

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mautby Parish Council held on
Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7.30pm at Runham Village Hall**

Present: Mark Bullent (Chairman)
Amanda Bayfield
Vivyan Bishop
Ruth Easter
Jean Hodgson
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

Also present: 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence. Borough Councillor Adrian Thompson had also sent his apologies.

2. Co-option of Parish Councillors

There had been no applications for co-option.

3. Public Forum

a) Public

A member of the public noted that around the Green area, the lampposts were rotten. These had been identified and the Clerk was asked to report this. **ACTION: Clerk**
Other lampposts would be inspected for maintenance.

It was noted that the water on Thrigby Road was due to blockages in drains further along, this then flooded further down. The Clerk was asked to report this to Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) County Councillor

Not present.

c) Borough Councillor

The Clerk read the Borough Councillor's report, noting that the village sign and planters had been planted with bulbs; drainage work had taken place at Market Lane and the hedge trimmed at the stables; a Saturday service on the Number 7 bus route would begin in April with four buses a day, and parking available in Filby; A defibrillator had been installed at The King's Head in Filby; the Highways Engineer was being chased for the kerbing works at the bus shelter.

4. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda

Jean Hodgson and Amanda Bayfield declared an interest in the Village Hall as members of the Village Hall Committee.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th November 2023

The minutes of the meeting were Considered, with one amendment to item 8b to change 'natural spring' to 'field run-off'. With this amendment the minutes were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Mark Bullent, seconded by Jean Hodgson, all in favour.

6. Matters Arising

a) Quiet Lanes

The response from Norfolk County Council was noted, stating that this was a funded scheme some years ago which would not be rolled out any more widely.

b) Better Broadband for Norfolk

The response from Norfolk County Council was noted, giving information on which postcodes were included in various projects. It was felt that although it wasn't imminent, it was good that this was coming at some point.

7. **Accounts for Approval and Payment**

a) Financial Update 2023/24

The financial update was presented, noting that the Council had £24,361.56 in the bank at 31st December 2023. Of this, £22,015.40 was in earmarked reserves, which included £13,265.40 in the Village Hall Repairs fund. Receipts since the last meeting were:

- £13,547.90 – VAT reclaim
- £18.17- Lloyds Interest

b) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following, proposed by Amanda Bayfield, seconded by Jean Hodgson, all in favour:-

C Moore	Salary Dec 2023 & Jan 2024 incl. uplift	£394.10
HMRC	PAYE Dec 2023 & Jan 2024	£98.60
C Moore	Expenses Dec 2023 & Jan 2024	£125.75
Amazon (C Moore)	Acoustic Panels	£480.00
DS Carpentry	Gate	£120.00

The following payments had been authorised between meetings under the Clerk's delegated authority:

Wellers Hedleys	Lease Legals Fees	£1,320.00
Blitz Restoration	Floor Restoration	£1,600.00

8. **Correspondence**

a) General Correspondence

None.

9. **Planning**

a) New Applications

None.

b) Applications Considered Between Meetings

BA/2023/0415/HOUSEH River Cottage, Mautby Marsh Farm, Mautby: Retention of gate and fence for 5 years. **NO OBJECTIONS**

c) Decisions

None.

10. **Reports from Councillors and Outside Bodies**

a) General Village Maintenance

Ruth Easter had sent a list of potholes to be reported.

ACTION: Clerk

Mark Bullent noted that he had spoken to the owner of the footpath who was happy to have a meeting to discuss the issues.

ACTION: MB

Amanda Bayfield noted that the adopted part of Barn Lane was in very poor repair, the Clerk was asked to report this to Norfolk County Council.

ACTION: Clerk

There was a tree over Barn Lane sitting on the telephone line, the Clerk was asked to report this to BT. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that Andy Grant had not responded regarding the lining proposals on the road, the Clerk had would chase this again.

