

Weston Longville Parish Council.

Meeting of the Parish Council - Agenda

Monday February 12th, 2024, at 7.30pm
Hall for All, Church Street, Weston Longville

Parish Councillors present:	Clare Morton	CM (Chairman)
	Peter Ross	PR (Vice Chairman)
	Bob Banks	BB
	Justin Cohu	JC
	Paul Cowley	PC
	Ruth Horton	RG
	Rick Parsons	RP (after item 2024/003)
	Dawn Clarke	DC (Clerk)

17 Members of the public, including District Councillor Peter Bulman (DCPB)

2024/001 Chair's welcome and to receive apologies for absence.

County Councillor Greg Peck sent his apologies.

2024/002 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations.

All council members noted their interest in the A47/Norwich Western Link, SEP and DEP projects.

Item 2024/008.2 PC and CM as they are residents in that area.

2024/003 To consider Co-option of any candidate present.

Two candidates were present, and the election of Rick Parsons was effected using the process outlined in the Co-Option Policy document.

The Clerk witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and provided a copy of the standing orders. Other documents to be sent via email.

2024/004 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th of November 2023, and the 9th of December 2023.

A small amendment was made to item 13.1 if the 13th of November Minutes by hand.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

2024/005 To report on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only)

It was noted that the Greater Norwich Plan has been released.

2024/006 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public and County and District Councillors.

A resident expressed concern with respect to the Wensum Diaries (WD) and asked if the parish council should consider supporting the publication. The Editor of the WD explained that the WD struggles to collect the subscription monies and was reluctant to accept funding as it wished to be independent of any public body. For the year of 2024 thanks to the generosity of residents the future would be fine, going forward it may need support.

A resident noted that the 'corner plot' owner was selling his property. The site opposite had not progressed with respect to the land usage changes and the establishment of a new (without planning) entrance. CM to contact and copy in DCPB.

Councillor Peter Bulman (DCPB) noted the continuing of dialogue with respect to the redundancy process for Bernard Mathews. There would be a considerable number of job losses in both the workforce and ancillary support businesses.

Building works, planning and environmental issues in Lenwade were noted.

DCPB is Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The draft budget for 2024-5 which recommends a 5.2% increase in council tax will be submitted to cabinet shortly.

2024/007 Planning (Portfolio CM)
By Delegation

7.1. 2024/0066, Land at Emmerson Industrial Estate, Norwich Road, Construction of Industrial Units (Use classes E(g), B2 & B8) with all matters reserved except for access Application Type: Outline Planning Permission

7.2. 2023/3456, High Oaks Three Corner Covert Weston Longville, 2 single storey side extensions, facade alterations & internal reconfiguration.

7.3. 2023/3259, 7 - 9 Norwich Road Lenwade, To place food van in front of property.

For consideration:

7.4. Any application received after the publishing of this Agenda.

7.1 There was only 1 vacant unit available when CM looked at the neighbouring business unit site. The area is populated by volunteer birch trees and brambles. The landscaping is quite natural

No objection was made and the text 'Weston Longville Parish Council makes no objection but asks that robust conditions that protect the water courses from contaminated run-off (both during the development and subsequent usage) are included in any approval. Additionally, that native and sympathetic vegetation is retained, and where this is not available planted, in a way to screen the site from Marriot's Way and the A1067.' Was submitted.

7.2 No objection was made.

7.3 It was noted that the property was in Great Witchingham PC and the drive/road is in Weston Longville. Local residents were concerned about smells, waste/litter and vermin.

No objection was made and the text 'Weston Longville Parish Council notes that the access road falls into the Parish of Weston Longville but the property is within Great Witchingham.

The Parish council is concerned about litter. Should planning be minded to approve, Weston Longville Parish Council request a condition addressing litter, and would call for the provision of publicly accessible litter bins on and around the site.' Was submitted.

7.4 No other applications

2024/008

Roads (Portfolio RH)

8.1. To receive an update and agree next steps on A47 and Norwich Western Link.

8.2. To note the correspondence by residents of Weston Green with respect to the Weston Green Crossroads – Junction of Weston Green Road and Paddy's Lane/Honingham Road.

8.1 CM attended the Norwich Western Link (NWL) liaison meeting and noted that the time line has slipped considerably, Submission of plans early 2024, starting construction in Summer 2026 and the scheme in operation in Summer 2029 at the earliest. There has been additional time allowed for public enquiry, environmental investigations and the need to construct a platform to enable the viaduct construction.

RH - It was noted that discussions were underway with Norwich County Council asking that other options may be considered. The response was initially positive then updated that there was a considerable

amount of work requested. RH plans to contact NCC again for a clear timeline.

The short term plan is to clarify the implications of any rat-running avoidance plans, and by May that the assessments may show the potential effects.

A written commitment has been made by NCC to ameliorate the traffic through the village by either moving flow to the HGV route or slowing the speed to make it less attractive. How best to achieve this is under currently consideration.

NCC will consult and not implement a plan without the parish agreement.

8.2 A group of Weston Green residents have asked for some mitigations to alleviate the issues at the Weston Green cross-road. This would be to address the current safety issues faced in that area.

