

**The Minutes of Pentney Parish Council Meeting held on 26 February 2025 at
7.20pm at The Village Hall, Pentney**

Present: Cllr R Littlehales (Chair) Cllr K Harvey
Cllr L Rons

Also in Attendance: Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk Cllr Moriarty and 2 members of the public.

- 1. To consider acceptance of apologies for absence.**
It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr P Wells, Cllr C Dallas, Cllr M Parker and Cllr B Howlett.
- 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.)**

Planning

A Parishioner was surprised to see a planning application and felt that it went against the Neighbourhood Plan that the Council were currently working on. Cllr Littlehales advised that the Neighbourhood Plan did not mean that no development can happen as no locations are being planned within the current plan. The Parishioner was concerned that the applicant was a Parish Councillor who had hosted meetings regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

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. Is all the discussion at the moment a County Plan has to be put together for proposal at the end of March and all the details to Government by September which does not give long. The Boundary Commission also need to undertake necessary work after this, and the County Council elections have been put back until May 2027.

Cllr Moriarty advised that there is a Government Review regarding CIL bigger sums being mentioned for Road, etc and this is very much work in progress.

Cllr Moriarty advised about the Borough Council Local Plan and that he had written a paper to explain in more friendly detail to the one recently received. Cllr Moriarty advised that the Borough Council Local Plan has been found to be "Sound" as all the legal requirements have been achieved it is now down to the Borough Council to adopt and then start on the next Local Plan. The plan outlines the number of homes that need to be built within the Borough and as it can now be adopted it will mean that we do not

have to undertake the Governments Allocation. It also allows for impact on the Environment, and also taking into account economic growth, transport and communities. The plan should be adopted at the meeting on the 27 March.

The Chair thanked Cllr Moriarty for his report.

4.2 Borough Councillor

Cllr Devulapalli had sent her apologies as she cannot make the meeting.

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

Cllr Littlehales advised that she needs to speak with the Consultant regarding the work that needs to be undertaken.

4.4 Speed Awareness Report

The Co-ordinator handed round the month's reports. The SAMS2 have been located on Pentney Land and Narborough Road. There were only 2% speeders in Narborough Road and 3% on Pentney Lane. The average speed on both was 32.5. 8000 vehicles passed in a single direction. The sign outside Penrith is not safe to use.

Cllr Rons advised that the advert to replace the co-ordinator has been put in the magazine, but no one has come forward as yet. The co-ordinator agreed to continue. The Chair thanked him for his report.

5. Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 29 January 2025

5.1 To consider and approve the minutes. It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record

6. To consider matters arising from the minutes of 29 January 2025.

- 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 Littlehales

- Look at the playground lease. Cllr Littlehales 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 and believes they will wait and issue after this financial year because there is bound to be a price increase.
- Claim Groundworks/Locality regarding N/Plan monies. The Clerk advised that she needed to ring up and hopefully speak to the gentleman she originally spoke to as currently she is going round the houses and getting nowhere.
- Purchase 365 business **Completed.**

- Get AI version of Safeguarding Policy. **Complete but not with AI**
- Put an advert in the Nar Valley News re Speed Awareness Co-Ordinator- **Completed.**
- Bus Shelter be placed on the April Agenda
- Check out Allotment Payments- **Completed** Cllr Rons asked why it is showing outstanding on Scribe. **The Clerk to investigate this.**
- Chase playground grant. **Grant awarded.**
- Make Planning Comments. **Completed.**

7. Finance

- Monthly Accounts for Payment. (please see attached payment sheet)
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 come in but not received as yet.
- Bank Rec for January 2025. This had been sent and was agreed. Cllr Rons asked about the £1596.25 which was outstanding on the all-bank report. **It was resolved for the Clerk to check this out, but felt that it might be VAT.**

8. Village Matters

- Council to receive update on any River Swan issues.
Nothing to report. **It was resolved for this item to come off the agenda.**
- Churchyard Tree Plaque
The Clerk had agreed to the smaller plaque but had not been received.

9. Planning Applications and Determinations:

Applications:

- 24/00235/O Outline Application for Outline application for the approval of 8 residential dwellings Land South of Narborough Road Pentney. After a lengthy discussion **It was resolved that due to the number of Councillors who had sent their apologies this item to be deferred to another meeting. Possibly 11 March at 7.00pm.** Cllr Moriarty advised that he would look into whether the first development was achieved when the Borough Council did not have its land supply in place.

