

THE MINUTES OF LYNG PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2023 STARTING AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Cllr Steve Davies (Chair), Cllr Melanie Joyce (Vice Chair), Cllr Stuart Drabble, Cllr Jason King, Cllr Kirsty King, Cllr Tom Gittins, Cllr Steve Wright
Parish Clerk - Jo Boxall and 6 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence received as all Councillors in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation were received. Declaration of interest received from Cllr J King and Cllr K King in matters relating to the allotments for which they had already received dispensation. Cllr Drabble declared an interest in agenda item 8 in as much as it related to his business but no commercial interest.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the Lyng Parish Council Meeting held on 19th July 2023 were unanimously **AGREED** as a true record as proposed by Cllr Joyce, seconded by Cllr Gittins. Minutes were duly signed.

4. INFORMATION ON MATTERS ARISING

The Village Hall Trustees discussed the idea of installing an Electric charging point at the hall at their meeting and confirmed they had decided not to proceed.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

District Councillor Gordon Bambridge, County Councillor Bill Borrett and the Police were not in attendance.

6. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were received.

7. TO RECEIVE UPDATE RE SAM2 / FORMATION OF COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH GROUP AND APPROVE FURTHER ACTION AS APPROPRIATE.

Thanks were extended to Cllr King for circulating the new data. Following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that Cllr Davies would start the process of obtaining speed camera (seek volunteers) and approach SNAP as proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Drabble.

Cllr King to circulate the raw data to Councillors for further examination.

8. TO RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS IRO.GOV.UK DOMAIN AND COUNCIL DATA PLATFORM / COUNCILLOR EMAILS AND CONSIDER / APPROVE FURTHER ACTION

The Clerk reported that the current website provider had suddenly introduced charges for their website with effect from 4th October 2023. It was **AGREED** with one abstention that the Parish Council would take up the offer from Norfolk ALC to produce a site with support and training for £70/year and the Clerk would continue to manage the content, as proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Gittins.

9. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROVISION OF INTERNET / MOBILE COVERAGE IN LYNG.

Cllr Gittins circulated a report on the lack of mobile coverage and gave a brief report to the meeting. It was concluded that it seems highly likely that O2/Vodafone will not invest in providing better coverage in the Lyng area as a village of 850 people and EE are currently the best provider. The best internet speeds in the village are provided by itswisp with its wireless service – especially the further residents live from the nearest green cabinet.

10. PLAY AREA / PLAYING FIELD

To ratify approval of expenditure in respect of play area repairs & consider replacement of bark surfacing

It was unanimously **AGREED** to ratify the approval of expenditure (£4470.54 + VAT) in respect of play area repairs as proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Gittins. Work has subsequently been carried out and inspected

Cllr K King agreed to circulate prices for rubberised chipping ahead of the next meeting. It was acknowledged that a new membrane would be required.

To receive update following play inspections

Thanks were extended to Cllr Wright for carrying out the weekly play inspections/ reports. There were no current matters of concern.

To record correspondence received / sent in respect of vehicular access for Bowls Club open day.

It was noted that permission had not been granted to the Bowls Club for vehicular access / car parking on the playing field as evidence of sufficient public liability insurance cover had not been provided (a risk assessment had been received). Correspondence was received and a response sent as approved by Council (via email).

To consider / approve permission for Lyng Flyng to hold Dog Show on playing field 24th September

Following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that permission would be granted for the dog show should a request be received, and subject to receipt of the required risk assessment and proof of public liability insurance as proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Drabble. It was acknowledged that it was not the Lyng Fling holding the event. It was agreed to draft a separate policy for the hire of the playing field for consideration.

11. CEMETERY / CHURCHYARD

To receive update and consider /approve request for fence / gate on cemetery boundary

As there was concern that a precedent would be set and that consideration needed to be given to mourners accessing the cemetery, it was **AGREED** with two abstentions to refuse the request to remove the hedge as proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Joyce. It was noted that previous requests had been refused.

12. ALLOTMENTS

To receive update on matters relating to the allotments including correspondence re ownership of stream

Correspondence was received challenging the Council's entitlement to abstract water from the stream. The Council's response was approved (via email) and confirmed the PC's efforts in seeking permission / establishing ownership of the stream.