A resident asked how we would know if the measures were working, PR explained that the modelling had been accurate in the past and there are safeguards if the plan implemented resulted in an increase in traffic.

CM noted the correspondence of the Weston Green Residents group. Concern was shown that currently there are significant safety concerns. And asked that safety upgrades are made now. It was noted that there has been the loss of many family pets and many close calls/narrow misses due to speeding.

RH has reviewed the suggestions made by the group and noted that the mirrors and reduction in speed were 'easy' to achieve. The 'raised platforms' were explained as a whole road would be raised so that the whole crossroads would be covered, or 2 split areas. RH did acknowledge the danger at this point, and asked if we should consider other locations also. CM noted that any safety concerns should be ranked.

PR was concerned that if significant work was undertaken, would the final solution be different to the current offer.

Council has previously agreed to pursue a 40mph speed limit across the parish.

PR - In May when the mitigations are further developed may give a better view of any mitigations that may be considered now, funding is always an issue. PR suggested that financially modest actions should be prioritised and then pursue the other options.

PC Noted that he had near miss recently where the other driver did not stop. His opinion is that the issue is entirely speed related.

PR The analysis that was conducted 2 years ago

JC noted that the information and changes

RH As residents we know what the current problems are and without the analysis to understand the effect of the change it's impossible to predict what will happen as to flow of traffic.

PR The analysis may give more insight into the traffic flow and help with a solution to the crossroads.

BB Once the Western Link is complete the issue will change entirely.

RH The analysis that was requested included items that may be permanent, (road narrowing) In the short term this will slow the traffic.

JC suggested that the 'soft' items – mirrors and speed limits would not affect the modelling and are removable.

A resident said that there have been no speed mitigation measures in Weston Green(WG) and were focused on the village of Weston Longville. They were concerned that there would be a serious accident in the future.

A resident notes that there was huge support for any speed restriction in the WG area, he personally has had multiple near misses. There has been strong and consistent views. Their intention was not to move flow to other locations just to slow it down.

A resident noted that the nearly full attendance from all the WG residents and that they were hoping for the support of the parish council to explore with NCC any possibilities and immediate improvements without prejudice to the plans that may affect the whole village. It is not a proposal to displace traffic just to slow down the speed. The group are not fixed on any of the ideas suggested in their letter.

A resident noted that speed reduction is good for the whole village.

RH asked that the speed reduction be implemented across the whole parish as soon as possible, either to 30 or 40mph, that is not tied to mitigations.

CM has previously asked for a 40mph speed limit to be implemented.

The Weston Green Residents were given the support of the parish council to speak to NCC about measures to reduce speed.

RP Notes that most traffic passes through the village and ANPR would give the village a way of protecting the parish. It would require police support.

A resident who had attended a Morton on the Hill meeting noted that their opinion was an average speed camera was the most successful way to reduce speed in their area.

A resident was concerned that the parish was splitting into areas with each lobbying for their own small section of the parish and this was divisive to cohesion.

CM The Parish Council was to represent all the views of the parish but there was nothing stopping an individual coming to the council for support, or approaching an agency. At times it is not practical to support an individual or group view and by being elected it was for the council to represent a view.

CM the whole speed across the parish has reduced but not to the speed limit signed.

RH did recognise the effect that speed cameras have on traffic. She notes that when previously asking about speed cameras that the lack of fatalities made getting a speed camera difficult. She will look into speed cameras. Police speed checks were being looked into.

RP asked for costings of cameras and other solutions.

It was resolved that as a parish council we are supportive of the WG residents group approaching NCC to discuss possible actions to improve the safety of the Weston Green Crossroads.

2024/09 Parish Infrastructure (Portfolio BB)

9.1. To discuss the current Allotment arrangements.

9.2. To note that a Land Registry application has been submitted for the allotments

9.3. To note the shared SAM rota.

9.1 BB noted that all was well on the allotment

9.2 CM has submitted a Land Registry Application asking for the allotments to be assigned to the Parish Council. They have acknowledged receipt of the application. The parish council has the conveyance paperwork but not the deeds. The deeds are missing.

9.3 CM has made a new rota for 2024 as the 2023 one had expired.

2024/010 Environmental Considerations (Portfolio PC) - Verbal update
To receive an update on the Hornsea 3 and Equinor SEP and DEP.

The cable works have been continuing across the parish. Orsted have agreed to move forward. Hornsey 3 will be built. PC is being kept up to date with the scheme of work, both trenched and tunnelling. The

community fund is now active and are focused on the impacted parishes. The fund is administered by an independent funding body.

The road closures are causing an increase in traffic across the parish, CM/BB/PC are meeting with the project managers. The road closures diversions were not always ideal. Should a project of this size happen again, a dialogue with NCC would be wise to prevent inappropriate routing of TRO's

PR asked if the safety cut map that has been produced could be merged with the 'Bloom and Clean' idea. CM explained that the Bloom and Clean grant will partly be used to underplant with clover and low growing grasses at the corners that are the most dangerous. The Clerk notes that she has had a conversation with Highways and they are fine about the removal of the grass and planting of clover.

