

Minutes of Nettlestead Parish Meeting

7.30 pm Wednesday 13th November 2024 at the Duke of Marlborough Community Pub.

Present: Nick Cooper (Chair), Fran Cooper (FC), Neil McCarthy (NM), Dan Fournier (DF), Sarah Fournier (SF), John Pratt (JP), Sam Parsons (SP) and Pam Shephard (PS).
County Councillor Kay Oakes

The Meeting was opened at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Jeanna McCarthy, Ken Southall, Anne Pratt, Emma Evans and Mark Oliver.

2. Election of Chair.

The Clerk asked for nominations for the office of Chair of the Meeting.

NM proposed Nick Cooper. This was seconded by JP and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of 30th May 2024.

NM proposed that the Draft Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the Meeting. This was seconded by FC and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Meeting of 30th May 2024.

The Chair confirmed that he had submitted the Meeting's comments on the proposed Tilbury to Norwich pylon line to the most recent consultation exercise.

5. Reports

a. To receive the County Councillor's Report (if present)

Cllr. Oakes presented her report (copy available on website). Insulation and energy efficiency are key issues at present.

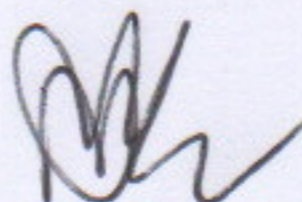
The Meeting discussed the problems locally caused by heavy rain and flooding, especially the knock-on effect of large amounts of traffic being forced on to narrow country lanes.

b. To receive the District Councillor's Report (if present)

Councillor Marriot was not present. Her report has been circulated and she has asked that any queries or comments should be emailed to her. Copy available on website.

6. To consider supporting the request for a 30 mph speed limit on Hall Lane from the junction with Main Road Somersham to the far end of Wentworth Close

Residents present expressed their concerns about the speed at which cars drove along this road. There have been near misses, and it can be hazardous when driving out of their property on to the road. This is worsened by the huge increase in traffic every time the main road through Somersham is closed. After some discussion, the Meeting agreed that it would also be beneficial to extend the request to include the S bend by Nettlestead Church and then further up the hill. Cars speed round the S bend and visibility is very poor. In the last few weeks, at least three cars have come off the road and collided with the hedge. The Chair asked the Meeting to formally support requesting Cllr. Oakes to take this forward to Suffolk Highways. NM proposed that the Meeting make the request. DF seconded this and the Meeting agreed unanimously. Cllr Oakes agreed to this, but warned there was no guarantee of success as Highways required considerable proof of need, including evidence of speeding and accidents. She said that if Highways agreed to look at the request, they would carry out a speed survey as a first step and she would pay for the cost (approx. £400) out of her budget. If the speed survey showed there was a need for the speed limit, other costs (approx £5000)



would be involved. The Chair said that the Meeting could make a contribution towards this. The Chair thanked Cllr. Oakes for her support.

7. Finance

a. To receive the Meeting's Financial Report and to approve any payments to be made. The Meeting noted the Financial Report, including the scan of the most recent bank statement that had been emailed out and verified the balance figure stated in the Financial Report. DF signed the Financial Report and the paper bank statement to confirm this.

b. To note the 2024/2025 Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts and Payments Report. The Meeting noted this.

c. To approve the Meeting Financial Budget for 2025/2026 (to include any proposals for expenditure).

NM proposed that the Meeting approved the Budget for 2025/2026. This was seconded by SF and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

d. To agree the amount of Precept for 2025/2026.

The Chair explained that, as there were no suggestions for Meeting expenditure over and above the agreed budget, he was proposing that the Meeting resolve that there was no requirement to raise a precept for 2025/26. As per the procedure for making a decision on the precept contained in the Meeting's Financial Regulations and Financial Control Procedures, a nil precept could be agreed at this meeting. If there was a proposal for extra expenditure before the precept setting period ended on 31st January 2025, then another meeting of the Meeting would be called to discuss this. If there were no such proposals, the Meeting would automatically return a nil request.

NM proposed that the Meeting approved this. The proposal was seconded by FC and unanimously approved by the Meeting.

e. To consider any payments under the LGA 1972 S137.

The Meeting agreed to make the following donations under LGA1972 S137:

Somersham Community Shop - £350.00

Friends of Somersham school - £350.00

This was proposed by FC, seconded by DF and unanimously approved by the Meeting.

8. To receive an update from the Chair on the current situation with the Meeting and Barclays Bank

The Chair said that there were no current issues with the bank regarding signatories etc. He was aware that several banks had received criticism and complaints about what appeared to be their policy of 'debanking' small organisations such as Parish Councils and Meetings. The Meeting would continue to respond promptly to requests for extra information from Barclays, no matter how repetitive and pointless it seemed.

9. Governance /Policies

a. To approve the Meeting Financial Regulations and Financial Control Procedures.

NM proposed that the Meeting approved the Financial Regulations and Financial Control Procedures. This was seconded by DF and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

b. To approve the Meeting Risk Assessment.

NM proposed that the Meeting approved the Risk Assessment. This was seconded by DF and approved unanimously by the Meeting

c. To approve the Meeting Privacy Policy

NM proposed that the Meeting approved the Privacy Policy. This was seconded by DF and approved unanimously by the Meeting

d. To review the arrangements for cheque signatories and officers of the Meeting.

The Chair informed the Meeting that the list of cheque signatories and officers of the Meeting remained unchanged and it was felt that there was no need to make any changes. The requirement for two signatures on each cheque still stands. FC proposed that the Meeting approve this. JP seconded this and the Meeting approved it unanimously.

10. AOB

The Chair requested that the Meeting approve a vote of thanks to Mr. David Pratt (licensee of the Duke of Marlborough Community Pub) for allowing the Meeting to use a room in the pub for this meeting while the Church is closed, especially as there has been no cost to the Meeting. The Meeting unanimously approved this.

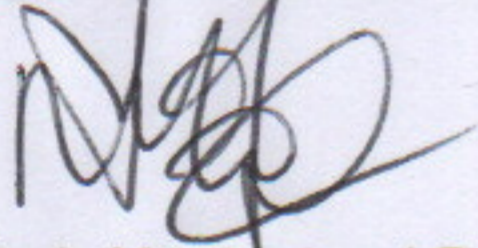
Nettlestead Church – this should be reopened in May/June next year, depending on progress with the renovations. A celebration/rededication service is planned.

The Chair raised the need for a review of the Meeting's future financial policy. The Meeting has not raised a precept for over ten years and the Meeting's bank balance has gradually decreased. The Chair said he felt that, as the Meeting has limited powers for spending and there were no new projects planned or proposed, that the Meeting should consider in the future closing the bank account and no longer holding money. Of course, there are implications in such a decision and it would need to be carefully managed to ensure that the Meeting met its legal obligations. The Meeting unanimously agreed to take this forward to the next meeting.

NM expressed thanks on behalf of the Meeting for all the Chair and Clerk's hard work.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.08 pm with thanks to all who attended.

Signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.



Chair Nettlestead Parish Meeting

Name: UJP COOPER

Date: 27-5-25