

Weston Longville Parish Council.

Meeting of the Parish Council - Minutes

**Monday November 13th, 2023, 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 Goodall	RG
Dawn Clarke	DC (Clerk)

Members of the public, 10 including District Councillor Peter Bulman and County Councillor Greg Peck

1. Chair's welcome and to receive apologies for absence.

None

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

All councillors declared an interest in Norwich Western Link Road and Hornsea 3, Equinor, SEP and DEP.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th of September 2023.

The council approved the minutes, and the chair signed them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. To consider changes in Portfolio holders.

Councillor Ruth Goodall made a statement, which concluded with her resignation from the Parish Council.

The Chair and council thanked Ruth for her service and explained the co-option process should an election not be called.

Ruth Goodall left. It was agreed that the statement would not be included in the minutes. It was agreed to draw a line under the issue and not engage in further discussion.

It was agreed that Ruth Horton would take on the Highways portfolio and pass on the Parishioner Engagement portfolio should a new councillor wish.

5. To report on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only)

Councillor Clare Morton brought to the council the information of a Private Members bill in 2021 concerning treatment of retrospective planning permissions. It was withdrawn as it was intended to be included into one of the planning bills. There are several sessions coming through parliament and CM has contacted Jerome Mayhew to discover if this is due for discussion.

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

A resident informed council that there was a data breach and felt that unsubstantiated claims were made against them, the resident has been advised that legal action is appropriate. (continued in item 16)

A member of the public asked about the traffic counts – the last lot shared by Broadland DC were October 2022, the council has nothing from 2023. CM agreed to share the data she has.

County Cllr Greg Peck shared that he had around £11,000 of budget to spend solely on road repairs and trees. The Western Link has the full request of 85% of total costs and there is a possibility for the full funding to be met by central government. The vote for the 'County Deal' would be held in December.

District Cllr Peter Bulman noted that he has been pressing for no increase in council tax.

7. Planning (Portfolio CM)

7.1. Update on investigation on status of retrospective planning permissions.

By Delegation

7.2. 2023/2444, Norfolk Dinosaur Park, Norton Land, Weston Longville. NR9 5JW. Erection of 2 illuminated signs.

For consideration:

7.3. 2023/3117, Bucks Burrow Barn, Morton Lane Weston Longville, NR9 5JL
Single storey extensions (retrospective)

7.4. 2023/3068, Weston Covert, Field Road, Weston Longville. NR9 5JN.
Change of use of a private swimming pool to a commercial swimming pool (retrospective)

- 7.5. 2023/3339, Thatched Cottage Weston Green Rd, Weston Longville. NR9 5LB
Proposed rear single storey extension and balcony and 1.5 storey side extension
- 7.6. 2023/3089, 2023/3089 Land at Honingham Road Weston Longville Norfolk
Proposed agricultural/industrial building
- 7.7. Any application received after the publishing of this Agenda.

7.1 Covered in item 5

7.2 Weston Longville Parish Council have no objection to the erection of the signs and banners however the use of the lighting should be restricted to hours when the park is open. This is to preserve the Norfolk Dark Skies (there are no street lights on the B1535) and to reduce the impact on the bat colony which forages and roosts on the land belong to Roarr but also on the adjacent Royal Norwich golf course and Weston Park.

7.3 Weston Longville Parish Council resolved to OBJECT on the following grounds Weston Longville Parish Council have repeatedly raised concerns that the Dairy Farm Development - and Bucks Burrow forms the outside edge of this - is becoming over developed with buildings and residential accommodation and that this is contrary to Policy G4 which seeks to provide a satisfactory appearance to the development and maintain the amenities of adjoining residents. The provision of both a new home working space and expansion of the existing living space both impact onto the over-crowding of the site.

7.4 Councillor Paul Cowley was minded not to object to the permission as there was a use within the village after another premises closed and felt it brought no more traffic to the village than the home workers or other businesses do. The consensus remained to object. It was noted that another agency has expressed concern about light pollution.

