of paint to refresh it for the Remembrance Service in November and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council in memory of those lost.
- New pads for the defibrillator had been purchased this year.
- A new grass cutting contractor has been appointed for the 2024 grass cutting season to maintain the churchyard, playing field and staithe area near to the BT kiosk.
- A tree survey had been carried out in the Parish and the necessary works completed. A small tree in the churchyard had blown over during storms in January which was dealt with.
- A Biodiversity Plan has been published this year outlining the Parish Council's endeavours to preserve and encourage biodiversity in the Parish which includes leaving the Parish Council-owned land adjacent to the Playing Field to grow wild to encourage birds, bees and other insects.
- The Parish Council intends to replace and repair the railings that run along the stretch of the riverbank from the top of the High Street all the way down to the goose neck of Birchfield Road (approx.700m in length). Part funding has already been secured from Norfolk County Council, we are now just waiting for the balance to be confirmed and then the project will proceed. For the purpose of the Minutes it can be noted that if the Parish Council repairs the railings, by default they would be taking responsibility for them and this would automatically be covered under their Public Liability section of their insurance policy. It should also be noted that the Parish Council does not own this land; the land, to date, has not been registered at HM Land Registry and Norfolk County Council does not accept ownership of it.
- The re-routing of Footpath 7 and the installation of a culvert/bridge is still ongoing but with continued support from County Councillor Dawson we are hopeful that 2024/25 might be the year that this project is concluded with new landowners allegedly committing to agreeing to re-route the path down the side of the field (instead of meandering across it) and Norfolk County Council confirming that funds are available to pay for a culvert over the Bedford Bank to allow walkers access to this circular walk.
- The Precept for 2024/25 was not increased and will remain at £10,500.00 for 2024 2025.
- The Parish Council is still carrying one vacancy for a local councillor. Please contact the Clerk for further details if you are interested.

4 To receive a report from the Borough Council

- Borough Council elections took place in 2023 with new leadership.
- The budget has yet to be agreed.
- Councillor Spikings has an annual £1,000.00 members’ fund which is available for local groups to apply to for donations if the eligible criteria is met.
- Information relating to flooding has been disseminated recently. This details different types of streams, rivers, pipes and culverts, dykes and ditches and your rights, responsibilities and common laws involved as well as riparian rights.

5 To receive a report from the County Council

- County Councillor Dawson has been active in the deal for devolution for Norfolk, the advisory group on the procurement of contracts in respect of highways maintenance and duties relating to the role of Member Champion for the Rural Economy.
- There have been issues this year with obtaining places for children at Downham Market Academy.
- Efforts relating to the Energy from Waste Facility in Wisbech were fruitful however the outcome somewhat inevitable.
- The re-routing of Footpath 7 and the provision and funding for a culvert appears to be making good progress with documentation with the Legal Team at Norfolk County Council and hopes of a conclusion by Autumn 2024.
- Repairs to the railings along the riverbank are progressing with significant funding being provided by Norfolk County Council.
- A local business in Nordelph has offered support with labour and equipment to erect some lights to decorate the bridge in Nordelph for Christmas 2024 if the Parish Council pursues the idea.

6 Open Forum

- A resident present expressed an interest in providing a quote to repair/replace the railings.
- A resident present expressed an interest in carrying out a litter pick in the parish.
- A discussion surrounding purchasing another dog waste bin for the top of the High Street ensued.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed..... Date