

PARISH OF RINGSTEAD
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
13 MAY 2024 – 6.30PM - RINGSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Chair - Cllr W Jacob – Chair of Ringstead Parish Council
Taking Minutes – Simon Lee (Clerk)

Also in attendance:

Cllr J. Barnett, Cllr B Crowfoot, Cllr V Everitt, Cllr S Little & Cllr N Shelley
Borough Cllr T de Winton & guest speak Mr S Bower

Five members of the public were also in attendance.

The Chair welcomed and thanked all those present for attending the meeting.

Apologies of absence had been received from Cllr D Rice.

1. The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 15 May 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

2. **Reports from:**

Borough Cllr T de Winton gave a brief update on matters appertaining to the Borough Council and changes within the leadership of the Council and senior officers. In response to a question from a member of the public concerned about whether infrastructure could cope with new developments, particularly foul/surface water sewers, Cllr de Winton gave an update on a recent meeting held at Holme involving several agencies. Although the system could cope with foul water, given the wet winter and spring of 2024 the water table had risen and together with developments plumbing into the foul water sewers matters were exacerbated and the system wasn't able to cope. Tanker lorries were having to be used regularly to take foul water to other treatment areas to help ensure the system could cope.

County Cllr A Jamieson had submitted a detailed written report attached to the minutes.

The Clerk had received an email from Sergeant Hughes at the Norfolk Constabulary who had no major issues to report. Borough Cllr T de Winton advised of a recent meeting with the police regarding the annual Hunstanton Tennis Week, where in previous years there had been tensions with large crowds of young people causing a nuisance. Last year the event had been managed very pro-actively by the police with few or no incidents.

3. **Reports from Groups:**

a) **Friends of St Andrew's Church:** report attached (submitted by Mr Martin Smith).

b) **Village Hall Management Committee** – report attached (submitted by Chair of Village Hall Committee).

c) **Trustees of the Great Ringstead Allotment Charity** – report attached (submitted by the Secretary).

d) **Parochial Church Council** - report attached (submitted by the Chair)

e) **Bowls Club** – report attached (submitted by Mr Pincott).

f) **Carpet Bowls Club** – report attached (submitted by Mrs Cavell).

g) **Parish Council** – report attached (submitted by Chair of Parish Council).

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____

h) **Ringstead Woodland, Gardens and Walks Group** – Mr Brock gave an update on the work of the Group, who had cleared an area forming part of the dell and were planning to install a bench in the area. There had been some maintenance to the trees obscuring the view over the Chalk Pit and more work was planned in this area. In response to a question Mr Brock confirmed that the tree planted to commemorate the King's Coronation was doing very well, protection had been provided to help prevent damage by deer. The Chair thanked Mr Brock and his Group for the work undertaken in maintaining the Chalk Pit.

4. **Guest Speaker**

The Chair welcomed Mr Bower who had considerable experience of preparing and implementing Neighbourhood Plans, having been a Clerk of Snettisham Parish Council and currently Clerk at Brancaster Parish Council.

Mr Bower set out the legal basis of a Neighbourhood Plan and that it had to be considered, along with national policies and the Borough's own Local Plan policies, if approved at a referendum. Although a Neighbourhood Plan couldn't stop development, Mr Bower advised that policies in the Plan could assist in shaping the design of any new developments, with policies also ensuring that local views are protected and spaces around developments have adequate landscaping and parking provision.

One of the most important financial aspects of an approved Plan is that benefit for the parish from the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from any new building development increased from 15% to 25%. These resources were available for the local community to support infrastructure and other local projects. Mr Bower asked what CIL contribution the Parish Council had received and the Clerk advised that it was £9,900 in 2023/24. Mr Bower suggested that if an approved Plan were in place that figure would have been nearly £4,000 higher.

In his experience at Snettisham Parish Council where the Plan was prepared with little external support, Mr Bower, commended the Borough Council who he had found extremely helpful in suggesting amendments to policies.

Mr Bower spoke about the role of the Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate to independently assess a Plan prior to a referendum. Mr Bower cautioned that the Council seek advice from other local Council's about their experiences, as inspectors in some parishes had caused significant delays in the process. Mr Bower advised that the Council could suggest an inspector of their own choice.

In terms of external funding to support the process, particularly from Locality Mr Bower advised that the window for submitting bids was very narrow.

Although a Council couldn't actively campaign for the referendum, Mr Bower advised that voting should be encouraged and that it only required 51% of voters to support a Plan for it to become a legal entity and part of the statutory planning framework.

If approved Mr Bower advised that it was important to monitor how policies were operating. Where, after a period of time it was suggested that a policy might need tweaking or a new policy introduced, Mr Bower's experience was that this didn't always require a further public referendum. A change could be introduced with the approval of the local planning authority.