2024/011 Parishioner Engagement (Portfolio) - Verbal update
To resolve to purchase a tree as a token of thanks for Ruth Goodall for all her service as a Parish Councillor.

To mark Ruth Goodall's more than 30 year tenure on the council, it was resolved to purchase 2 plum trees and PC and PR will arrange purchase and planting. A budget of £75 was approved. PC to purchase.

Rick Parsons agreed to take over the Parishioner Engagement Portfolio.

2024/012 Communications (Portfolio JC) - Verbal update

JC noted that there have been power cuts recently.

The removal of copper lines is causing problems with the technology change and is very happy to help anyone who contacts him. A resident (item 2024/017.2) has written to the parish council about this change over to digital land lines. JC to follow up

CM has written a piece in the Wensum Diaries D about this change and the responsibility that the phone provider has to the customer.

JC to look at mobile signal and any responsibility that is placed on BT and the mobile phone providers. There is a lack of compatibility with the hardware. Other residents have had issues with the change over.

The number of 'at risk' Parishioners is unknown.

2024/013 Inter stakeholder Liaison (Portfolio PR) - Verbal Update.
To agree one representative to the Hall for All board.

PR has organised a meeting of the '7 Chairs' group on March 4th at the Hall For All in Weston Longville. 6 Chairs plan to attend. The group worked well pre-covid.

As a group it has no statutory powers and is a way for the adjoining local parishes with a similar profile to share best practice and the chairs to develop a dialogue.

Following Ruth Goodall's resignation, the liaison for the 'Hall For All' now falls within the Inter Stake Holder Liaison Portfolio.

2024/014 To adopt the updated Grant Policy and new Bio-diversity Policy.

The Grant Policy and the Biodiversity Policy were both adopted. It is noted that the council area refers to the whole parish council area.

2024/015 Clerk's Report (Verbal Update)

To note the change in numbering of agenda items.

To note the application of a .GOV domain name.

To agree a change over date for all email addresses.

To note the Subject Access request and that it has been resolved.

The numbering runs yearly and will restart in 2025/001. Next meeting will start from this meeting last number.

The .gov domain was agreed and noted. Councillors were reminded to change the password and it was agreed that the cut-off date for using personal emails is March 1st 2024

The SAR has been resolved and it is noted.

2024/016 Finance

16.1. To agree the application for a Bloom and Clean grant to Broadland DC.

16.2. To agree the payment list.

16.3. To agree any items for payment received after the Agenda publishing.

16.4. To note any payments made since the last meeting.

16.5. To note any income since the last reconciliation, 1st of November 2023.

16.6. To note the bank reconciliation dated 1st of November 2023.

16.7. To note the tax base of 150 and band d rate of £71, and a precept of £10,650 that was submitted for the 2024/25 year.

16.8. To receive the Wave Bill and resolve the next action.

14.1 It was agreed to apply for a Bloom and Clean Grant from Broadland DC, to be used for clover to underplant/re-plant some verges and items for planting around the village.

14.2, 14.3, 14.4 The payment list was agreed

For Authorisation

	Expenses / WFH Allowance /	
Dawn Clarke	Mileage	61.45
Dawn Clarke	Clerk Salary - January	259.13
Clare Morton	G Cannell - Base for kennel	260.00
	Norse	
Hall For All	Whole Year rental	225.00
NALC	2024/25 Subscription - Due April	214.36
NALC	Training (Ruth H)	36.00
Wave	Allotment Water	70.25
Clare Morton	Land Registry Fee	30.00

To note the payment

Dawn Clarke	Clerk Salary - December	259.13
NALC	Domain Name	134.40
ICO	Subscription (DD)	35.00

Income

BSNDC	Bloom Grant	300.00
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14.6 Bank Balances: Solar £14,177.98, General £21,064.28

As agreed, the Parish Partnership grant was submitted, a response is expected in March. Orsted may be a source if funding is not available.

14.7 The tax base of 150 and band d rate of £71, and a precept of £10,650 that was submitted for the 2024/25 year. This was submitted in January.

14.8 Wave are willing to refund monies charged prior to confirming that Sewage connection was not there. They have offered £120 compensation to reflect the length of time it has taken to resolve the complaint. There may be the possibility to resolve this should we take it back to Anglia Water. PC to double check any paperwork he may have. Should we find evidence that the sewage connection was not asked for then we will take it up with Anglia Water. The bill is to be settled, and the compensation will be accepted.

- 2024/017 Correspondence (information only)
- 17.1. Thank you email for the defibrillator grant.
 - 17.2. Email regarding phone line switch off.
 - 17.3. Email regarding children's clothes swap.

17.4. Any item received after the publication of this Agenda.

17.1 - 17.3 Items noted.

17.4 It was agreed that the Parish Council would apply for a photograph of the King.

2024/018 Any other business (information only) and items for the next agenda.
PC will organise a litter pick week and publicise on Facebook

2024/019 To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting:
Monday May 13th, 2024, in the Hall for All.

Meeting closed at 21.54

Signed:

Date: