

NETTLESTEAD PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish

7.30 pm Monday 30 May 2022 at Nettlestead Church

Present: Nick Cooper, Fran Cooper, Neil McCarthy, Jeanna McCarthy.

County Councillor Kay Oakes. District Councillor John Field.

The Meeting was opened at 7.32pm.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Ken Oliver, Sue Grayston, John Pratt, Anne Pratt.

2. Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations for the office of Chairman of the Meeting. Nick Cooper was proposed by Neil McCarthy and seconded by Jeanna McCarthy. There being no other nominations, Nick Cooper was unanimously elected as Chairman.

3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of 24th January 2022.

Jeanna McCarthy proposed that the Draft Minutes be approved, and this was seconded by Neil McCarthy. The Meeting unanimously voted to approve the Draft Minutes and the Chairman signed them as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Meeting of 24th January 2022.

None.

5. Reports

a. To receive the Chairman's Report

The Meeting noted this. With the loosening of Covid restrictions, meetings have returned to being face to face rather than virtually on Zoom, Teams etc. However, the low number of number of residents attending meetings is of increasing concern (whether the meeting is virtual or face to face seems to make no difference). Any suggestions on how to improve attendance would be welcome.

b. To receive the County Councillor's Report

The Meeting noted this. Cllr. Oakes updated the Meeting about the East Anglia Green proposals and urged everyone to respond to the consultation. Cllr. Field also agreed that it was important to respond.

c. To receive the District Councillor's Report

The Meeting noted this. There is no movement on the Valley Ridge proposals as the owners are waiting for a decision by the government on the future of the Viridor landfill site. The BMDSC Draft Local Plan has been sent back by the inspectors for rewriting.

d. To receive the Archivist's Report

The Meeting noted this. A new vicar was appointed during the year and, with the end of lockdown, services at the church resumed. Planning permission was granted for an extension to the former coach house at High Hall.



e. To receive the Church Report

The Meeting noted this. The first phase of repairs - roof, gutters and downpipes and drainage - has just finished. The PCC will be reviewing the construction company's performance before the next phase begins. This will include repairs to the walls (internally and externally) and work on the font. Work is due to start in a few months and is being funded by a donation from Lady Blakenham.

6. To consider a response from the Meeting to the East Anglia GREEN consultation.

The Chairman explained that this is a non-statutory consultation, but that some of the proposals e.g., a new line running parallel to the existing one could have serious impacts for Nettlestead. The Meeting agreed unanimously that all possible steps should be taken to protect the rural environment and the line should preferably be put underground and/or undersea. The Chairman offered to prepare a response on behalf of the Meeting, and this was accepted with gratitude

7. To consider a response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Community Governance Review.

The Chairman explained the background to this. After some discussion the Meeting agreed not to respond.

8. Finance

a. To approve the Meeting's 2021/2022 accounts.

Neil McCarthy proposed that the 2021/2000 Accounts be approved. Fran Cooper seconded this, and the Meeting unanimously approved the Accounts.

b. To note the Internal Audit Report 2021/2022.

The Meeting noted this and discussed the comments regarding the Transparency Code and the necessity for the Meeting to have a website. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for a website to be set up. ACTION: Clerk.

c. To approve the Annual Governance and Audit Return for 2021/2022

Section 1: Annual Governance Statement for 2021/20202

Jeanna McCarthy proposed that the 2021/2022 AGAR Section 1 be approved. This was seconded by Fran Cooper and unanimously approved by the Meeting

d. To approve the Annual Governance and Audit Return for 2021/2022

Section 2: Accounting Statement 2021/2022.

2021/2022 AGAR Section 2 be approved. This was seconded by Fran Cooper and unanimously approved by the Meeting. The Chairman signed the AGAR.

e. To approve the issuing of a Certificate of Exemption from External Audit for 2021/2022

Fran Cooper proposed that the Meeting issue a Certificate of Exemption for 2021/2022. This was seconded by Jeanna McCarthy and approved unanimously by the Meeting. The Chairman signed the Certificate of Exemption.

f. To receive the Meeting's Financial Report and to approve any payments to be made.

The Meeting noted the Financial Report, including the paper copy of the bank statement that had been emailed out and verified the balance figure stated in the Financial Report. The making of the payments listed was also approved.

9. To consider the establishment of a website for Nettlestead Parish Meeting, including hosting arrangements.

The Meeting discussed the comments in the Internal Audit Report regarding the Transparency Code and the necessity for the Meeting to have a website. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for a website to be set up., using Suffolk Cloud as the hosting organisation. ACTION: Clerk. The Meeting agreed that the website will need to make it clear that the Nettlestead is a Parish Meeting and not a Parish Council.



10. To consider the reappointment of SALC as internal auditor for 2022/2023.
The Meeting agreed that SALC Internal Audit produced a thorough and comprehensive audit report. Neil McCarthy proposed that they be reappointed for 2022/2023. This was seconded by Fran Cooper and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

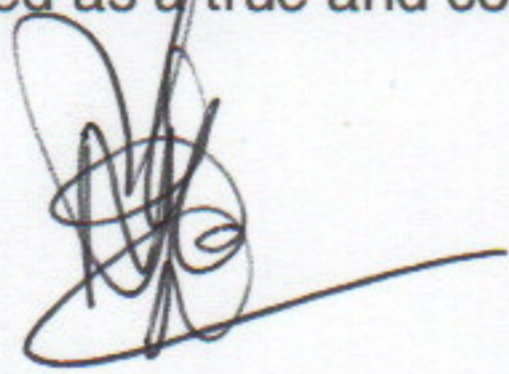
11. AOB

The potholes on the road to Whinney Green were discussed. They have been reported to SCC Highways with no response. County Councillor Kay Oakes agreed to contact Highways in an effort to get some action.

Neil McCarthy proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk and the Chairman for all their work for the meeting and this was agreed unanimously.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm with thanks to all concerned:

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting of 30th May 2022.



Name: N J P COOPER

Date: 25 JAN 2023