Weston Longville Parish Council resolved to OBJECT on the following grounds: In the judgement issued by the Planning Inspector concerning an application (20211750) for glamping pods at the same location, the Inspector detailed his concerns with respect to road access to the site and cited this as his main cause of objection. WLPC would argue that the same requirements would apply to this application. The local highway authority has indicated that a splay providing clear vision for between 60 and 90 metres each side of the centre of the access should be provided and maintained. Although Morton Lane is relatively straight as it passes the site, it is approached from the east from around a shallow bend. The site location plan indicates that the applicant controls land to the west of the access but does not control the land to the east. The Rectory Farms Partnership submits that it has control of the land to the east and have indicated that they oppose the application so it would appear that there is no way of securing the desired visibility lines. This would make the development contrary to DMDPD Policy TS3, which states that development will not be permitted where it would result in any significant adverse impact upon the satisfactory functioning or safety of the highway network. Any lighting installed must conform to Development Management Policies Document 3.13 Amenity, Noise and Quality of Life such that the nature of the

lighting installed has no detrimental to the amenity of nearby residents and an adverse impact on wildlife in the surrounding undeveloped area. The National Planning Policy Framework Clause 180c and Norfolk County Council's Environmental Lighting Zones Policy both recognise the importance of preserving dark landscapes and dark skies. In order to minimise light pollution, we would therefore request that any outdoor lights associated with this proposed development should be:

- 1) fully shielded (enclosed in full cut-off flat glass fittings)
- 2) directed downwards (mounted horizontally to the ground and not tilted upwards)
- 3) switched on only when needed (no dusk to dawn lamps)
- 4) white light low-energy lamps (LED) and not orange or pink sodium source

7.5 No Objection was made.

7.6 No Objection was made. The site was formally an unauthorised traveller site; the company has been operating for over 20 years on the old farm site part of the airfield. The concern that changing use from agricultural would like to draw the attention of the officers to the proximity of the wind turbines to the site. The background noise from these may be relevant to the location of the new buildings. The applicants have taken planning advice from and adjusted the site accordingly and have engaged with the Parish Council.

7.7 2023/2976 Honeypot House Honingham Road Weston Longville NR9 5LB, Erection of cart shed. The council resolved to make no objection.

It was noted that the Greater Norwich Plan has been released and CM would look at it.

8. Roads (Portfolio RG)

- 8.1. To receive an update and agree next steps on A47 and Norwich Western Link.
- 8.2. To agree response to Norfolk County Council (NCC) suggestions for mitigations to A47 traffic volume increases.

8.1 An update from the meeting held by the liaison group on November 8th. The Provision of funding was shared. The start date is delayed by Dr Boswell's appeal on January 16th, 2024, and then 4- 6 weeks for a Supreme Court Judgement to be made. Until that time preparatory work is being undertaken.

8.2 Mitigations: NCC have returned to the council with 7 options for the parish council to review and return to NCC with suggestions for tweaks, PC doesn't support keeping Weston Green Road open as the road will be closed for the duration of the construction and feels that it is inappropriate to ask for models that show that road open. This agreement has been made with NCC already. Ruth and Peter asked for modelling of the narrowing of Paddy's Lane.

Having no portfolio holder the submission needs to be agreed by council and an additional meeting for ratifying the requests to NCC.

RH suggests including a timeline for the return of information so that the Parish Council may be best informed to progress the mitigations and present them to Councillors.

PC asked if there were too many amendments being requested, and if it eroded the Parish Council's credibility.

A resident asked how the HGV route would be treated. NCC is aware that the Weston Hall Road junction is difficult to exit.

A resident asked if it was possible to install traffic lights, CM explained new road arrangements were subject to current standards and would be very costly. The resident suggested that changing public behaviour via technology would be the way to resolve the rat running.

CM was asked about APR, NCC do not endorse or apply it and must be provided by Norfolk Police.

A member of the public asked for the suggested routes, CM responded that the information is currently confidential to the Parish Council. The next step is to return to NCC council with options, before opening the routes to consultation with the parish residents. It is expected that consultation will occur in the spring.

Mitigations need to be in place when the Easton Roundabout is closed. Which is around 16 months into the build process. The earliest envisaged date for the mitigations to be in place is April 2025. The mitigations are to protect the village from the A47 dualling not the current traffic flow issues.

The current discussion with NCC in respect to traffic flow is to ask for a blanket 40mph speed reduction across the whole parish (except where it is already 20mph. The impact of the lowering of the speed limit will change SatNav 'quickest routes' and make the village less attractive as a route.

A resident asked when there was an agreement made to close Weston Green Road. CM responded that the agreement was made following the A47 DCO submission and was included in the last Western Link consultation by NCC. The resident asked why not reduce to 30mph, CM explained that the guidelines indicated that the 85th percentile was the goal for addressing a reducing speed limits, which was around 42mph, and reducing to 30mph would require significant enforcement. There is not enough accident data to force a further reduction in speed.

A member of the public asked if the mitigations had been reported to the liaison group. CM re-stated that the Liaison Group had been informed that NCC were working specifically with Weston Longville and that detailed information would be released at the appropriate time and that the options were specific to Weston Longville.

