**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HORSTEAD WITH STANNINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD IN THE TITHE BARN, RECTORY ROAD, ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024 AT 6.30PM.**

**Present:** Cllrs, Mrs C Fleming (Chair), Mr A Browne (Vice Chair), Ms L Austin, Mr D Hales, Mr A Kirby, Mr J Langberg, Ms R McMaster, Mr M Stevenson, Mr I Tebble, Ms P Weightman and District Cllr Copplestone.

**In Attendance**: Becky Furr (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

**Public Participation**

Cllr Copplestone provided a report. Please refer to the end of these minutes for more information.

A help hub van will be at Coltishall Village Hall every Tuesday from 10am to 4pm till the 30th April. Anyone can visit for support and advice on a range of matters including health and wellbeing, benefits, money worries and relationship/carer issues.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies from Cllr Boakes and County Cllr Whymark were received and ACCEPTED.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 14th February 2023**

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 14th February 2024 were AGREED. To be signed at April’s meeting due to printing difficulties.

1. **Matters Arising**

The clerk reported NCC Highways have approved the application to place a planter on Frettenham Road.

1. **Planning**
	* 1. 2024/0400 – Proposed external staircase and door to existing garage at 3 Birch Close. It was NOTED that neighbours have historically complained about being overlooked. It was AGREED to highlight this to the planning department as a considering factor.
		2. 2024/0291 – Change of use from agricultural to residential use with new gates and walls to Hall Lane Access, outbuilding and ground mounted solar array panels. OBJECTION on the grounds that this is outside the settlement limit, part of the application is retrospective and it is out of character for the rural area.
		3. 2024/0646 – Single storey kitchen and porch to rear at Horstead Hall. NO COMMENT.
2. **Finance**

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| * + 1. Payments Received and NOTED
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| Broadland District Council | Clean and Bloom Grant | £300.00 |
| Derbyshire Environmental Trust | Tarmac Community Fund Grant for New Slide | £11,757.00 |
| * + 1. Payments APPROVED
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| C.Jones | SAM2 Management – Feb | £12.00 |
| J.Rice | Litter Picking | £27.50 |
| B.Furr | Clerk’s Expenses | £45.00 |
| PTRS Trees (received after agenda was published) | Remove fallen ash | £180.00 |
| PTRS Trees (received after agenda was published) | Tree work and stump grinding | £1440.00 |
| * + 1. Payments for information only – previously agreed direct debits and standing orders
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| Veolia | Horstead Mill Bin - January | £70.42 |
| B.Furr | February 2024 Salary  | £870.05 |
| HMRC | February 2024 Contribution | £269.37 |

1. **Highways & PROW matters**

Cllr Hales has reported the two pot holes on Mill Lane again. Cllr McMaster has reported the pot hole at the entrance to the lay by next to the Recruiting Sergeant. Cllr Austrin confirmed that the sign on the Buxton Road has been replaced.

1. **Tree and Pond matters**

An operative has investigated the blocked culvert. The clerk will contact Norfolk Rivers Drainage Board for an update. Cllr Stevenson reported that the surface water levels have reduced.

1. **Horstead Mill**
	* 1. Fundraising for the Mill – Cllr Stevenson reported that a purchase order had been arranged with the supplier but the communication has been poor despite numerous attempts to get an update. It was AGREED to cancel the purchase order. Cllr Stevenson has found an alternative supplier for the signs. It was AGREED that once the signs are up, Cllr Stevenson will liaise with regular organisations who use the Mill to ask for a donation towards maintenance costs. It was also AGREED to explore whether the coffee van business are still interested in trading at the Mill.
		2. Tree work on permissive footpath and at The Mill – Cllr Browne reported that the tree work had been carried out and the fallen ash tree removed. Cllr McMaster and Cllr Fleming agreed a satisfactory job had been carried out. There is one tree which will continue to need ongoing reduction work.
		3. Land registration of the permissive footpath – The clerk confirmed NPLAW have submitted the application to HM Land Registry,
		4. Footbridges between Horstead and Coltishall – The clerk confirmed that Coltishall Commons Management Trust have agreed to adopt the bridges and are obtaining quotes for the repair work required for the bridge closest to the Upper Common. The clerk has asked CCMT to share their quotes with a view to the parish council considering a donation.
		5. Hydro for the Mill – Cllr Langberg reported he had spoken to a company about the possibility. The viability is dependent on two principles which include the volume of water and the head height. Unfortunately based on the measurements, the energy generated would not be cost effective. It was AGREED to take no further action on this matter.
2. **Play Area**

Cllr Kirby continues to carry out the weekly inspections. It was noted that the grass seeding was unsuccessful and the ground has already been churned up. It was AGREED to carry out a patch test in April. If this is unsuccessful again, then alternative surfacing will be explored.

1. **Big Broadland Litter Pick 2024**

It was AGREED not to participate this year as the parish council regularly pay for litter picking at the Mill.

1. **Items for the next agenda**

Cllr Fleming will be stepping down as chair and proposed Cllr Stevenson. This will be considered at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May where a chair is elected by full council.

1. **Next meeting on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 6.30pm in the main hall of the Tithe Barn. The Annual Parish Meeting is being held at 8pm.**

**News from Broadland District Council**

The Council met at the end of February to discuss the Revenue Budget & Council Tax for 2024/25, the Capital Strategy for the next five years, and the Council Plan & Delivery Plans for the coming years.

Government issued a finance settlement on 18th December of a 3% funding guarantee, and we were informed by the new administration that a further 1% of Government funding had been added to match current inflation of 4%, for 2024/25. Despite this increase, the Rainbow Alliance cabinet asked for a maximum council tax increase of £5 for our households, which would produce circa 6% increase in district council spending power. The Conservative Group strongly opposed this increase and did not believe this to be an acceptable or an equitable burden to our taxpayers.

The previous Conservative administration had not increased Broadlands share of council tax over the last two years, taking prudent steps to collaborate with South Norfolk Council to achieve savings of £8.6 million, moving the two councils into the Horizon Building to save on running costs, which enabled us to deliver first class services to the ratepayer at the lowest possible cost.

As Shadow Portfolio Holder for Finance, I proposed an amendment to reduce the Rainbow Alliance’s proposed increase to council tax of the maximum of £5 to just £1.50 for a Band D property, which the Section 151 Finance Officer confirmed, ‘would deliver a robust and balanced budget, that ensured the level of council reserves remained adequate’. By tabling this amendment, the Conservative Group continued our ambition to give the best value to our hard-working residents, by keeping Council Tax as low as possible.

Despite our best efforts to provide effective opposition to the new administration we were outvoted, and the Rainbow Alliance increased Council Tax for households in Broadland by the maximum amount possible, which you will notice in your Council Tax Bill’s.

Kind regards, Cllr. Jo Copplestone Cllr.jo.copplestone@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk