# Minutes of the Meeting of Upton with Fishley Parish Council held on Thursday, 2nd November 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

## Present:

Philip Armes (Chairman)

Debbie Durrant (Vice-Chairman)

Nigel Brennan (also district councillor), Ian Cook, Laura Davey, William Leonard-Morgan

and Lee Smith

Also present: Pauline James (Parish Clerk)

There were six members of the public present. Matters raised included flooding in the village, issues with drains and Broadland District Council’s provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on trees in Marsh Road.

Norfolk County Councillor Fran Whymark sent his apologies and a report including setting the NCC budget for 24/25, funding for the Norwich Western Link, and the ongoing appeal against the A47 improvements.

**Apologies:**

None.

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

None.

**Minutes:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th October 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 clerk has written to the Internal Drainage Board about the vegetation growing in the soke dyke on the right-hand side of the dyke, and about the water level being too high on the left-hand side to take the water from the right-hand side in times of heavy rainfall. |
| 2. | Norfolk County Council apologised for the delay in putting up the new village “gateways”, two at Southend and one at Cargate Lane, and said that they had now been ordered. |
| 3. | Martin Pitchers strimmed the loke at Westfield and put some old carpet squares around the trunks of the trees to suppress weed growth. Ginny Pitchers reported that only three of the new trees had survived. She has a few young trees which could be planted in the Spring. This was agreed. |
| 4. | The vegetation over the front wall at the churchyard has been cut back by the hedgecutter, as well as the vegetation around the edges of playing field. This was noted. |
| 5. | A boatowner has fixed a new mooring post for his boat. It was agreed to reimburse him for the cost. |

**Correspondence:**

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| 1. | The clerk attended BDC’s Parish and Town Council Forum in October; a new officer has been appointed to deal with flytipping. |
| 2. | There was a complaint about highways posts knocked over by long lorries trying to turn at end of Marsh Road. The clerk has written to NCC and copied in Fran Whymark, county councillor. It was agreed to request that signage should be put up warning articulated lorries that there is no turning available once past the crossroads at Cargate Lane/Church Road. |
| 3. | It was agreed to ask Ginny Pitchers if she would be kind enough to decorate a tree for the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival at the Church, on behalf of the Parish Council. |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

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| **Receipts:** |  £ |
| Mooring fees | 55.00 |
| Allotment rent | 10.50 |
| HMRC – VAT refund | 656.34 |
| **November payments:** |  |
| Norwich Diocese DD – allotment rent | 1,401.00 |
| Wave DD – water at old playing field | 43.28 |
| Pauline James – clerk’s fee and expenses | 119.79 |
|  Standing order | 300.00 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund – E’ers and E’ees | 147.68 |
| HMRC – PAYE | 96.20 |
| URM – glass recycling collection | 25.92 |
| Westcotec – additional brackets for VAS | 29.04 |
| Campaign for the Protection of Rural England – subs | 36.00 |
| FAITH Animal Rescue – donation | 50.91 |
| Royal British Legion – donation | 250.00 |
| Garden Guardian – grasscutting for October | 1,201.50 |
| Balance c/f as at 2nd November 2023 | 227,138.22 |

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| The reserve for the boat dyke is £117,114 and earmarked reserves are £106,097. General, unallocated reserves are therefore £3,927.Ian Cook and William Leonard-Morgan had checked the October online payments to the relevant bank statement, and the clerk’s bank reconciliation dated 2nd November 2023. There were no questions on the Actual v Budget report to date. The payments were approved. |

## Planning:

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| 1. | There are no new applications. |

## Planning – Decisions by Broadland District Council:

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| 1. | **Upton Grange, Acle Road** - Demolish existing dwelling and replace with energy efficient dwelling and garage (2023/1378) – granted. |

## Cemetery and Churchyard:

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| 1. |  Philip Armes will speak to a contractor again about improving the entrance to the churchyard path. |
| 2. |  There will be a Christmas Tree festival shortly. Ginny Pitchers will be asked to decorate a tree on behalf of the Parish Council. |

## Boat Dyke and car park:

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| 1. | The grass beside the dyke has been flooded on several occasions recently. This was noted. |
| 2. | Nigel Brennan talked about the scheme by the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust to install a tourist hub/information boards at the dyke.  |

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

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| 1 | There had been an enquiry about siting a clothes recycling bank in the village. The councillors were not keen to have a recycling bank either at the hall or at the boat dyke car park. |
| 2. | The report from the Village Hall committee was circulated after the meeting. |

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

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| 1. | Simon Taylor sent a report: A grant application for more hedging has been submitted to BDC. A grant has been approved from TCV to cover scarifying & sowing on 13th November. This was noted. |
| 2. | A conifer-type tree had been offered to the Council for the meadow. It was agreed to plant this in the meadow, near to the village hall so that it could have solar powered lights added for Christmas events. |

**Highways and Pond:**

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| 1. | The clerk was asked to contact NCC and Anglian Water about recent flooding in the village, and sewage bubbling up from drains in Marsh Road. The clerk will also write to the owners of the land which includes the drain in Prince of Wales Road, suggesting that the vegetation be cut back in the ditch so as to increase capacity and to speed up the passage of water to the fen. |
| 2. | It was reported that the verge opposite Doric on The Green is being badly eroded by vehicles. |

**Tree Preservation Orders:**

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| 1. | The owners of the tree on land east of Marsh Road and the owner of the trees on land west of Marsh Road attended the meeting to object to the provisional TPO placed on their trees by Broadland District Council. The tree to the east had been put forward to BDC by the Parish Council at the April meeting, for consideration for a TPO. The BDC officer had visited the site and felt that the trees on both sides of the road formed part of the “tree-scape” so had put a provisional order on the group of trees. Following the objections, the officer had invited comments from the councillors as to whether they felt that the making of the order was still justified. The councillors agreed that, because the owners of all the trees had confirmed that they were committed to protecting the trees and had no intention of cutting them down, that the clerk should write to BDC to recommend that the TPO be cancelled.(Nigel Brennan declared an interest as district councillor and took no part in the discussion or voting.) |

**Any Other Business:**

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| 1. | Ginny Pitchers will be asked to lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the forthcoming Remembrance Day service. |
| 2. | The clerk was asked to add the possible provision of allotments on Keith’s Meadow to the agenda for the next meeting. |

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 7th December 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 9.15pm.

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

Chairman