

Wretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2024 at 7:30pm at All Saints' Church

1. To record the names of those present

Cllr G Atling - Chair, Cllr K Smith - Vice Chair, Cllr M Cann, Cllr P Garnett, Cllr H Hogan, Cllr D Lister

Cllr S Lintern – Borough Councillor
Cllr M Storey – County Councillor

4 Members of the Public

The minutes are recorded by Cllr D Lister - no voting rights were permitted by Cllr D Lister during the meeting.

2. To Consider accepting apologies for absence

No Apologies received.

3. To record declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest from members in any item to be discussed and consider any requests or dispensations.

There were no declarations of interests declared.

4. To allow public participation – to include information from developers, Police Representatives or any other person invited to speak – 15 Minutes.

No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

5. To consider Planning matters

5.1. Applications

Any applications that appear on the Borough Council planning Portal up to the date of the meeting, which requires the consultation of the Parish Council will be considered by the Councillors at this scheduled meeting, even if the application is not listed on the agenda below. Please check the Planning Portal for Up-to-date information

24/01516/F – Dismantle existing sunroom and replace with rear extension – Lingwood, 5 Church Road, Wretton, Kings Lynn PE33 9QR.

It was **resolved** that the Parish Council would record a **NO OBSERVATIONS** either in favour or against the proposal.

24/01595/F – Formation of vehicular access to agricultural field. Land access at E568896 N300220 Chequers Road, Wretton Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Cllr Atling provided a planning statement concerning this application; *In 2015 and 2016, the applicants applied for planning permission for two dwellings on this field and permission was refused. At the time of those applications, this grass field was grazed by sheep and access to the field was via Ashcroft, the dwelling to the south. Subsequently, the dwelling was sold and the sheep grazing ceased. Unfortunately, no provision was made at the time for tractor access to the field. The unruly hedge fronting and encroaching upon Chequers Road was removed and drive-over the grass verge was the only way into the field, the frontage along the narrow Wretton Row having a continuous*

tall, mature hedge line. The applicants replanted a hedge along the Chequers Road frontage, set further back from the highway, which still exists, but has become overgrown with weeds, leaving the field inaccessible. This proposal is to create a new vehicular access to the field, for grass cutting/haymaking equipment and/or grazing. The access will be to Norfolk County Highways TRAD 5 specification, with 2.4m x 43m visibility available in both directions. The low hedge will be removed just at the access point and the remaining hedge cut and tidied.

An existing hedge was removed without permission and an order was given to reinstate the hedge in May 2019. The Parish Council are aware that this new application for vehicular access to the field was made by an Architect which has drawn concerns as to the future use of the land. The owner of the land requested permission to speak. They stated that the field in question required cutting/tidying, if this application was refused, how would he be able to gain access to the land to remedy the situation. It was pointed out that there is already a gate to the side of the field. The owner stated that it was not for his use but for the owners of the adjacent bungalow to gain access to their septic tank on this field. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council would object to the application on the grounds of two previous applications to build dwellings having been refused, highway safety, and loss of hedgerow and habitat for wildlife.

5.2 – Decisions – None

5.3 – Address Notifications – None

5.4 – Correspondence – None

6. To discuss Grass Cutting for 2025: Scope of Work, areas to be cut, number of cuts per year and potentially extending cutting until end of November 2025

Cllr Lister advised the Parish Council that the current contractors had provided a quote for the following year which exceeded £9,000 which is a considerable and unachievable increase. This amount is more than the Parish Council draws from the Precept Budget each year therefore changes have to be made. She put forward her suggestions to get four more quotes from contractors and rewriting the scope of works to reduce the number of cuts to the playground, the green and the churchyard to a cut once every three weeks instead of two, the 'pond' area to be strimmed and tidied once every three months instead of monthly, the footpaths to remain at every six months and to remove the litter picking aspect as Wretton doesn't seem to have a litter problem therefore it is an unnecessary expense. She also suggested removing chemical weed killing in the playground areas. The Parish Council **resolved** to accept these changes in an effort to reduce costs and bring them to a more manageable level. It was also **resolved** to increase the cutting period by one month to end of November 2025

Action Cllr Lister/Cllr Smith.

7. To allow Public participation – to include information from developers, Police representatives or any other person invited to speak – 15 minutes, 5 minutes per person.

Cllr. Storey updated the Parish Council on the progress of the maintenance of Byways RB6 and RB10. He has spoken to Liz Appleton (NCC) and made her aware of the urgency however he advised that it could take a few months before any movement is made. Cllr Storey has spoken to Robert Pratt (Highways) regarding a request made by a parishioner for an additional bus stop at the top of Field Lane. Funds are available, and he has urged Highways to implement this request citing that this is a rural area and is much needed.

A parishioner brought up the subject of the grass cuts on Cromer Lane. She advised the Parish Council that although she has seen the Council cutting some verges, they completely missed out Cromer Lane and it is now nearly a year since it was last done. She also brought up the subject of the blocked drains and ditches along Cromer Lane and Field Lane but acknowledges that this has been addressed by the Parish Council with the appropriate NCC departments and is out of their control but appreciates the effort put in on the village's behalf.

Cllr. Lintern informed the Parish Council that Stoke Ferry Parish Council have arranged for Age UK to hold a Roadshow to give advice on Pensions Credits, Attendance Allowance, Winter Fuel Payments amongst others topics. It is to be held at The Bluebell in Stoke Ferry on 6 November 2024 from 10:00AM - 2:00PM. No appointments are necessary as it is a drop in Roadshow open to everyone.

8. To receive items for the next Meetings Agenda

To produce leaflets for the Age UK Roadshow to enable a leaflet drop to every household in Wretton.

Cllr Smith and Cllr Garnett are meeting Paul Appleyard from the Community Payback team on 25/9/24. Agenda item to discuss the way forward.

9. Any further reports – For Information Only

A further Planning Application, **(24/01689/FM – Creation of a new water storage reservoir in connection with the sugar beet processing and the animal feed drying technology from the British Sugar site at Land at E566627 N298166 College Road Wissington Wereham Norfolk)** was received too late to be included as an agenda item at this evening's meeting and comments are due from the Parish Council no later than 14 October 2024. As a result all Parish Councillors are asked to read the planning application and associated documents and forward their comments to the Parish Council Chairman no later than Monday 7 October 2025.

10. Date and time of next meeting - Monday 4th November 2024 at 7:30pm