# Minutes of the Meeting of Upton with Fishley Parish Council held on

# Thursday, 2nd March 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

## Present:

Philip Armes (Chairman)

Debbie Durrant (Vice-Chairman)

Ginny Pitchers, Laura Davey, Lee Smith and William Leonard-Morgan

Also present: Pauline James (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

Broadland District Councillor Nigel Brennan sent a short report on district council matters; there is no increase in the BDC part of the council tax.

Norfolk County Councillor Fran Whymark sent his apologies and sent a short report; The County Deal consultation will continue until 20th March.  There are numerous events across the County where residents can get more information and share your views, including Acle Library on 9th March.

**Apologies:**

Nigel Brennan

## Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda and Requests for Dispensations:

None.

**Minutes:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February 2023 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Philip Armes as Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Matters Arising:**

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| 1. | The councillors sent their thanks to Ian Hilton, Nick Farrow, iHilgtonMartin Pitchers, [Paul Carrington](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1911923992425219/user/100000547326837/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZUtoCyDcs10gcGx_jPInf6T-640q3ZO_ly1GCHN2VoJHLHtxUMYa0wyfd0cDFsi-KvHKIWnQzxKM_xU1g2KLqHKyiw3PzRZVCl0GRIhILu-MYLusYdygUvrJGh3k_gDTm5JtGHg3rLVQlVYwDhFBZBuP9-NFuHn-kf7e0iIpVa90yqcissrrtdIjeXUJA8CkLE&__tn__=-%5dK-R), [Michael Walker](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1911923992425219/user/100007624297398/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZUtoCyDcs10gcGx_jPInf6T-640q3ZO_ly1GCHN2VoJHLHtxUMYa0wyfd0cDFsi-KvHKIWnQzxKM_xU1g2KLqHKyiw3PzRZVCl0GRIhILu-MYLusYdygUvrJGh3k_gDTm5JtGHg3rLVQlVYwDhFBZBuP9-NFuHn-kf7e0iIpVa90yqcissrrtdIjeXUJA8CkLE&__tn__=-%5dK-R) and [Simon Taylor](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1911923992425219/user/100037020971501/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZUtoCyDcs10gcGx_jPInf6T-640q3ZO_ly1GCHN2VoJHLHtxUMYa0wyfd0cDFsi-KvHKIWnQzxKM_xU1g2KLqHKyiw3PzRZVCl0GRIhILu-MYLusYdygUvrJGh3k_gDTm5JtGHg3rLVQlVYwDhFBZBuP9-NFuHn-kf7e0iIpVa90yqcissrrtdIjeXUJA8CkLE&__tn__=-%5dK-R) for giving up some of their time to cut back the trees and brambles on the bank on Church Road. |
| 2. | Philip Armes reported that the treeworks have been completed at the boat dyke car park. |

**Correspondence:**

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| 1. | There is currently a consultation on the proposed County Deal for Norfolk. Under a Deal, Norfolk would receive a £20 million investment fund, every year for 30 years. There would also be specific funding for integrated transport, brownfield development (£7 million), adult education, and infrastructure (£5.9 million for housing, regeneration and development, during this Spending Review period). The councillors agreed that they did not have any comments to make on this. |
| 2. | The employer’s pension contribution rates were noted: 23.5% for 23-24, 23.0% for 24-25 and 22.5% for 25-26. |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

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| **Receipts:** |  £ |
| Mooring fees | 9,379.31 |
| UKPN – wayleaves | 24.96 |
| Grazing rent | 100.83 |
| **March Payments:** |  |
| Pauline James – clerk’s fee and expenses | 275.88 |
|  Standing order | 300.00 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund – E’ers and E’ees | 185.70 |
| HMRC – PAYE | 119.00 |
| Acle PC – share of expenses | 88.46 |
| Ian Hilton – treeworks at staithe | 750.00 |
| URM Berryman – recycling collection | 8.64 |
| Simon Taylor (Felthorpe – tree guards) | 32.40 |
| Tudor Printing – replacement sign at car park | 222.00 |
| PLG – tree guards etc | 159.00 |
| Balance c/f as at 2nd March 2023 | 219,949.40 |