It was resolved to compile the letter contents by email and then call a meeting to agree the contents formally as a council.

9. Parish Infrastructure (Portfolio BB)

- 9.1. To discuss the current Allotment arrangements.
- 9.2. To discuss improvements to bus shelter in WL part of Gt Witchingham
- 9.3. To discuss management and support of the defibrillator.

9.1 There was an outstanding payment by a tenant that BB would chase. The water supply has been closed off and insulated for the winter.

9.2 A request for Weston Longville to install a bus stop in the lower (Lenwade/Great Witchingham) area of the parish, it is well used and a covered shelter was selected. It was agreed to request Parish Partnership monies and use CiL money.

It was resolved that an application to the Parish Partnership scheme would be made to pay for half of the costs, the balance being met from CiL monies.

9.3 A grant request has been received to support the defibrillator that was started with a £1000 grant 5 years ago. The running costs have eroded the grant. The Village Hall pays for the insurance and electricity. The defibrillator has been released 3 times in 8 years.

It was agreed to support with £400 from CiL.

10. Environmental Considerations (Portfolio PC)

- 10.1. To receive an update on the Hornsea 3 and Equinor SEP and DEP.

Orsted / Hornsea 3 is moving south with rolling road closures and removal of topsoil to for the machines to put in the lines. There is a lot of work happening at the battery location. Work off shore is visible.

The Equinor SEP and DEP is waiting for the inspector to give their report prior to receiving approval from the secretary of state.

There has been road cleaning however it is unknown who completed this (Suggested is Orsted/Horsea)

It is noted that there are large lorries damaging the verges, the last letter to the business resulted in restoration work being completed.

A resident noted that the Harras fencing has fallen or is unsafe looking. PC to contact the liaison officer.

11. Parishioner Engagement (Portfolio RH)

- 11.1. To receive an update on the outreach programme to better understand the wishes of the parishioners under 50 as identified by the Parish Plan.
- 11.2. To receive an update to the welfare requirements of a resident.

11.1 Unfortunately only 1 resident attend the engagement event at the village hall, that resident was not in the 'Under 50's' age range. Around 60 surveys were delivered to residents perceived to be under 50. The survey was also offered online via Survey Monkey.

There were 8 responses, of the 8, 7 wished for no more building, the other agreed after the traffic issues are resolved, this align the view with the older residents.

Half of the respondents said they would use a bus should it be available to either Longwater or Drayton. 6 residents said that they would like more footpaths, in particular safe footpaths through the village so that they did not need to walk on the road.

The website and social media – 1 asked for more announcements from the parish council. The broadcasting of parish council meetings was not supported at all.

Around half of the comments were positive the other half negative regarding the work of the Parish Council. Other comments were focused on the road / traffic issues.

The survey was targeted at this age group specifically as they had not responded to the parish plan, however it was clear that the views were similar to the older demographic.

11.2 The resident is currently quite unwell.

12. Communications (Portfolio JC)

12.1. Verbal update.

12.1 The process to remove copper lines and move the phone system onto fibre optic VOIP system. This is having a negative impact on anyone who has certain alarms or phone systems. JC has offered to guide any resident who is having problems with the change.

A central system for filing and emails was raised JC to speak with The Clerk. The clerk raised the question of moving to a .GOV.UK email or just to SharePoint. The clerk notes there is a move towards .GOV.UK domains and emails as outlined in the Practitioners Guide (JPAG) and maybe something the council wished to consider before it becomes mandatory.

13. Inter stakeholder Liaison (Portfolio PR)

13.1. Verbal Update.

13.1 Lady Anne, after a period of thought was happy to gift the playing field and the upper triangle of land to the parish. PR noted that this would not be an easy gift, she wishes to speak to her daughter. There are tenants, the cabling to resolve and the legal transfer taking the section out of the estate. It was agreed that the land would be called 'The Lady Anne Field'.

The 7 Parish Chairs Meeting would be re-established. The parishes are small and have similar common problems. PR has written to them all, they are: Attlebridge, Great Witchingham, Hockering, Honingham, Morton on the Hill, Ringland, Weston Longville. The idea is to share best practice and resources where there is a common issue or goal, to speak as one voice where there may be strength from that, and to share the skills of all of the chairs and open a familiar channel of communication. The proposed meeting would be in the new year and at the Hall For All in Weston Longville. Covid caused it to end and over the previous period of 5 years the group worked well.

14. Clerk's Report (verbal)

Wave has not resolved the water bill and the sewage aspect is unpaid. They are slow but it is considered a 'complex' case.

