

Meeting Minutes of Emneth Parish Council (draft)

Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 6.30pm held in the Committee Room at Emneth Central Hall

Parish Councillors present: Councillor Pearson, Councillor Howard, Councillor Curtis, Councillor Finnis, Councillor Purchase, Councillor Groves (Chair), Councillor Fry, Councillor McCourt, Councillor Tingley, Councillor Kok and Councillor Wiles. Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Dawson, Borough Councillor Crofts and two members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Burgess-Lee

Minutes (draft)

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received as listed above and were approved.

3 Members' Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda and any dispensations required considered

No declarations of interest were given for any item on this month's agenda and no dispensations had been requested prior to the meeting.

4 Open Forum for Public Participation (fifteen minutes only): no report.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2024

It was resolved with all in favour to approve the Minutes of last month's meeting and these were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

6 Clerk to provide an update on any matters not included on this month's agenda

- a) It was noted that grass cutting has commenced this month at the churchyard/cemetery.
- b) The next joint meeting with the Friends of Emneth and Elm Towaph Group and Elm Parish Council is Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 6pm.
- c) The Red Book Valuation from Maxey Grounds is still awaited.
- d) A new land tenancy agreement for a tenant at Hungate Road will be issued once confirmation of current competitive land prices have been confirmed by Maxey Grounds' Red Book Valuation.
- e) The Clerk requested confirmation of a meeting date from the Chairman regarding the joint meeting with Councillor Dawson and the School to consider parking issues along Hollycroft Road; the Chairman is awaiting a response from the School.
- f) A Parish Council Facebook page is in progress.
- g) The repairs to the church wall are still ongoing.
- h) A specification/quote for piping a section of dyke in the churchyard is awaited.

7 To receive a report from Norfolk County Council

- a) A discussion took place surrounding broadband provision and connectivity in the Parish. It was noted that half of the village would appear to benefit from decent provision and connectivity but the other half does not.
- b) Thanks to be recorded to County Councillor Dawson for a donation of £100.00 towards the cost of the recent traffic survey carried out at Hollycroft Road and a further £100.00 towards the planned D-Day 80 event in the Parish in June 2024.
- c) Councillor Dawson suggested the Clerk reach out to another local parish for names for potential contractors to resurface the car park at the Playing Field.
- d) An update on the current position of the planned Energy from Waste facility for Wisbech was provided after planning consent was granted in February 2024 for its construction. The decision cannot be appealed. The only mechanism to overturn this decision is to lodge a legal challenge against the Secretary of State, referred to as a Judicial Review. Fenland District Council has stated they are taking legal advice to identify if there are any grounds for Judicially Reviewing the Secretary of State's decision. The plant still needs an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency. In January they stated that they were 'minded to accept' the application for an Environmental Permit.

8 To receive a report from the Borough Council

- a) It was noted that a total of £750,000.00 has now been paid out from the *Community Infrastructure Levy* fund. More Emneth community groups and organisations to be encouraged to apply for funding from this revenue stream.
- b) An individual from King's Lynn has been taken to court relating to illegal dog breeding allegations.
- c) Two individuals from King's Lynn have been fined for illegal fly tipping.

9 Finance

- a) It was resolved with all in favour to approve the March 2024 Payments List as presented.
- b) Income received since last meeting: £775.00.
- c) It was noted that the national living wage increases to £11.44 per hour from 1st April 2024.
- d) Councillors Curtis and Howard viewed the bank statements for internal audit purposes.

10 Planning

- a) To consider any outstanding planning applications since last meeting:
 - Planning application 23/02015/F change of use from residential to part residential, part tearoom at Sweet Things Savoury, 33 Gaultree Square, Emneth (retrospective). It was resolved to *support* this application.
 - Planning application 24/00347/RM 3 dwellings at Towler Coaches, 24 Church Road, Emneth. It was resolved to *support* this application.
- b) To note any planning decisions made by the Local Planning Authority or to report any appeals made to the Secretary of State: no report.

Not all decisions on planning applications for the Parish are resolved upon at a monthly meeting; some are considered during the course of the month and resolved upon online. Details of all planning applications considered by Emneth Parish Council can be viewed on the Borough Council's planning portal by visiting <https://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/> and referencing the relevant *planning application number* or a *key word* into the *Search bar*.

11 Parish Matters

- a) It was resolved to *not* proceed with the purchase of a gas lit burner for the D-Day 80 Event in June at a cost of £549.00 + Vat. Councillor McCourt agreed to investigate having something manufactured locally.
- b) It was noted that several local businesses have been fly posting in the village on telegraph poles. It was resolved to publish a comment on the local Facebook forum requesting that businesses refrain from doing this.
- c) Councillor Groves to report the vehicle parked on the roundabout at the A47/Elm High Road junction.

12 To discuss general correspondence received since last meeting

- a) Email noted from a resident relating to the purchase of more trees for the woodland area at the playing field. It was resolved to not pursue this any further at this stage. Clerk to action.

