

SAHAM TONEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 4th MARCH 2024

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 4th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m. at the Wells-Cole Community Centre, Saham Toney.

Present – Mr. J. Baldwin in the Chair supported by Messrs N. Creek, D. Freeman, R. Harrold, L. Rees-Murphy, S. Rees-Murphy, Ms. K Avery and Ms. M. Baldwin. Mr. P. Bate and Ms. H. Crane (District Councillors) were also present.

Six parishioners were present.

The Chairman said the item “Storage for the Council at the Community Centre” would be added to Item 11 on the Agenda.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received and accepted from Councillors G. Morton and A. Wilson.
- 2. To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members on Items on the Agenda:** There were no declarations of interest in the Agenda items.
- 3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th February 2024:** A parishioner had queried the accuracy of the draft February Minutes. The Clerk suggested that the words “White Hall” be removed and the following sentence deleted. With this amendment, the minutes were proposed by Mr. L. Rees-Murphy, seconded by Mr. S. Rees-Murphy and agreed.
- 4. To report matters arising from the minutes:**
 - Repairs to the Council’s shed at the Community Centre – this is still ongoing.
 - Drainage problem at the entrance to the Wells-Cole Community Centre – Clerk has sent an email to Trell who have visited and suggested an alternative. Clerk to arrange for the Chair and Mr. N. Creek to meet with Trell to discuss options.
 - Missing road sign on Richmond Road – reported for a third time. Mr. N. Creek will supply a grid reference for the Clerk to send to Breckland. Clerk has reported again and sent details plus a photo of the location. Breckland have apologised for the delay and say they will replace as soon as possible.
 - Work to trees and ditch at the back of the Community Centre will be carried out later in the year when the ground is dry. Quote awaited.
 - Ditch in front of Cley Lane properties. Highways replied that this is not their responsibility and to contact Cadent. Cadent said they would not do the work but would supervise work being done.
 - Emergency Plan is complete and Householder Leaflets have been delivered to all parishioners.
 - Biodiversity Policy - On agenda.
 - Problem with water meter reading at the Community Centre - Mr. L. Rees-Murphy said this problem is ongoing and is on hold so no further action will be taken at present. The Chair said he is taking weekly meter readings and the Community Centre is using 4-5 units a week.
 - Flood Meeting – Tuesday 19th March – on Agenda.

5. Reports from District/County Councillors: Ms. H. Crane reported as follows: -

There will be new increased fixed penalties for environmental crime which includes fly-tipping and littering. The person of interest page has been live on the Breckland website for just over 2 months, located under 'My Environment' section. This page was created to encourage members of the public to assist us in identifying key individuals associated with environmental crime. So far 3 such individuals have been successfully identified and given a combined total of £1200 in fixed penalty notices. Alongside this is the new deployable mobile camera policy which was approved at cabinet on 12th February. 10 cameras will be used in hotspots and where required to gain information needed regarding fly-tipping, littering and other anti-social behaviour.

Inspiring Communities part 2 has been launched. Over £1 million will be used over 3 years to support our most vulnerable residents. To date support has been given to over 1,000 survivors of domestic abuse, helped 2,000 people access low-cost food, trained 300 mental health champions. Over the next 3 years this money will also help enhance the social prescribing service which has been very successful, working with GP surgeries and financed debt advisors through CAB. The budget has been approved by cabinet and council. There will be an increase of £4.95 in council tax for a band D property.

The final quarter of the household support fund is finishing at the end of March. The fund is there to support residents unable to afford essential costs or items. If there is a parishioner in need, please ask them to get in touch so that I can make a referral.

Mr. P. Bate reported as follows: -

As part of the council meeting on 22nd February, the budget was voted on. The opposition suggested an amendment which could continue the household support fund for struggling families. The funding for this is being withdrawn by the government. The ruling party argued that they were already doing this and that using our own funds would inhibit government help and they voted against it. The opposition also suggested an amendment that would create a food waste reduction campaign. The ruling party felt that the government might fund it and voted against it. The vote on the budget was supported by the Independent and Green group and opposed by Labour.

6. Time allocated for members of the public to speak (maximum 20 minutes):

7. Correspondence:

- Email from Cadent – already reported under Matters Arising
- Email from Breckland re Local Validation List – Ms. H, Crane said this was to help people, developers and agents submit the correct documents for a planning application. There is no need for the Council to comment.
- Email from a parishioner about the trees at the back of the Community Centre. The Chair had inspected these and there are two fallen trees on the Community Centre land which will be dealt with in the Spring. The other trees will be inspected when the walk round takes place to determine any necessary tree work.
- NALC Newsletter – Details of D-Day Flag of Peace to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landing on the 6th June this year. Subject to the WCCC agreeing, two flags to be purchased (one for the WCCC Flag pole) and one for Mr. Creek to purchase. (After meeting note – the WCCC is in agreement with this.)

- Email from George Freeman with a Progress Report Update on the Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership
□ Email from George Freeman re his campaign for the Chancellor and Prime Minister to recognise that rural areas have been disproportionately hard hit by the cost-of-living crisis. It was agreed that the Council should reply “Yes” to agree to add our name to the list of supporters.

8. To Approve Accounts for Payment: The following accounts are due for payment: -

- Des Hartnell- £77.98 – installation of switched fused protected circuit for defibrillator at the Community Centre
- NALC - £36.00 – Biodiversity Course Fee
- Wayland First Response - £250 – donation
- Wayland Partnership - £400 – donation
- Citizens Advice Bureau - £100 – donation
- Wells-Cole Community Centre - £140 – hire of hall for meetings
- Pride Press Ltd - £230 – printing householder leaflet re emergencies
- Mr. P. Baldwin – £240 - hedging at the central reservation of the Car Park and clearing ditch at the Community Centre
- Mrs. J.S. Glenn - £708.64 – made up of Salary £544.93
Use of home as office 78.00
Broadband 60.00
- Postage etc 10.75
Ink cartridge 14.96
- HMRC - £151.20 - tax

The payment of these accounts was proposed by Mr. D. Freeman, seconded by Ms. K. Avery and unanimously agreed.