The Chair thanked Mr Bower for an extremely helpful and insightful presentation on his firsthand experiences of implementing and monitoring Neighbourhood Plans.

The meeting closed at 19:04hrs.

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____

Ringstead Annual Parish Meeting
Reports from Community Groups/Organisations

Chair's Report 2023-24

The Council meets in the Village Hall on the second Monday of the month except for August.

Agendas and minutes are published on the noticeboards and website. Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the meeting, and ten minutes are allowed at every meeting for public questions and participation. Quite often people do attend.

Occasionally our Ward Borough Councillor and County Councillor attend as well.

The Council comprises seven members, elected for a four year term, and a clerk

A parish council's responsibilities are limited to

Managing the Council's finances, which re based on the Council's budget submitted to the Borough Council for a grant, , in the form of a precept, which forms an element in the Council Tax payable on every residential property in the village.

The Council's expenditure comprises employing a Clerk, which the Council is legally required to do, maintaining the parish's assets, comprising the Playing Field equipment, the open spaces, the bus shelter, and the various signs.

The Council monitors matters concerning highways and public footpaths and reports matters requiring attention to the County Council Highways department.

The Council is consulted by the Borough Council on planning applications and may comment on any applications.

The Council considers providing amenities for the benefit of the village, eg seats, dog bins, signs, notice boards

To provide stronger guidelines for future development in the village the Council has for the past five years been working on drafting a **Neighbourhood Development Plan** which has now been submitted to the Borough Council for comment and approval and a further public consultation, and will then, all being well be submitted to an Independent Examiner, who may comment, and must approve the plan before it is submitted to a referendum of voters in the parish. If it is approved by the referendum, it will be adopted as guidance by the Borough Council Planning Department

The Council also nominates the Trustees of the Ringstead Allotment Trust. The Trust is endowed with Ringstead Common, on the Burnham Road and the Downs Chalk Pit. The income from letting the Common to Courtyard Farm Trust, is used for the benefit of the parishioners.

If people have comments or concerns about the village they should raise them with Simon Lee, the Clerk, or a Councillor, Further information can be found on the Parish Council website at ringsteadpc-norfolk.info

Great Ringstead Allotment Charity (Charity No 1103778)

ringsteadallotmentcharity@gmail.com

The aim of The Charity is to apply the income for charitable purposes for the general benefit of the permanent inhabitants of Ringstead, including the prevention or relief of poverty. Also for other charitable purposes including individuals and village organisations.

Great Ringstead Allotment Charity was established in 2014, following the merger of three, smaller village charities. Several small endowments from these charities were combined with the Fuel Allotment of just over 58 acres at Ringstead Common on Burnham Road and the Chalk Pit endowment to provide materials for the repair of roads in Ringstead.

The Charity has 4 Trustees - Tony Best, Bridget Crowfoot, Bill Jacob and Ruth Goulden.

Ringstead Common is rented to Courtyard Farm at agricultural rates. The Chalk Pit is rented to Great Ringstead Parish Council at a peppercorn rent, as a village amenity. A small Wayleave payment is received for power equipment on The Common.

In 2023 a new article was placed in the Village Newsletter detailing the grants available to villagers, and the new e mail address for application. At the end of the year grants were made to 12 villagers. In addition a grant was provided to the Bowls Club for maintenance work to the bowling green. Money previously held in a designated fund for The Ringstead Village Pensioners Annual Lunch was returned to the Lunch organisers.

At the end of 2023 the funds stood at £7353.45. A note for new applications will be included in the September issue of the Village Newsletter

Ringstead Bowls club May 2024

The club has started it's 2024 league season with a draw. The league structure has changed this year which means we will be playing all teams in division one, as well as division two teams so we will experience a higher level of skill and a number of different venues.

We have completed our winter green preparations, which included replacing the boundary edge and scarifying. A big thank you must go out to all the members that helped.

We are still looking for new players. It would be good if these new players lived in the village. If you are interested in having a go at bowling, we will be holding a practice day on Garden Sunday so come along and have a go. You can also contact me direct, and we can see what we can set up for you to have a try.

A big thanks to all our sponsors. with out their support we would struggle to maintain the green or the club.

Roger Pincott

RBC secretary

The Friends of St Andrew's Ringstead

The Friends of St Andrew's Ringstead continue to multiply and we are hugely grateful for all the support we receive and for the contributions from Garden Sunday and the winter bridge event. We have been delighted to underwrite the repairs to the bell which again calls us to Sunday Services.

There is no shortage of projects for FOSAR to consider and prioritise and all help is much appreciated.

