

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on 16th January 2023 at 6.30pm

In the Meeting Room of Wenhaston Village Hall

Public Forum– 0 members of the public were in attendance.

To receive reports from County & District Councillors Suffolk County Cllr Annette Dunning attended our meeting and submitted her December Parish Report. She will be working with the newly appointed Community Liaison Engineer for Highways regarding issues raised on highways matters in our area.

Action: Clerk to post report on our website and noticeboard.

- 1 **Welcome, apologies and receipt of absences:** The Chairman Gerard Walker welcomed councillors Rosemary Parry, Barry Martin, Louise Sharman and the clerk Ann Donnachie. Cllrs Bucknell & Phillips joined us later.
Apologies were received from: Cllr A Cackett
- 2 **Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed:** None
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting held on 21/11/22** were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4 **Chairman and Clerk's report on progress of actions from last meeting(s):** All actions completed/designated to other Agenda items below, but following noted:
Item 5e (21.11.22) Online training for Councillors from SALC: Pending confirmation of start date from SALC. **Action: Clerk to forward details when received.**
Item 9 (21.11.22) Refurbishment of Sotherton Noticeboard: Ongoing and to be completed when weather permits. **Action: Cllr Sharman**
- 5 **Finance:**
 - 5a **Financial Report for Approval:** RFO presented the Financial Report from 13/11/22 to 12/01/23. Balance on Current Account £5,441.39 and the balance on Savings/Latitude Account £7,779.09. Combined total on accounts being £13,220.48 which was verified and approved by Council.
 - 5b **Approval of online payments:** £379.40 to Clerk (net salary , home office allowance, expenses and mileage); £51.40 to HMRC; £278.45 to Zurich for 2023/24 annual Parish Insurance. The payments were approved by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Phillips.
 - 5c **Presentation of 2023/24 Draft Budget & Precept:** The RFO represented the draft budget for consideration of the Council. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Martin and Cllr Parry. On the basis of the draft budget, it was proposed and accepted unanimously by the Parish Council to set the precept for 2023/24 at £3,250 resulting in a charge of £45.20 for a Band D property and this charge will show as a 7.54% change on the 2023/24 Council Tax bills against the Parish element. The precept has remained unchanged for the last 3 years and this increase will enable the Council to look beyond the coming financial year and to make provision for projects and expenses further ahead. **Action: Clerk to formally request the precept.**
 - 5d **Parish Council Insurance Quotes for Approval:** The Clerk presented 3 quotes for consideration. It was unanimously agreed to accept the lowest quote from Zurich Insurance on a 3-year set payment of £278.45 per annum. **Action: Clerk to purchase insurance**
 - 5e **Request for Donation:** A request was received from the Chairman of Holton & Blyford Village Hall to contribute to a fund for a replacement sewage system. Our donations budget for year 2022/23 has now been allocated. **Action: Discuss again at our May meeting.**

- 6 **Planning Applications:** *Public Access Link – <https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications>*
DC/22/4590/FUL 8 Sotherton Corner – proposed erection of entry porch and shower room: This application was considered by the Parish Council via email due to consultation expiry date being 22/12/22. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. (Cllr Martin was excluded from this decision due to declaration of interest).
- 7 **Matters Arising since last Meeting:**
- 7a **Town and Parish Elections on 4th May 2023:** New Government requirements will come into force at this election. Voters in England will now need to show photo ID when attending polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, UK Parliamentary by-elections and Recall petitions. Go to <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> for support with the new voter ID requirement. **Actions: Details to be posted on our website, noticeboards and Facebook page.**
8. **Footpaths (moved to item 13 below)**
- 9 **Planning for the King's Coronation on 6th May 2023:** After discussion it was agreed to hold a King's Coronation celebration party with buffet for residents at The Queen's Head Public House in Blyford. Final date, menu and ticket information to follow. **Action: Cllr Bucknell will co-ordinate this project.**
- 10 **First Aid Training:** Cllr Parry looking into holding joint first aid training sessions with another Parish/Village Community Group. **Action: Pending our next meeting in March.**
- 11 **Any Other Business:**
- 12 **Correspondence received:** No comments to items received and no actions required.
- 13 **Any items of information received:**
- 13a **Footpaths:** Following a complaint about the closure of a none definitive footpath, Cllr Phillips has been looking to find maps showing the location of permissive footpaths in the Blyford and Sotherton area. A 1903 survey map was found but this only showed tracks and not footpaths. **Action: Our County Councillor has offered to look into the matter for us.**

Dates of 2023 meetings: Meetings held at 6.30 pm, at Wenhaston Village Hall on:

Tuesday 21st March (change to original date given)
Monday 15th May (Annual Parish Meeting and AGM)
Monday 17th July
Monday 18th September
Monday 20th November.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.