ACTION: Clerk

b) Defibrillator, Runham

This had been installed and commissioned with the various agencies. It was **agreed** to send Heart2Heart a thank you card for the loan of the defibrillator. **ACTION: AB**
Defib training would be set up once the works in the Hall were completed.

c) Village Hall Committee Report

Amanda Bayfield gave the Village Hall Committee's report, noting the following key points:

- Flooring had been laid in the kitchen, and the toilet floors had been screeded. A new cooker and other kitchen equipment would be purchased soon from the Adnams grant. The old cooker had been disconnected, and Mark Bullent would connect the new one. The curtains had been put up, and another screen at the other end of the Hall could be considered. The acoustic panels would be installed after painting was completed but were working effectively. The painting would be completed in the next few weeks. The gutters would be cleared as soon as time allowed.

Concerns were raised by Committee members about the cost of electricity. The frost stat was cutting in overnight. An overview of the costs were given, and it was felt that the December costs were due to the floor sanding work and the heating being on to dry the varnish.

There was only one weekly booking, and they were cold in the Hall.

Concerns were raised with the heating at the Village Hall, noting that it was not at all effective or fit for purpose. Mark Bullent outlined a proposal for radiant heaters which would heat the person, not the air. They would still be electric but should be more cost effective. He was able to exchange the new heaters for the radiant heaters at no cost.

Suggestions were being made regarding offering badminton in the Hall, although the new heaters could affect these. Mark would put together a proposal, which would include a push switch for timed use, and a room stat. It was recommended that one heater be left in, to deal with damp or smell.

It was **agreed** that a donation of £300 be made to the Village Hall to help with the electric costs from the floor renovations, proposed by Ruth Easter, seconded by Vivyan Bishop, all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that once the invoices from the decorating and flooring had been received and the electric donation paid, the funds in the earmarked reserve would be approx. £8,500. It was noted that the heating had cost £7,000 and was not fit for purpose, and that the kitchen radiator was in the wrong place. Amanda Bayfield would draw together an email to the contractor outlining the issues. **ACTION: AB**

The ongoing maintenance schedule would be compiled once works were completed.

d) Village Green

It was noted that there were a lot of mole hills, which would affect the grass cutting. The Clerk was asked to get prices for mole control. **ACTION: Clerk**

e) Policing and Vandalism
Crime statistics were available on the Norfolk Constabulary website.

f) SAM2 Results
The Clerk was asked to get the SAM2 back from Dean Hewitt, it would then be looked after by Mark Bullent. **ACTION: Clerk**

11. Other Matters

a) Budget 2024/25
The Clerk presented the draft budget. It was **agreed** to set the precept at £13,602, Band D £92.53, 2.54% increase, proposed by Jean Hodgson, seconded by Vivyan Bishop, all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) New Biodiversity Duties
The report on the new biodiversity duties was presented. It was noted that Stokesby was a key B-line site, and the Clerk was asked to get in touch with the lady who had information about this to find out whether Mautby was also part of the B-line. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that a new woodland would be planted in the parish as part of a farms' Countryside Stewardship scheme, however this would not be public access. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council was supportive of this scheme.

It was felt that more could be done with the hedgerows in Barn Lane, and that there was scope for a wild flower meadow on an unused piece of land.

It was suggested that the Council could take part in 'No Mow May', the Clerk was asked to speak to the contractor to check whether there would be a problem with equipment and cutting it at the end, if this wasn't a problem the Council was supportive of this suggestion. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was suggested that a Bug Hotel could be set up on the Green, this could be incorporated into the Village Hall official opening event. **ACTION: RE**

It was suggested that litter picks could be set up around the village, it was suggested that this could be included in a Village Hall newsletter. Amanda Bayfield would take this forward with the Committee. **ACTION: AB**

A Biodiversity Policy would be presented at the next meeting for consideration. **ACTION: Clerk**

12. Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Ruth Easter asked for a copy of the response regarding the bus service.

ACTION: Clerk

A question was raised regarding bringing mains sewerage to the parish, the Clerk was asked to get in touch with Anglian Water for an update. **ACTION: Clerk**

The dog bins were overflowing, the Clerk was asked to report this to the Borough Councillor. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was confirmed that fundraising streams for the village hall would be revived, including the Quiz and Chips.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 27th March 2024 7.30pm, Runham Village Hall. Amanda Bayfield gave her apologies for that meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

CHAIRMAN