13 To discuss Playing Field issues

- a) Councillors were reminded of some of the terms of the lease between the Parish Council and the Playing Field Committee dated 9th June 1989. It was agreed that this lease requires updating as, in parts, is now significantly out of date. Councillor Groves agreed to call a meeting to discuss and come back to the Parish Council with recommendations on updating the lease.
- b) It was noted that new teams are signing up for the 2024/25 season to play at Emneth.
- c) It was resolved with all in favour to approve expenditure of £43.08 per month plus a £10.00 delivery charge to reinstate the 660 litre bin at the playing field (to be emptied weekly).
- d) It was resolved with all in favour to approve expenditure of £313.00 for the hire of a 16 yard skip for 7 days at the pavilion when maintenance works are carried out later this year.

- e) A discussion ensued surrounding the feasibility of reducing cuts of the football pitches this year in order to make savings. It was agreed that this was a good idea but required further consideration and planning if we were to proceed with the idea.

14 Cemetery Issues

- a) All tree works have now been carried out and completed per the tree report.

15 Allotment Land issues: see Item 20a) of these minutes.

16 To discuss Central Hall issues

- a) Correspondence was noted that had been erroneously addressed to the Parish Council regarding an incident at Central Hall Car Park in April 2022. The sender has been advised and it was suggested that they redirect the letter to the correct addressee.
- b) It was resolved to approve expenditure of £43.08 per month plus a £10.00 delivery charge for the installation of a 660 litre bin at Central Hall Car Park (to be emptied once a week).

17 To discuss Norfolk County Council issues including highways

- a) The traffic survey at Hollycroft Road has now been carried out and the results received. For the purpose of the Minutes it can be noted that the majority of vehicles were found to be travelling between 21-35mph. A copy of the findings can be made available to any parishioner interested; please contact the Clerk for a copy. It was resolved to publish these findings on the Parish Council's Facebook page when it is available.
- b) Several highways works are planned in the Parish for 2024/25 including drainage works along Hollycroft Road, resurfacing of Hungate Road and surface dressing at Outwell Road and Elm High Road.
- c) Residents are reminded to report pot holes directly via the Norfolk County Council website / link here refers; [Potholes - Norfolk County Council](#)

Councillor Finnis joined the meeting.

18 To note any communications from the Police since last meeting

- a) The Community Engagement Officer for Emneth is Paula Gilluley paula.gilluley@norfolk.police.uk
- b) Residents are encouraged to report anti-social behaviour issues to the Police by dialling 101.

19 Items for the next meeting agenda

- To provide an update on the D-Day 80 Event, 6th June 2024
- To consider maintenance requirements at the new pavilion
- To consider Playing Field Committee comments on updating the lease
- To consider the findings from the Red Book Valuation carried out by Maxey Grounds
- To agree the terms of the renewal of a land rent tenancy agreement for land at Hungate Road
- To resolve to agree upon a sum for an annual donation to the Friends of Emneth & Elm Towpath group to cover fuel costs / servicing and maintenance of machinery costs / PPE etc.

20 To consider excluding the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed

- a) The contents of a letter drafted by the Parish Council's solicitor relating to a matter on Parish Council-owned land were approved for signature and sending.
- b) A general discussion by means of an update took place surrounding the blocked access to private land at Mill Road.

21 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 6.30pm at Emneth Central Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting. An opportunity for the residents of Emneth to meet with their local councillors and discuss any matters of local interest and/or concern.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman's signature

Emneth Parish Council

26 March 2024 (2023-2024)

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
224	British Telecom	11/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Telecoms	British Telecom	S	45.25	9.05	54.30
225	Clerk Salary	15/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Salary	Kate Bennett	X	1,146.00		1,146.00
231	Energy (electricity)	15/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Street lights	sse	L	100.33	5.02	105.35
236	Parks and Open Spaces	23/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Open spaces	Borough Council of King's I	Z	200.00		200.00
226	Playing Field Caretaker	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Salary	Nicola Lane	X	233.56		233.56
227	Litter Picker	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Salary	Jean Eady	X	333.60		333.60
237	Website	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Website	Emneth Design PC Repair	Z	27.00		27.00
232	Expenses	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Stationery	Walters	S	65.12	13.02	78.14
230	Parks and Open Spaces	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Open spaces	Streetwise Services Ltd.	S	330.00	66.00	396.00
233	Cemetery and Churchyard	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Refuse collection	Veolia Ltd.	S	150.08	30.02	180.10
229	Cemetery and Churchyard	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Cemetery	Chris Hennelly	Z	1,650.00		1,650.00
235	Playing Field	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Playing Field	Playing Field Committee	X	750.00		750.00
234	Street light maintenance	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Street lights	Cozens (UK) Limited	S	45.00	9.00	54.00
228	PAYE	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Salary	HM Revenue and Customs	X	615.14		615.14
241	Expenses	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Expenses	Kate Bennett	Z	99.80		99.80
240	Cemetery and Churchyard	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Cemetery	Tawny Owl Tree and Garde	Z	255.00		255.00
239	Energy (electricity)	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		Street lights	sse	L	93.88	4.69	98.57
238	Subscriptions	27/03/2024		Unity Current Accour		subscriptions	Norfolk Parish Training Sup	X	430.00		430.00
Total									6,569.76	136.80	6,706.56