Parish Online is linked to the insurance policy and has sent invoices that are unsolicited.

Councillor Ruth Horton has raised the idea of whole council training and felt that the training she received was informative. There are refresher courses and there is a possibility of sharing the cost by having a local event with other councils.

War Memorial progress is slow. The memorial is now registered in the Parishes name. It was agreed to get another quote if the grant didn't progress. The American War Memorial is not registered with an owner, the land is part of the Airfield. The Parish Council has offered to step in should it be needed.

15. Finance

- 15.1. To note the conclusion of the NALC, pay discussions and charge Marion Barnes with adjusting the rates and calculating back pay.
- 15.2. To agree the payment list.
- 15.3. To agree any items for payment received after the publishing of the
- 15.4. To note any payments made since the last meeting.
- 15.5. To note any income since the last reconciliation - 1st of Sept. 2023.
- 15.6. To note the bank reconciliation dated 1st of November 2023.
- 15.7. To discuss and resolve the budget for 2024 /2025 and authorise the clerk to submit precept documents.
- 15.8. To confirm meeting dates for 2024. Clerk

15.1 Noted. Back pay was authorized.

15.2 The payment list was agreed.

15.3 None

15.4 These were noted, The General Account balance of £23,019 (which includes CiL payments and the Solar Account balance is £14,177.

15.5 None.

15.7 All Councillors confirmed that they were up to date with their council tax. The budget for 2024/25 was set at £10,650, after deciding to pay the bus shelter from reserves (CiL and Parish Partnership) The tax base was not available.

The Precept of £10,650 was approved, and the clerk to submit the associated paperwork.

15.8 2024 Dates were agreed: 12th February, 13th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November

15. Correspondence (information only)

- 15.1. Dialogue with resident regarding D-Day Celebrations.
- 15.2. Elections Team regarding Polling Stations.
- 15.3. Any item received after the publication of this Agenda.

15.1 A resident contacted the clerk but it was unclear as if the issue was D Day or Armistice day. CM spoke with them and said that the Parish Council lays a wreath for all who have died in all wars.

15.2 No feedback has ever been given however everyone seems happy with the venue.

15.3 None

16. Any other business (information only) and items for the next agenda.

A resident asked why the chair decided to distribute her private correspondence. CM responded that she was alerted to the mail by another party and understood that the way the Parish Council carried out its business had been implicated. CM asked if the correspondence was marked confidential, it was not, so it was forwarded to CM. The resident said that late on Friday night an email arrived demanding why the resident had made accusations and complaints against the council. CM asked who sent the email. The resident responded CM. CM stated that she asked the resident for a copy so that she may deal with complaints against the parish council. The resident claimed the email was militant and demanding. CM stated she was requesting a copy of the email and she was disappointed that the resident did not forward a copy given it was criticising the work of Norfolk County Council, which was working the Parish Council as the Parish Council had requested. CM stated that the (mitigation) work was not behind closed doors or clandestine. The document was for the discussion of the Parish Council only and it was not in the public domain. The Parish Council had made no decisions about any of the options offered.

The resident asked if CM felt it was appropriate to share her email and felt that they had the right under the Data Protection Act to sue the council. The resident felt that her correspondence should not have been distributed to a 3rd party. CM responded that the correspondence was not marked confidential and concerned actions of the Parish Council. CM disagreed with the resident and felt there was a legitimate interest.

Councillors were reminded that they needed to be mindful of what is for public consumption so that the council may have a discussion amongst themselves that is not open to the public. PC reminded all that everyone at the meeting was reminded that the documents were not for distribution however the documents were not marked confidential, and the documents were passed on by a councillor who was not at the meeting in person to hear that request to keep the documents confidential.

In the future any item that is not for the public would be clearly marked.

The meeting closed at 21:50

17. To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting: Monday February 12th, 2024, in the Hall for All.

Signed:

Date:

15.2 Payment List

November Meeting

For Authorisation

Dawn Clarke	Expenses / WFH Allowance / Mileage	
Dawn Clarke	Clerk Salary - Oct	241.80
Dawn Clarke	Dawn Clarke - November	259.13
Dawn Clarke	Dawn Clarke - Back Pay	121.31
Peter Ross	Royal British Legion	24.99
Norse	Second Payment	692.40
Gary	Materials for Kennel Installation	Up to £50

To note the payment

All Saints PCC	Balance of Toilet Grant	3664.00
Dawn Clarke	Clerk Salary - September	241.80

Income

R Newton	Allotment Rent	30.00
Broadland DC	Precept	3664.00
Broadland DC	CiL - 2020/1489	1655.09