To receive update regarding registration of allotment land

The Clerk reported that frustratingly no progress had been made by the Solicitor, who promised to visit the archives but to date had not done so. Concern was raised about the prepaid hours which the Council had wished to use on the registration of allotment land. Clerk to continue to chase.

To receive update regarding licence application and approve permission for LAA (Lyng Allotment Association) to abstract water and record withdrawal of grant application.

It was confirmed PC were granted a licence to abstract water. Following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that 'the LAA be allowed under the PC license from the NHDIB to access and store up to 4000 Litres of water per day during normal seasons to be used during dry spells on the allotment. Extraction is not to be used directly onto individual plots and that access to the water storage is for all allotment holders regardless of membership of the LAA. Should any misuse of this license/ permission be discovered, the permission will be withdrawn and the practice to cease immediately. Should it then be discovered that the practise has continued after permission has been withdrawn, the plot holder(s) concerned will have their tenancy terminated. The Council retains its right to remove permission at any time.'

It was noted that the Lyng Allotment Association no longer wish to apply for a grant from the Parish Council.

To consider / approve the allocation of plot 12 for cultivation & access / water storage

It was unanimously **AGREED** that half of plot 12 should be allocated to the Lyng Allotment Association free of charge for pedestrian access and water storage as proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Drabble. It was confirmed that the other half of plot 12 had been allocated for cultivation at £10 annual charge.

To consider rent charge in respect of plot 10 2022/23 & 2023/24

As previous overgrown plots had been allocated without concession, it was **AGREED** with two against, to offer plot 10 to the interested party without reduction, and advertise the plot in the Hill & Vale should this not be acceptable, as proposed by Cllr Drabble, seconded by Cllr Joyce.

To consider / approve further action regarding report of rats on the allotments.

An email was received from a plot holder concerned about rats on the allotments. An inspection was subsequently carried out and although muntjac were spotted, no evidence of rats was seen. Following discussion it was **AGREED** with one abstention to take no further action but continue to monitor as proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr J King.

To consider / approve permission for use of allotment access to rear of resident's property for drop off / collection with a vehicle.

Following discussion Cllr J King withdrew the request for permission as there was concern about the implications such a request may have on the Council.

13. TO RECORD PLANNING ISSUES

a) To record decisions made on planning applications received between meetings

3PL/2023/0760/VAR – Removal of condition 3 (construction specification) and variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 6 (landscaping) on 3PL/2019/0844/VAR at Karleisha, Rectory Road, Lyng. – no comment/objection.

b) To consider planning applications received

No planning applications were received

c) To consider late planning applications

No late planning application was received

d) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No decisions were received from Breckland.

14. FINANCE

a) To receive financial update & income / expenditure

The balance of accounts as at 7th September 2023 were confirmed as follows; Community account £10260.07, Business Premium account £8779.91 as bank interest of £23.46 has been added. Bank reconciliations / budget comparisons were carried out by the Clerk and circulated. The balance of the Community Car Scheme fund was confirmed as £854.16. The internal control check had been carried out and no concerns were highlighted, report to be circulated to Councillors for consideration.

b) To approve payments made and to be made & record receipts *attached

All payments made since the last meeting to date in accordance with the attached schedules were unanimously **AGREED**, and receipts noted as proposed by Cllr Joyce and seconded by Cllr Drabble

c) To record receipt of notification of exempt status from external auditor

Notification was received that the External auditor has received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2023.

15. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE, RECEIVE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION & FUTURE AGENDA

Future agenda items to include a policy for the hire / use of the playing field. Quotes for rubberised surfacing – play area and Highway matters. It was noted that a further FOIA request for scanned minutes had been received. Cllr Drabble confirmed that the documents requested had now been forwarded to the Clerk so the requested information could now be emailed to the resident concerned.

16. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE AGENDA REQUESTS

A resident supported further discussion on Highway matters and the Lyng Allotment Association (LAA) requested a formal policy between them and the Parish Council. It was acknowledged that the LAA are a separate organisation to the PC.

17. TO APPROVE DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as 11th October 2023. Cllrs J King and K King sent apologies in advance as they would be on holiday.

18. TO CLOSE THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.19 pm