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| The reserve for the boat dyke is £106,931 and earmarked reserves are £108,373. The clerk had circulated a report of Actual v Budget for the twelve months to March, before adjustment for debtors and creditors.Lee Smith and Debbie Durrant had checked the February online payments to the relevant bank statement and the clerk’s bank reconciliation dated 6th February. The payments were approved. |

## Planning:

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| 1. | **Broads Cottage 9 Chapel Road** - Single storey side and rear extension 2023/0346. The councillors had no objections to the plans so long as the neighbours had no objections. |

## Cemetery and Churchyard:

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| 1. | The clerk reported that there is a sunken grave in the cemetery. It was noted that this could not be filled in until access to the cemetery is re-established. |

## Boat Dyke and car park:

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| 1. | It was agreed that the wooden edging boards to the car park need replacing. |

**Village hall, car park, play area and playing field:**

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| 1 | A report from the village hall committee was noted: * The next Coffee and Chat morning will be Friday March 10th at 10.30am. All welcome.
* Twenty board chicks are being painted for this year’s Easter trail around the village.
* Coronation event on Saturday, 6th May – An evening concert by Broadland Ukelele Band, plus a Royal-themed quiz during the refreshment break.
* Sunday 7th May – A children’s party during the afternoon with a professional entertainer, some party food and either a party bag or Coronation souvenir (options/prices currently being explored)
 |
| 2. | The councillors confirmed that the Parish Council would pay £400 towards the Coronation events. There was some discussion as to suitable gifts for the village children. |
| 3. | It was reported that there has been an increase in dog poo left on the playing field. |

**Old School Playing Field (Keith’s Meadow):**

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| 1. | Simon Taylor sent a report:- A volunteer/working group has been set up (A WhatsApp group)- A Facebook page created - named 'Keith's Meadow'- Turf stripped along playing field fence to facilitate hedge planting- Turf stripped in central area (next to site for bench) which will be planted with 2 x birch trees & perennials   (Thanks to Steve Thurtle at Ben Burgess Ltd for loan of turf stripper)- 300 x Mixed native hedging ( + canes and guards ) planted along playing field fence- Photos & updates sent to Polly Cobb at Broadland District Council following grant approval.- Future signage to be done by Jess and her art class.It was agreed to proceed with:- Remove old (partially broken) wire fencing & brambles along southern boundary.- Purchase wire netting & posts to protect new planting in central garden from rabbits (this has been agreed by Polly Cobb who awarded the tree & hedge grant)- The installation of an outside tap at the VH to facilitate watering. The councillors suggested that a porous pipe might be installed to help with the watering of the new plants. Philip will meet Simon Taylor to discuss this further., |
| 2. | Philip will arrange the purchase of two wooden pedestrian gates, costing £410, and George Taylor will be asked to install these. |

**Highways:**

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| 1. | Cargate Lane will be closed on 14th March for BT pole works. |
| 2. | Ginny Pitchers reported that NCC had cleared out the drains in The Green area, but that the ditches to the north need clearing out. It is not known who the landowner is. |

**Finance Policies:**

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| 1. | The clerk presented the Review of Internal Controls, Role of the Responsible Financial Officer (clerk), Review of Internal Control, Finance Regulations and Risk Assessment, all of which were unchanged from last year. These were adopted. |

 **Any Other Business:**

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| 1. | It was agreed to ask Simon Taylor if he would be interested in being the village’s tree warden. |
| 2. | The village trees with Tree Preservation Orders will be considered at the next meeting and any recommendations for new TPOs. |

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 6th April, at 7.30pm, in the village hall. All residents are very welcome to attend, to raise local issues.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.53pm

Signed:………………………………………. Dated:……………………………….. Chairman