

**Draft Minutes from Nordelph Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6.30pm at the Village Hall, Birchfield Road, Nordelph**

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

**Meeting Minutes (draft)**

**1 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this year's meeting was being jointly hosted by the Village Hall Committee.

**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 an annual report:

- This financial year's precept was £10,500.00; this pays for the services and facilities in the Parish such as maintenance to the war memorial and defibrillator, grass cutting at the cemetery and playing field, tree & hedge maintenance on Parish Council-maintained land, litter bin emptying, dog waste bin emptying, street lighting, Parish Clerk's salary, insurance for village assets i.e. benches, litter bins, noticeboards, dog waste bins etc. and much more.
- This year, bird boxes have been purchased and installed in the cemetery. Thanks to be recorded to County Councillor Dawson for funding these.
- The main focus this year has been to secure funding to replace and/or repair sections of the concrete posts and railings along the riverbank. Funding has now been approved and the project is about to commence with works being carried out by a local contractor.
- There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor; please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested.
- Thanks were recorded to the Craft Club for organizing the lights on the bridge at Christmas time this year and for purchasing and erecting a Christmas tree and holding an evening event to switch on the lights which was a huge success.

**4 To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee**

- Funding for the installation of solar panels has been successful.
- The regular bingo nights and pub nights continue to be a success.
- A recent 'History Night' proved very popular.
- A long-standing member of the committee has recently left and is greatly missed
- Fascia has recently been stolen from the roof of the Village Hall.
- This year's AGM will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025, new members are needed.

**5 To present awards to two local young volunteers who have been clearing weeds and tidying up the Parish**

- A certificate, gift voucher and small gift were awarded to local young volunteers who have recently been giving up their free time to clear weeds etc. from the pathways in the village in a bid to make the area tidier. Thanks were given to the two young local children for their hard work and community spirit; their efforts are greatly appreciated by the Parish Council.

**6 To consider carrying out an annual/biannual litter pick in the Parish**

- Councillor Patch presented her proposal to initiate an annual litter pick in the Parish.
- The Great British Spring Clean is 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 - 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and she would like to encourage any local residents interested in setting up such an initiative to contact the Parish Clerk.
- Due to insurance regulations, children are not able to participate.

## **7 To receive a report from the Borough Council**

- The budget for 2025/26 is looking balanced despite the challenges of the increase in employers' national liability, above inflation increases to Internal Drainage Board levies and no uplift from government grants.
- Second Homes' council tax premium comes into effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- Alive West Norfolk has now been brought in-house to reduce costs.
- The Council remains committed to invest in West Norfolk through their capital programme and will continue to deliver the housing programme and ensure that its heritage and leisure assets are fit for the future. The Council is in a strong position with sufficient reserves to support the financial strategy for the next four years.
- The average Band D council tax will increase from £148.37 to £152.87.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy fund opens again for applications in July 2025.
- The new Local Plan has been approved as 'sound' in its initial stage of consultation.

## **8 To receive a report from the County Council**

- The contract is in place regarding completing the circular public right of way known as Footpath 7, just the last bit of funding needs to be confirmed. Norfolk County Council has started progressing the extinguishment and creation of the route and delivery of the new bridge is planned for summer 2025. The exact month is not yet known as negotiations are still in place with landowners regarding crop removal; on going.
- A member of the public enquired about the longstanding traffic lights at the Middle Level-owned bridge on Outwell Road; works are being carried out to the bridge.

## **9 Open Forum**

- A resident requested a further dog waste bin in the vicinity of the playing field as there appears to be a lot of dog walkers not picking up behind their dogs on the field at the moment. It was agreed to add this to the next agenda for further consideration.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.15pm and refreshments were then served.

Signed..... Date .....