

**The Minutes of Pentney Parish Council Meeting held on 29 January 2025 at
7.00pm at The Village Hall, Pentney**

Present: **Cllr R Littlehailes (Chair)** **Cllr M Parker** **Cllr K Harvey**
 Cllr L Rons **Cllr B Howlett** **Cllr C Dallas.**

Also in Attendance: Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk Cllr Moriarty and 1 members of the public.

- 1. To consider acceptance of apologies for absence.**
It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr P Wells
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations by Councillors in any of the Agenda Items listed.**
None received.
- 3. Adjournment of Meeting to allow for public questions. (15 mins max 5 mins per Speaker.)**

No questions were asked.

4. Reports

4.1 County Councillor. Cllr Moriarty advised that he had sent a report (Please see attached). Cllr Moriarty explained about the devolution proposal regarding Norfolk and Suffolk together and one elected mayor. Cllr Moriarty advised that King's Lynn & West Norfolk are hoping to join forces with Breckland and North Norfolk which would give the required numbers. The County Council elections may well be cancelled and put off for two years, whilst the deal is being achieved. On a positive front the Borough Council have worked their budget so hopefully money can be put in reserves rather than using reserves. This will mean increases in fees and a council tax of £4.50/£5.00 increase.

Cllr Moriarty advised that the recent report in the Eastern Daily Press regarding Pentney Woods and a Code of Conduct Complaint. This is being taken forward currently. There is also a further appeal regarding the Asset of Community Value. The developer also has six months to appeal the planning decision but the Code of Conduct Complaint should not change the outcome of the Borough Council as it was unanimously agreed by the whole committee.

The Chair thanked Cllr Moriarty for his report.

4.2 Borough Councillor

Cllr Devulapalli had sent her apologies as she cannot make the meeting as she has a Borough Council Budget meeting.

4.3 Neighbourhood Planning including agreement to continue the services of the Consultant to Submission Stage.

Cllr Littlehailes advised that a date needed to be set for another working party.

4.4 Speed Awareness Report

The Co-ordinator was not able to attend but had updated the Council. Cllr Rons advised that the max speed recorded was 55mph .

Cllr Rons reminded the council for the need to replace the co-ordinator who has decided to step down as from the 31 March. **It was resolved for the Clerk to get an advert in the Nar Valley News.**

5. Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18 December 2024

- 5.1 To consider and approve the minutes. **It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record after the following amendment.** Within councillor Devulapalli's report. It should read between Councils and Districts not Parish Councils with regards to the devolution deal.

6. To consider matters arising from the minutes of 18 December 2024

- a) Council to consider any matters arising from the minutes that are not on the agenda. All items on the agenda.
- b) Council to review action points from the last meeting.

Cllr Littlehailes

- Look at playground lease. Cllr Littlehailes was unable to complete but agreed to before the next meeting.

Clerk

- Arrange the Electricity for the playing field site by unmetered supply. The Clerk advised that she was just waiting for a revised quote.
- Get laptop to Cllr Rons The Clerk has let Cllr Rons access before tonight's meeting.
- Claim Groundworks/Locality regarding N/Plan monies. The Clerk advised that she had tried to undertake and had ended up filling in a new grant form only to find that we were not eligible. The Clerk agreed to go back to the original person and advise that we only want the balance of the grant money already awarded.
- Chase Nurture re terms The Clerk advised that they had agreed to invoicing for any extra work. Cllr Rons advised that she was having a terrible time trying to get them to undertake the works promised.
- Inform Borough Council re Precept **Completed**
- Speak with Royal British Legion re Plaque Completed and they have offered a small plaque as they do not have any of our size remaining.
- Purchase 365 business after Cllr Rons has looked at re supported etc. The Clerk to achieve now everything has been checked.
- Look into different copies for Safeguarding Policy. The Clerk advised that the only ones coming up were the NALC version she had already circulated. **It was resolved for the Clerk to use AI and attempt to get another version.**

- Write re correspondence. **Completed.**
- Make Planning Comments **Completed.**

7. Finance

- Monthly Accounts for Payment. (please see attached payment sheet)
Cllr Rons advised that there were further payments for £6.00 for the bank fees and £25.99 for broadband last month. **It was resolved for the payments to be made.**
- Money received None received. The Clerk advised that she had some recycling credit and VAT to recover.
- Bank Rec for November/December 2024. These had been sent with the pack and all agreed.
- Bus Shelter quotes. The Clerk asked if the ivy had been removed so that a proper quote for the pointing up could take place. Cllr Littlehales said that the weather was not great and this had not been undertaken. This to be undertaken when the weather is better as it was not the right time to point up and paint currently. **It was resolved for this item to be placed on the April agenda.**

8. Village Matters

- Council to receive update on any River Swan issues.
Cllr Parker advised that he had not been able to check but had not heard there was any issues.
- Churchyard Tree Plaque
The Clerk had previously advised that a smaller plaque was being offered as they did not have any of the same size in stock.

