Minutes of the Neatishead Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead

Present:
Cllr Robert Ferrier-Hanger - Chairperson
Cllr Michael Godfrey - Vice-Chairperson
Cllr Daniel Moulton
Cllr Jane Rutter
Parish Clerk Laura Bateman

Also present: Cllr Richard Price - Norfolk County Council, South Smallburgh Division
1 member of the public

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1. **Elections:**
   a) A motion to elect Cllr Ferrier-Hanger was proposed by Cllr Godfrey, seconded by Cllr Mullard and unanimously AGREED. Cllr Ferrier-Hanger accepted the position in office.
   b) A motion to elect Cllr Godfrey was proposed by Cllr Ferrier- Hanger, seconded by Cllr Mullard and unanimously AGREED. Cllr Godfrey accepted the position in office.

2. **Apologies:**
   Cllr Gerard Mancini-Boyle - District Councillor, Hoveton & Tunstead Ward
   PC Matt Pritty - Norfolk Constabulary

3. **Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation**
   Cllr Ferrier-Hanger declared an interest in The Poor's Trust as a trustee of the charity.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
   The minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2025 were AGREED as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Rutter, seconded by Cllr Godfrey, all in favour.

5. **Public Speaking**
   a) **County Councillor:**

   Cllr Price informed the meeting of the engagement events for parish councils being held by Norfolk County Council (NCC) regarding Local Government Reform (LGR). The parish clerk confirmed she would be attending an online session. Cllr Price explained that NCC is still developing its proposal for what it considers the most cost-effective model to meet the needs of Norfolk's residents. The final proposal is due to be submitted to the Government by 26th September 2025.

   Cllr Price informed the meeting that income data from boat users, collected at water monitoring stations, was published online on the Broad's Authority website.

b) **District Councillor:**
The parish clerk read a report submitted by Cllr Mancini-Boyle, who reported he had attended some V.E. Day celebrations which had been very popular and successful.

c) **Police:**
There was no report submitted to the meeting from Norfolk Constabulary.

d) **Public:**
There was no participation from the public.

6. Planning

a) **New Applications:**

There were no new planning applications received.

b) **Planning Decisions :**

There were no new planning applications received.

7. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

a) There had been no contact made from the person who was emptying the dog waste bins, despite notices being placed on the bins to make contact with the parish clerk. As the bins were still being emptied regularly, it was agreed that no further action was necessary at this stage. The Council expressed its gratitude to the volunteer carrying out this task.

b) It was agreed that the discussion on the continuation of the permissive footpath would be deferred to the June agenda to allow for further enquiries to be made.
Cllr Ferrier-Hanger

c) It was AGREED that the parish clerk would order the 8000 x 6000mm visibility mirror from Manutan to replace the existing one located opposite the entrance to the New Victory Hall, reusing the current post. The proposed location for the concealed entrance sign was identified using What3Words (///cooked.expel.glorified). Permission will be sought from NCC for this location before a final decision is made regarding the specific sign to be installed. **ACTION: Parish Clerk**

8. Maintenance and Risk Assessments
a) Cllr Mullard had arranged for a plumber to attend the Staithe on Tuesday 20th May to inspect the leaking tap. It was AGREED that the replacement of the picnic bench at the playground was a higher priority than purchasing a new one at the Staithe.

b) It was AGREED that the Council would purchase the brown picnic table from NBB Recycled Furniture at a cost of £820 to replace the existing picnic table. Proposed Cllr Ferrier-Hanger, seconded Cllr Rutter, all in favour **ACTION Parish Clerk**

The quote for the repair to the entrance of the playground was considered but there were concerns as to the expense, Cllr Ferrier-Hanger and Cllr Godfrey offered to fix the issue. **ACTION Cllr Ferrier-Hanger and Cllr Godfrey**

c) There were no issues reported for the recreation ground car park.

d) There were no issues reported for the recreation ground.

e) The options for the Council to supply water to the allotments was discussed but any effective solutions were deemed too costly given the limited number of plots and the minimal income they generate for the Council.

f) There were no issues reported for the school green triangle.

g) There were no issues reported for the Parish Council car park at the village hall.

h) It was agreed that Cllr Moulton would complete a monthly visual check on the defibrillators and report the check to the parish clerk for recording. The parish clerk would identify a suitable service engineer to use should the devices be used and require a service, or once they are five years old.

9. Other Matters

a) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was AGREED. Proposed Cllr Godfrey, seconded Cllr Mullard, all in favour.
b) Section 2 – Accounting Statement of the AGAR was AGREED. Proposed Cllr Godfrey, seconded Cllr Mullard, all in favour.
c) The Period of Electors Rights was agreed as 1st July 2025 – 11th August 2025.
d) The Council's Standing Orders were reviewed and AGREED with no changes. Proposed Cllr Godfrey, seconded Cllr Mullard, all in favour.
e) The Council's Financial Regulations were reviewed and AGREED with no changes. Proposed Cllr Ferrier-Hanger, seconded Cllr Rutter, all in favour.
f) The Council's Reserve Statement was AGREED. Proposed Cllr Rutter, seconded Cllr Moulton, all in favour.
g) The Council's Asset Register was reviewed and it was clarified that the replacement cost was calculated on a yearly basis over the lifespan of the item.
h) It was AGREED that Zurich would be the preferred supplier for the Council's insurance policy. Proposed Cllr Ferrier-Hanger, seconded Cllr Mullard, all in favour.
i) It was agreed the request for an advertising board at the Staithe would be allowed. The sign must be no bigger than A4 size. The Council were unable to display an advert on the notice board due to lack of room. The Council noted, should any further request for advertising be made then an advertising policy would be required to govern the matter.
j) The SAM 2 camera was currently with Barton Turf Parish and would be returned on 1st June 2025.

10. Correspondence

a) The request for feedback regarding LGR from NCC was noted
b) The invitation from NCC to the LGR engagement events was noted and the parish clerk confirmed she was attending the online session.
c) The consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy was noted and would be recirculated to members for consideration.

11. Financial Matters

a) The bank balances were noted.
b) The payments due were approved to be paid. Proposed Cllr Rutter, seconded Cllr Ferrier-Hanger, all in favour.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Mullard raised a concern that there was silting occurring at the weir near the bridge. Issue can be monitored and reported to the relevant authority if needed.

The bins at the Staithe were reported as frequently misused and filling quickly. The Council agreed to continue monitoring the situation, with no immediate action required.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

CHAIRPERSON

Signed…………………………………………………… **Dated……………………………………………**