

**Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton,  
held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm at Freethorpe Village Hall**

**Present:** Nick Spencer (NS, Chairman), David Lake (DL, Vice-chairman)  
Paul Bacon (PB), Michael Blake (MB), Janet Church (JC),  
Andrew Moll (AM, Parish Clerk)

**Also present:** John Fleetwood (JF, Tree Warden), Lana Hemsall (LH, County Councillor,  
Items 2a and 10f) and no members of the public

**1. Apologies**

Grant Nurden (GN, also District Councillor), Andrea Rowlands (AR, Tree Warden)

**2. Public Forum**

**a) County Councillor Report**

(taken before item 10f) LH advised that the County Deal will bring much-needed funding into Norfolk. In answer to DL's question, she advised that this will not help with the challenges of this year's budget. LH noted excellent service from Highways in Freethorpe. DL advised that grass clearance and pothole filling had taken place recently.

**b) District Councillor Report**

By telephone GN sent a reminder to download the Bin App. JC advised the meeting that Broadland grant funding had been received by three local groups for young people.

**c) Tree Wardens' Report**

JF advised that the Jubilee post at the Manor has been fixed. He reported a busy tree planting season across Broadland, with over £5,000 worth of trees planted. The planting season will end earlier than usual as trees are budding early. The Broadland Tree Warden Network AGM meets at Freethorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**d) Public Items**

None.

**3. Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda**

There were no declarations.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record and were duly signed by NS.

**5. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

- a) (5a) Broken bench at Wickhampton – DL has assessed and will kindly carry out the work.
- b) (5b) Play Area Surfacing – inspector's advice (AM) – has been received and noted.
- c) (5c) Review Electronic Vehicle Charging point quotation. (AM/JC) - item 10f refers.
- d) (8a) Rampant Horse ACV nomination support (AM) – has been approved by Broadland.
- e) Other matters arising – none.

**6. Clerk's Report**

- a) Civility and Respect project – Parish Council reviewed the Civility and Respect documentation and it was unanimously **agreed** to take the pledge. **ACTION AM**
- b) CiLCA training – is on target with 3/5 units completed and 2/5 submitted.

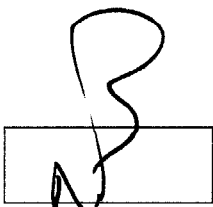
**7. Finance**

**a) Monthly Financial Update**

AM advised the **forecast** financial position for 2022/23 as follows:

Income	£23,309.47
Operational Expenditure	-£17,191.32
Earmarked Reserves Expenditure	-£9,411.81
VAT expenditure to be reclaimed	-£1,000.00

Chair's initials



Contingency Reserves

-£10,037.49

Current Bank balance, including deposit account

£15,241.15

b) **Payments - it was agreed** to make the following payments:

Ref	Payee	Description	Amount (£)
1	Andrew Moll	Calculated as agreed on 21/11/22, two months' salary for November and December 2022 + Pay Award Arrears	483.16
2	Andrew Moll	Administration Expenses - postage	3.94
3	HMRC	PAYE	120.60
4	Norfolk County Council	NPLAW Annual subscription for legal support agreed 17/10/22 Inv 10014918 Date 19-Oct-22 VAT 100.00 <i>Replacement for cheque 900684 which NCC advise has been lost in the post and therefore has been stopped with the bank on 09/01/2023 See appendix B</i>	600.00
5	Countrystyle Recycling Ltd.	Bottle & can bank empty 05/12/2022 INV 350397 Date 31-12-22 VAT 5.00	30.00
SO	Calica Computer Solutions	Speed management machine - mandates 3 & 4	24.00

c) Quarterly Finance Checks – MB advised the checks had been completed, with no issues.

d) Budget and Precept 2023/24 – Parish Council received and discussed a report. Increased costs for insurance, services, pay and elections were acknowledged, along with a large outlay from reserves in 2022 to make safe the Freethorpe Playing Field trees. Investment in the play areas over the last two years means the maintenance budget is reduced, offsetting some cost pressures. Parish Council debated four options for the precept, and decided that a 6.16% rise in the precept is necessary to balance the budget, increasing by £1.48 the annual band D council tax bill, which rises to £50.98. The precept will be £16,874. The budget was unanimously **agreed**. The precept was unanimously **agreed**. In response to a query from GN, AM advised that S106 money must be claimed by 2025-26.

e) Recycling Credits – AM reported the tonnages claimed for the year. Although the volumes are similar to last year, the trend is significant reduction in recycling at the banks. JC proposed more publicity. DL observed that a better price might be obtained for textiles.

