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WENDLING PARISH COUNCIL

 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE

 WENDLING METHODIST CHURCH

ON THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.

**Present:**- Cllr S Warwick, Cllr M Olley, Cllr C Foster, Cllr S Knight

 and Cllr D Kemble

**Others Present:**- 4 electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

**1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence.**

Cllr Warwick welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jennifer Hunt and Cllr James Taylor Roberts and these were accepted.

County Cllr M Kiddle-Morris and Dist. Cllr R Atterwill also sent apologies.

**2. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda.**

There were no Interests declared.

**3. To confirm and accept minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2025.**

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Warwick proposed the minutes of 23rd January be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Kemble and carried.

**4. To discuss any matters from the minutes of January (not on the agenda).**

There were no matters to discuss.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

Over the bridge there were a number of reflectors that were knocked down. They have been replaced but it is likely that they will be damaged again. If this happens again then the Parish Council will request that Highways replace them with stronger ones.

**5. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.**

A donation request from the charity Support Our Military Veterans had been received. They have been sent a donation in the past, so one will not be sent at this time.

**6. To discuss any Planning Issues.**

3PL/2024/0866/FMIN Land off Station Road, new tractor shed. This planning application has been refused.

**7. To discuss any Highways Matters.**

The sign near Hulver Street has been replaced. The pot holes in Abbey Close were filled in but they all need filling in again and this situation has been reported.

**8. To receive a progress report on the Solar Farm Project.**

Cllr Olley attended a meeting recently regarding this project and there were many representatives there from other Parish Councils. Cllr Olley felt it was a positive meeting. The main issue is the size and access is going to be a problem and the increase in traffic.

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Many people thought the prices of houses will drop and tourism could be affected. Apart from Wendling, there are six other Parish Councils that were against it. Four had strong objectives to over development. One Parish Council was in favour of it. Cllr Olley thought that as it could be expanded, it could have detrimental effects on the village. He felt the village should not support this project. There will be no funds until about 2035 – 2040 and it is possible the amount of money will only be about £2,000.00. Breckland Council will be looking for more land for housing. South Norfolk is having a building fiasco at the moment. The next meeting regarding the Solar Farm is at the end of May or early June. People can vote against this or for it. There were 15 Parish Councils at the last meeting. Cllr Olley wanted to vote against it as it stands at the moment. As far as Wendling Parish Councillors are concerned, they are all against the plans as they are so far. Eighteen people were against it at the meeting. Cllr Olley will inform people when the next meeting is taking place. He was thanked for going to represent Wendling Parish Council at the meeting.

**9. To receive an update from Cllr Olley on a quote for repainting the village sign.**

The sign on Station Road is a bit grubby. Cllr Olley approached the company who made it to get a price for cleaning it and they quoted £1,800.00 to repaint it. It has been up for about 10 years. He thought it would be better for the Parish Council to repaint it. For the moment he will clean it.

**10. To authorise financial payments.**

Cllr Olley spoke about the opportunity of a theatrical group using the Methodist Church and eventually performing entertainment. He proposed that the Parish Council supports the organisation to help ‘get the idea off the ground’. Cllr Warwick proposed £180.00 be donated to cover the hiring costs, seconded by Cllr Knight and carried.

Cllr Olley proposed the following financial payments be authorised, seconded by Cllr Foster and carried.

Clerk’s net salary for Feb./March £253.60 HMRC tax for Feb./March £63.20

Clerk’s expenses for Feb./March £48.48

Donation of £20.00 to Wendling Methodist Church (Easter Egg Hunt Event)

Norfolk Parish Training & Support Subs. £60.00

Donation of £180.00 to Wendling Methodist Church.

Litter Picking Equipment £39.27

C Foster £76.25 (easter eggs for the Village Event)

**11. To receive a financial update from the Clerk.**

The financial update had been circulated and no one had any questions regarding the document.

**12. To receive an update on the cleaning of Wendling Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.**

Cllr Warwick had had a visit from Rev’d Tim Featherstone, who lives in Whinburgh. He is responsible for 12 churches. He took the Church key away and he also looked around the Church. He does not think the Church can be left to become ruined. The Church is going to be cleaned soon and Cllr Warwick will be visited by the Rural Dean. The Parish Council will fund the upkeep of the churchyard.

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Rev’d Julia Hewson is willing to get involved as well. There are no war graves at the Church but there are some at Swanton Morley Church graveyard and they are tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**13. To discuss the proposed Easter Events in the village.**

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Cllr Foster intends to organise a colouring competition as well. As refreshments will be served at the Methodist Church, she requested a donation of £20.00 be given to the Church and the Parish Council agreed to this.

The Village Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 19th April between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. At the beginning people will congregate at the Wendling Methodist Church.

**14. To discuss the clothing and paper bins.**

Both of the above bins have been removed. The situation was becoming difficult as several telephone calls had to be made before the paper bank was emptied. The Salvation Army clothing bin was only creating a few pounds in money every month. People were leaving broken toys by the bin, which had to be dealt with, so the decision was made to have that bin removed, along with the paper bank.

**15. To discuss the Village Pond.**

Cllr Warwick received a telephone call from Breckland Council and that personthought that the Parish Council was going to do something with the pond, but this is not acceptable unless permission from Breckland Council is obtained The land around the pond belongs to Breckland Council and the land around the pond is leased to Breckland Council. The Parish Council can do work around the pond but it should be done by a proper contractor. Where the entrance is it has to be trimmed right back and the steps are dangerous. The pond needs cleaning. Cllr Warwick has received a rough estimate for cleaning it and the cost is £4,500.00. Cllr Warwick is going to speak to Breckland Council to seek permission.

**16. To receive items for the next agenda.**

To adopt the end of year accounts.

To elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year

**17. To set dates, times and venues of the meetings for the remainder of 2025.**

The dates of the meetings for the remainder of the year are as follows:-

Thursday May 22nd at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This meeting will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Village Meeting.

Thursday July 17th at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Thursday September 18th at 7.30 p.m. in the Villa Hall.

Thursday November 6th at 7.00 p.m. in Wendling Methodist Church

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**18. To confirm date, time and venue of the May 2025 meeting.**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This meeting will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish Meeting.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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Chairman Date