9. To Consider Planning Matters: - There were no planning matters.

10. To Prepare for the Flood Meeting on the 19th March 2024: - Ms. K. Avery will put photos of the flooding on a memory stick and pass this to other councillors to do the same. The Clerk said a parishioner is also going to have photos of the allotment and Cley Lane flooding available. These can be available for parishioners to view prior to the start of the meeting. The Clerk will prepare an Agenda allowing for Steve Halls and Liz Witcher to give a presentation followed by questions from the public.

11. To Arrange a Date for a Joint Meeting with the Wells-Cole Community Centre Management Committee prior to the Annual Parish Meeting to discuss: -

- Accounts for 2022 and 2023 – Mr. L. Rees-Murphy said he has been able to provide figures for the “Yes” amounts in the 2022 Accounts and the 2023 Accounts are currently with the new Accountant.
- A User Group Meeting to elect 5 representatives – the Clerk said this is a requirement of the Constitution. The Chair will speak to the Bowls Club and Brownies and try to get a representative. The Art, Arts and Crafts, WI, Slimming World and Bridge need to be approached to appoint a representative.

- Storage for Parish Council documents at the Community Centre – the Chair proposed that part of the old shower room is divided off by a stud wall and secured by a locked door. Any items presently in the shower room will need to be moved to the Fete shed and then a skip hired. This will need to be approved by the Management Committee.

It was agreed to arrange a joint meeting for the 2nd April at 7.00 p.m.

12. to Appoint a Bio-Diversity Sub-Committee: - It was agreed that councillors K. Avery, A. Wilson and D. Freeman prepare a Biodiversity policy for the Council.

13. To Agree Quotes for Work to the Bird Sanctuary New Entrance: - This will be approximately £1000 and will be paid for by the Wells-Cole Trust Fund. The Chair said there will be a small additional cost for wire, posts and hedging work which should be started this week. All in agreement.

14. To receive Reports from: -

15.1 Wayland Partnership – nothing to report as there has not been a meeting since the last report.

15.2 Wells-Cole Community Centre – Glamdads event 11th May and tickets are on sale at bar or online. Friday food options still continue where it seems to be going well. There has been an inspection from Breckland Council and the hall got a 5 rating for our kitchen and food prep, this making Friday nights at the bar much busier and generating more money for the hall.

Dance group will be finishing on Wednesdays but the dancers are going to continue with the slot and practice themselves and on a Friday every other week.

The kitchen has been fitted with new LED lights to meet standards and will be more energy efficient.

Raechal has got the plumber coming on Tuesday to fit a new water heater in the kitchen as the current one is dumping the water straight out and refilling where it is furred up with limescale over the years.

Mr. L. Rees-Murphy said that he and Mr. S. Rees-Murphy will not be standing for re-election to the Management Committee at the AGM.

Mr. R. Harrold said the new food rating has attracted many more people to the bar on a Friday night.

15.3 Playing Field - Committee met on 12th Feb, Simon has finally had reply from Barclay and he will be getting back to them with the required information. £12.50 in account.

Floodlight has been temporarily fixed.

Hygiene licence on hold until kitchen ready.

From the AGM, Clerk was due check risk assessment if sheds fit for use? - any update? The Clerk said that the condition of the sheds must be monitored.

Code for Defibrillator, shared with Simon? Mr. N. Creek was due to confirm if allowed. Mr. N. Creek will check this.

15.4 Wells-Cole Trust Fund –. The balance on the account is £38,608.68. The grant of £2000 has been paid to the Allotments and £2500 income has been received since the last meeting.

15.5 Play Park Inspector – March Report has highlighted a few problems which have or will be dealt with.

15.6 Bird sanctuary – The site of the new entrance has been agreed, thanks to the Chair of Saham Allotments and the Fuel Trust for your help in this matter. We have received a quote for a gate and hard standing which will allow equipment to safely access the sanctuary, if agreed by the Council

this will hopefully be completed shortly. We will be arranging work parties to help with the removal of Himalayan Balsam, fondly known as “Balsam bashing” this invasive species flowers from June, so April & May are the best times for attempting this, so if you’re fit and would like to help please let us know. We have been unable to do any further work as rain has pretty much stopped play!

Mr. N. Creek reminded all that it is illegal to remove balsam from the site and it must be dried and then burnt on site.

15.7 Any Other Reports – There were no other reports.

15. Items for the next agenda (not for discussion): The following items will be on the April Agenda: -

- Follow-up discussion from the Flood Meeting
- To arrange an Internal Audit Meeting
- To arrange a Walk round at the Playing Field and Community Centre land □ To discuss the sheds at the Playing Field

16. To confirm the date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting –Monday the 8th April 2024 at the Wells-Cole Community Centre, Bell Lane.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Parish Matters

The Chair said that Mr. & Mrs. Calton had volunteered to take over the placement of the speed signs. The Clerk said that a grant for a new sign had been approved (EDP Report) and the official offer is awaited. The new sign can then be purchased.

Mr. R. Harrold said that all the passing places in the parish need work. These have been reported previously and Highways have been unable to find them. Mr. N. Creek will advise “What Three Words” locations.

The Chair said UK Power Networks had contacted re work to the oak tree at the Community Centre. This will be topped and reshaped.