10. Planning Applications and Determinations:

Applications:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 24/02053/F | Application for Converting existing garage to office use, plant room and boutique accommodation comprising 2 x 1 bedroom suites. The proposal involves replacing existing garage wall and roof. 2 New EV charging Bays. New Plant Room. Minor repair to existing wall Pentney Abbey, Abbey Road, Pentney. It was resolved to recommend approval. |
| 24/02054/LB | Listed Building Application for Converting existing garage to office use, plant room and boutique accommodation comprising 2 x 1 bedroom suites. The proposal involves replacing existing garage wall and roof. 2 New EV charging Bays. New Plant Room. Minor repair to existing wall Pentney Abbey, Abbey Road, Pentney. It was resolved to recommend approval. |
| 24/02189/F | Application for Construction of a single storey garden room swim spa building. 52 Pentney Lakes Common Road Pentney. It was resolved to recommend refusal on environmental grounds as chlorine would still be going into the lake. |

23/02296/F Application for variation of condition 2 and 3 of planning consent 21/00100/F Proposal for single storey extensions to include dressing room, kitchen extension and en-suite extension in addition to replacing existing container storage area with purpose built 4 bay garage/boat shed with storage area above at 8 Abbey Lake Close, Pentney. **It was resolved to recommend refusal as before, this is retrospective as is in place without permission currently.**

Determinations:

24/01877/F Application for Replacement Boat Shed at Waterside Lodge at 36 Pentney Lakes Common Road Pentney **Granted**

21/02392/OM Outline application for new warehousing, a new dwelling house, a wildlife and tourism lake with holiday lodges, nature reserve and associated accesses and facilities, installation of a new sluice gate to assist and ease flooding in Pentney at Oakland Gardens Main Road Pentney **Granted.**

24/01902/F Application for Construction of proposed annex accommodation for a family member at Cedar Wood Lodge, Back Road, Pentney. **Granted.**

12. Governance

a) Training.

No training requirement currently.

b) Safeguarding Policy

It was resolved for Clerk to try and find another policy using AI.

13 To receive an update on playing field equipment.

a) Playground Grants

The Clerk advised that they were still waiting to hear from the Awards for All Grant. **It was resolved for the Clerk to chase.**

b) Electricity to the Field – De-Fib Please see action report

14. Correspondence

All had been circulated.

15. Items for Next Agenda.

Bike Racks the Clerk still needed photos of the area to claim the grant.

16 The date of the next Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

ACTION LIST

Cllr Littlehales

- Look at playground lease.

Clerk

- Arrange the Electricity for the playing field site by unmetered supply.
- Claim Groundworks/Locality regarding N/Plan monies.
- Purchase 365 business
- Get AI version of Safeguarding Policy.
- Put advert in the Nar Valley News re Speed Awareness Co-Ordinator
- Bus Shelter be placed on the April Agenda
- Check out Allotment Payments
- Chase playground grant
- Make Planning Comments

Pentney Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST

8 February 2025 (2024-2025)

			Cheque No	Description	Supplier				
72	4010 PAYE	29/01/2025	Unity	PAYE	HMRC	X	97.40		97.40
73	4000 - Staff Wages	29/01/2025	Unity	Clerks Salary	Sarah Bristow	X	389.32		389.32
74	1070 Bank Charges Unity	29/01/2025	Unity	Bank Commission	Unity Bank	X	6.00		6.00
75	1025 Subscriptions	29/01/2025	Unity	Broadband	Plusnet	S	21.66	4.33	25.99
76	1035 Room Hire	29/01/2025	Unity	Room Hire	Pentney Parish Rooms	Z	60.00		60.00
77	1115 Dog Bin Emptying	29/01/2025	Unity	Dog Bin Emptying	Borough Council of	S	815.36	163.07	978.43
78	1070 Bank Charges Unity	26/02/2025	Unity	Bank Commission	Unity Bank	X	6.00		6.00
Total							1,395.74	167.40	1,563.14

New Year. 2025 will see interesting times in terms of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. None of this will impact directly on Parish Councils but I will have more to report at your next meeting.

In the interim I can report there is more money to improve local bus services in Norfolk. Following NCC's previous bid and subsequent award by the Department for Transport (DfT) of £49.5m for the 3 year period 2022-2025, where they were only one of 36 Council's nationally to receive this funding and Norfolk's award was the highest of any non-metropolitan authority, we have now received a further allocation of £15.9m for 2025-2026 to improve local bus transport. The funding allocation is split £7.4m capital and £8.5m revenue. With the original allocation NCC worked closely with bus operators and delivered:

- Introduced new services, added evening and Sunday services and increased frequency of many bus routes around the county;**
- Built new improved waiting areas – gold stops and travel hubs;**
- Introduced more real-time information screens at stops and added a QR board at every stop which can be scanned to show scheduled and real-time information;**
- Lowered fares with a £1.50 fare cap in King's Lynn, Thetford and Gt Yarmouth and with a 25% discount on weekly, monthly and group tickets;**
- Introduced bus priority measures like bus lanes and junction improvements.**

All of the above, combined with other elements such as Transforming Cities delivery, delivery of 70 Zero Emission buses, and the DfT's bus fare caps, has achieved a 16% increase in passenger journeys over the last year in Norfolk and has increased passenger satisfaction to 87% (from 78% in 2023).

This further £15.9m allocation allows NCC to do more, being mindful that it is only a year's allocation so anything would need to be delivered by March 2026 and any revenue funded initiatives like new bus services would either need to be financially sustainable after March 2026 or would need to end (unless other funding can be found from elsewhere).

Along with working closely with the bus operators through our existing Enhanced Partnership, NCC are also keen to seek your views on what you see as priorities for the people of Norfolk in terms of encouraging them to use our local bus services and to make it easy for them to do so – is it evening services, better waiting areas, more bus priority measures for example? NCC doesn't promise that everything requested can be delivered but your ideas will help build NCC's delivery plan that needs to go to the DfT by the end of March 2025.

All ideas to come back to niki.park@norfolk.gov.uk by the end of January 2025 please. Thank you.

**County Councillor Jim Moriarty
Gayton and Nar Valley - Norfolk County Council**