

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7.30pm at New Victory Hall, Neatishead

Present: Cllr Michael Godfrey (Chair)
Cllr Robert Hanger (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Alex Craker
Cllr Daniel Moulton
Cllr Ben Mullard
Laura Bateman Parish Clerk

Also present: PC Matt Pritty – Norfolk Police
Cllr Gerard Mancini-Boyle -Hoveton & Tunstead Ward, North Norfolk
District Council
Claire Penstone-Smith - Chair of the Neatishead, Irstead and Burton Turf
Community Heritage Group
Doreen Dean – Chair, New Victory Hall Management Committee
1 member of the public was in attendance

1. Welcome

Cllr Godfrey opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed the attendees

2. Apologies

Cllr Jane Rutter
Cllr Richard Price - South Smallburgh Division, Norfolk County Council

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting held on 20th April 2023 were approved as being accurate. Proposed Cllr Godfrey, seconded Cllr Hanger, all in favour

4. Speakers/Reports in Absence

- a. Cllr Godfrey thanked all the councillors and the clerk for their hard work. Thanks were made to the maintenance contractor, ABC Landscaping, for their excellent standard of work.

There had been collaborative work with a local landowner to keep open a permissive footpath for the safety of pedestrians, for which the council were grateful. He explained the recreation ground continued to be a great amenity for the village and regular risk assessments were made to keep it safe.

The SAM 2 camera continued to monitor traffic volumes and speed. Cllr Rutter produced useful data which was discussed at meetings.

Thanks were made to The New Victory Hall Management Committee who run a fantastic facility with exceptionally high standards. The committee were also integral in the success of raising money for the new defibrillator for the village by organising a hugely successful fundraiser, The Big Breakfast.

Cllr Godfrey also thanked the businesses on the industrial estate, Dunham's Washroom Systems and Flexitog, for their support in securing a suitable location for the new defibrillator.

- b. Cllr Hanger reported on activities at the Staithe. A huge amount of work had been completed by The Broad's Authority, replacing large amounts of quay heading. Follow up work had been required to re-instate the areas damaged by the work including resurfacing paths and reseeding grass areas. A new boundary fence had also been erected.

Funding had been secured which paid for the installation of a new climbing wall and the council are planning to discuss the purchase of a new piece of furniture to add to the area.

Cllr Craker noted a new sign was going to be displayed at the Staithe, giving boat users the option to pay for water usage via BACS as well as cash donations.

- c. Cllr Mullard reported the green opposite the school was well kept and ABC Landscaping do a good job of maintaining the area.
- d. The clerk read a report submitted by Cllr Rutter. SAM2 stands for Speed Awareness Monitor. It is shared between Neatishead, Barton Turf and Irstead. It is located on School Lane and School Road for 10 weeks, then Irstead Road for 10 weeks. It captures the number of vehicles passing and their speeds and times of travel. Generally, around 85 – 90% of vehicles are at or below the 30mph speed limit. Of the 10 - 15% who exceed the speed limit, the majority are below 35 mph, with an occasional report of a speed in excess of 40 mph. The data and traffic patterns continue to be monitored. In addition to the re-painting of the road markings at the junctions of School Lane/Street Hill and Street Hill/The Street, speed limits have been painted on the road in School Lane and School Road.

The parish council continues to provide 5 allotments for the use of parishioners, located at one end of the playing field. One plot has recently been re-assigned and is now being attacked with enthusiasm. The other four plots continue to be cultivated by long-standing horticulturists, producing a variety of fruit and vegetables.

- e. The clerk read out the main points from a report submitted by Cllr Price. A full version of the report will be available to view on the parish council's website.
- f. Cllr Mancini-Boyle reported that North Norfolk District Council were seeking feedback on their management of the work completed in North Walsham. Feedback could be made on their website.

Cllr Mancini-Boyle noted that £1m has been agreed to spend on Rocket House in Cromer. The decision was a contentious one, with the council's budget being very limited and it was debatable whether this was a good use of public money.

There were some ongoing planning issues with the new estates at Hoveton, including the development contractors not planting trees as required within the planning agreement. Hoveton was also experiencing flooding issues which would be made worse by the development of more houses.

- g. PC Matt Pritty reported since 1st April 2023, there had been 36 calls made from Neatishead to the police. 23 of these were non-attendance and 4 were blue light runs.

Generally, the issues were domestic related and some mental health reports. There had been a death on a boat and minor issues at the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum. There had been some issues with door-to-door salesman, speeding and inconsiderate parking. He regularly visited the school and patrolled the area as well as made visits to the industrial site to discuss the driving manner of some HGV's. There had been an incident of criminal damage at the campsite for which DNA had been captured, however there was no match currently in the police system to be able to identify the perpetrator at this time. Generally, Neatishead was an area of very low crime and PC Pritty said it was a pleasure to be the beat officer for the village.

- h. Claire Penstone-Smith read out a report detailing the activities of the Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group. The report will be available on the parish council's website. The council thanked the group for their excellent work.
- i. Doreen Dean provided a report on the New Victory Hall. The hall was receiving a record number of bookings and was in a good financial position with £50k in the reserves. The building was unique to maintain and whilst it still maintained a very modern feel, it was now 15 years old with some maintenance issues starting to transpire. This could impact reserves should any major work be needed.

There were 24 regular groups, along with birthday parties and other ad hoc group bookings. The management committee had organised a very successful Big Breakfast event which raised £1600 to be divided between Neatishead Parish Council and Barton and Irstead Parish Council to buy new defibrillators.

There were future plans to improve the energy efficiency of the building particularly with raising energy bills. The hall needed to raised £5k in income to balance the income and expenditure. There were also discussions taking place about the possibility of EV charging points being installed.

She thanked the management committee for their fantastic work and noted the full copy of the management committees report was available on the website. There was concern over future trustees and she encouraged local residents to consider taking up this important role for the future of the village hall. The council noted the exceptional standard of cleanliness and passed on thanks for the management of such an outstanding facility.

j. Any other business

None

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 17th April 2025 at 7.30pm New Victory Hall, Neatishead

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed.....

CHAIRMAN