**8. Correspondence**

a) to f) Parish Council noted for information: the Transport East Survey return; Town and Parish Council Forum; Howards Cottage address change; Suicide support services; Support for the lonely example; and grants available.

g) Parish Council unanimously **agreed** that no Street Lighting is required at 75 The Green. Norfolk County Council to be advised.

**ACTION AM**

h) There are no known rough sleepers in the parish in advance of 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. return.

**ACTION AM**

i) Concern about School Road – prompt action by Highways was noted.

j) Concern about Rampant Horse sign – the sign had fallen down with nobody hurt. The responsibility rests with the owner. Contacts have been established with Highways and Broadland for future situations of this kind. Update Risk Register.

**ACTION AM**

k) to l) Parish Council noted for information: the NALC Update, including Parish Council churches survey, walking network funding, NWT meeting 18th Feb; and the CHANCES project

**9. Planning**

a) New Applications – none. The extension of the deadline for 20220838 (Palmer's Lane) was discussed.

b) Decisions - noted: approval of 20221695 50 The Green.

c) Enforcements – one open case was noted.

Chair's initials



## 10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

### a) Speed Management

At three speed machine sites volumes and speeds were down. 85th percentile speeds were: School Road 27.6mph (down from 28.4), Chapelfield 32.4mph (down from 33.2), The Green near the shop 28.7mph (down from 29.0). Thank you to those who are slowing down and driving carefully through our village. Figures from the Common, coming from Southwood, were less encouraging, with volumes slightly up and 85th percentile speed increasing from 31.9mph to 33.0. Of 18,095 vehicles over one in four broke the speed limit. A remarkable total of 134 drivers in 4 weeks were clocked at over 40mph in a 30mph limit. This month's analysis will be shared with the Police for information. It was noted that the Police are now carrying out frequent speed checks and issuing fines in Freethorpe. PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY. This month's analysis to be shared with the Police. **ACTION AM**

### b) Play Area Inspections

Inspections continue as required. There were no new concerns to discuss.

### c) Freethorpe Village Sign

Awaiting work to clean and re-paint.

### d) Allotments

AM advised that a suitable site could not be found with the landowner. Further support to be sought to establish other options now that the current line of enquiry is exhausted.

### e) Parish Nature Plan

No further progress with drafting.

### f) Electronic Vehicle Charging Point

Parish Council discussed a decision paper on the proposal from Norfolk County Council. In response to questions, LH advised that Lingwood are going ahead, but not Beighton; a decision would be preferred by end of March but could roll forward. NS suggested that a fast charger rather than slow would be better at Freethorpe if feasible. JC thought one charger would be enough rather than two. In considering surveying residents about the likely usage, MB pointed out that the main users would probably be visitors to the Hall or workers at the school. LH took a copy of the Parish Council's report to follow up with the Project Team.

### g) Wickhampton Pond

Awaiting clearance of re-issued cheque for npLaw's work to start.

## 11. Other Matters

a) None.

## 12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda


a) PB advised that water is collecting on the Common at the entry from Southwood. He thinks that the drain is only filling on one side of the field entrance. Log with Highways. **ACTION AM**

## 13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:00pm at Freethorpe Village Hall.

## 14. Exclusion of the Press and Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to consider the following item of business: None.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Signed after approval by the Parish Council as being a true and accurate record by the Chair of the meeting or authorised deputy	<div>Chair</div>  <div>Nick Spencer</div>	<div>Date</div> <div>20 Feb 2023</div>
		<div>Chair's initials</div> 