Andrew Martin-Smith

Ringstead Carpet Bowls

We've had another successful and enjoyable winter, playing through the cold and wet in the comfort of the village hall. Many of our games are competitive and players are developing their skills to a higher standard, which adds to the excitement. We also manage to make the afternoon a social occasion as well as a sporting one, sometimes extending the tea break to enjoy each other's company. The Christmas party went with a swing, and we discovered a variety of different ways to send the bowls to the other end of the carpet, as well as enjoying delicious food and drink! Our experiment of playing throughout the summer was successful so this will continue, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us on Wednesday afternoon from 2-4. The cost is still a very reasonable £2 and includes a hot drink and a biscuit. Come along and give it a try.

For information contact Mo Covel on 07788 603957 or mo.covel@btinternet.com

Ringstead Village Hall Report 13th May 2024

The Hall was closed between 14th December and 8th January. During that time it was redecorated both internally and externally thanks to grants from BCKL&WN. Thank you to Jane Barnett who pursued these grants, and James Everitt who undertook the redecoration, and to all those who helped clean up before the Hall re-opened. The curtains have been replaced by venetian blinds which have completed the transformation, and the feedback has been very positive!

Unfortunately the attendance for the Race Night held in October was lower than usual, but just over £920 was raised, and then a further £83 at Quiz Night on 12th April. The Open Gardens Committee used the Hall again to serve lunches and teas, and will do so again this June.

The water meter had to be replaced after a leak was discovered in late March which was an unexpected expense. Initially it was assumed to be a pipe leaking, but it turned out to be the meter itself!

At the AGM Steve Ward, one of the original members of the Village Hall Committee, resigned.

The Table Tennis, Carpet Bowls and Making Time groups continue to use the Hall on a regular basis, but it has been decided to advertise locally to try and encourage more bookings!

Parish Report May 2024.

County council's performance and priorities

Norfolk County Council's annual review report and a delivery plan for 2024-25, showing its priorities for this year, has now been published.

I would encourage everyone to read our plan for this year, to be aware of all the work that continues to be done.

You can read the reports at

<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Nrf4%2fUO5zvT574gqsv2FnmkjSVBhu20FeieBFNJVWCVS44BJyV9tZg%3d%3d&rUzwRPF%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNIh225F5QMaQWcTPhwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJyTyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d> .

Highlights of the council's performance over the last year include:

- Agreeing a £600 million-plus devolution deal to bring powers and funding from Westminster to Norfolk
- Spending £1.5 million per day on adult social care, including help for 11,000 people to return home from hospital.
- Securing £49.5 million of Government funding to improve bus services, with an 18 per cent rise in passenger numbers.
- Delivering ultra-fast broadband to more than 6,900 premises, with superfast broadband now covering 97.3 per cent of properties.
- Serving more than 1.8 million library customers.

Key priorities for this year include:

- Delivering the devolution deal and an economic strategy for Norfolk
- Delivering better quality, local and affordable care for children, including more foster carers
- Continuing to deliver supported living housing programmes for adults
- Delivering library hubs, including a range of services, in King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth
- Completing the roll-out of LED streetlighting, to cut costs and carbon emissions

Cabinet has also discussed the start of its budget planning process for next year. The council's current savings target is £44.7 million.

Economy-boosting Local Enterprise Partnership to continue under County Councils

Business support and other economy-boosting services delivered by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are to continue following its integration into Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

Key functions and employees of the LEP transferred to the authorities on 1 April 2024 as part of the Government's devolution process. Its functions include business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes.

Business support will continue to be provided by New Anglia Growth Hub - which delivers the LEP's business growth programme, including the administration of grant schemes.

Major construction and infrastructure projects across Norfolk have received significant funding thanks to the LEP's Growth Deal with Government, which secured £223.5m for the region to 2021. These include the recently opened Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth, the Digi-Tech Factory at City College Norwich, and Productivity East, the centre for engineering, technology and management at the University of East Anglia.

Great Yarmouth's Operations & Maintenance Campus for the offshore industry, and the North Walsham Town Centre improvements were among the shovel-ready schemes for which the LEP secured £32.1m from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

The LEP's work can also be seen in the projects supported via its Growing Places Fund, such as Broadland Food Innovation Centre at the Food Enterprise Park at Honingham.

The economic development team, now working within Norfolk County Council, will be continuing this work following finalisation of Norfolk's Devolution deal.

Details of Norfolk's Climate Plan

A range of initiatives to support Norfolk's climate plan have been revealed, including:

- A pilot to develop a sustainable and viable seaweed industry in Norfolk - the project will work with partners in the Netherlands, already implementing sea farms
- Supporting the development of nature-based solutions to help secure Norfolk's long term water resilience
- Further walking and cycling improvements in places including King's Lynn, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and Dereham
- The Council has released its Pollinator action Plan, designed to enhance pollinators on County farms and roadside verges, as well as helping to inspire wider action across Norfolk.
- This sits within our Local nature recovery strategy. These reports can also be read via the above link.

Andrew Jamieson

County Councillor for North Coast

Deputy Leader and Member for Finance at Norfolk County Council.