Determinations:

- 21/02392/OM Application for 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**
- 24/01877/F Application for Replacement Boat Shed at Waterside Lodge at 36 Pentney Lakes Common Road Pentney **Granted**

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. - **Withdrawn**

24/02054/F 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. – **Withdrawn**

10. Governance

a) Training.

No training requirement currently.

b) Safeguarding Policy

It was resolved for this item to be deferred until more Councillors are present.

11 To receive an update on playing field equipment.

a) Playground Grants

The Clerk advised that all the money is now in place. It was a matter of cashflow especially with the Borough Council now paying the precept in two instalments. Cllr Littlehales said that this needs to be carefully project managed. A proforma contact from the supplier needs to be sorted and there needs to be an on-site meeting with the supplier. **It was resolved for the Clerk to arrange a date with the Supplier hopefully for Saturday 15 march at 2.30pm.**

b) Electricity to the Field – De-Fib This item to be removed as the playground needs to be installed and in place before another project started.

12. Correspondence

All had been circulated.

13. Items for Next Agenda.

Bike Racks

14 The date of the next Parish Council meeting.

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

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

ACTION LIST

Cllr Littlehales

- Look at the playground lease.

Clerk

- Arrange the Electricity for the playing field site by unmetered supply.
- Claim Groundworks/Locality regarding N/Plan monies.
- Bus Shelter be placed on the April Agenda
- Check out outstanding amount on all bank, bank reconciliation.
- Organise Playground Meeting
- Get Planning Agenda out re 21/02392/OM

Pentney Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST

9 March 2025 (2024-2025)

			Cheque No	Description	Supplier				
79	1075	Bank	28/02/2025	Barclays Current	Bank Commission	Barclays Bank	X	8.50	8.50
80	1025	Subscriptions	28/02/2025	Unity	SLCC SUBS	SLCC	E	81.70	81.70
81	4010	PAYE	26/02/2025	Unity	PAYE	HMRC	X	97.40	97.40
82	4000	- Staff Wages	26/02/2025	Unity	Clerks Salary	Sarah Bristow	X	389.52	389.52
83	1070	Bank Charges Unity	26/02/2025	Unity	Bank Commission	Unity Bank	X	6.00	6.00
84	1025	Subscriptions	26/02/2025	Unity	Broadband	Plusnet	S	21.66	4.33 25.99
85	1040	Office	26/02/2025	Unity	Scan Disks	Amazon	S	12.06	2.41 14.47
86	1040	Office	26/02/2025	Unity	Microsoft 365	Microsoft	S	115.20	23.04 138.24
Total								732.04	29.78 761.82

Well, it's fair to say that 'devolution deals' and 'Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)' dominate the chat at County Hall. But what we don't know still far outweighs what we do know.

Devolution consultation

The 'devo deal' for Norfolk will create a new directly elected Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk – technically known as a 'Mayoral Combined Authority'. What that means is that we all get to vote on who the Mayor will be and their work will be shared by appointed representatives from the 'top tier councils' in Norfolk and Suffolk. For now those top tier authorities are Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils. If LGR goes ahead they will be the new unitary councils.

The Mayor will have powers over various strategic issues like transport planning and the allocation of housing that are currently with the government. You can read more and have your say on the plans through this

link: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/38871/Norfolk-devolution-and-local-government-reform-updates>

Local Government Reorganisation

Alongside the devolution deal there is an expectation from the government that Norfolk and Suffolk will come up with a new structure for local government. This will replace existing County and District Councils with a single tier of councils across the area.

The government says it expects the new councils to have a population of at least 500,000 people. Since the population of Norfolk is just under 1 million and Suffolk is about 700,000, that would mean two (or at most three) councils. Norfolk County Council favours two councils – one for Norfolk and one for Suffolk.

The District Councils across Norfolk are working together to come up with an alternative plan. Norwich (and the Labour Party) are hoping they can persuade the government to accept councils with less than 500,000 population so that a Norwich (or Greater Norwich) council can be made a Unitary council. Initial proposals have to be with the government by 31 March. Final proposals have to be with the government by September.

The Deputy Prime Minister has said in Parliament that the County Council elections (originally to be this May) will be postponed for one year. However, she also said the reason for scrapping the elections was to avoid the expense of holding elections for councils that will cease to exist. Problem is, no one expects the government to be ready to hold elections for the new councils within a year so either they will have to extend the term of County Councillors by two years or they will have to hold elections for a council that will cease to exist 12 months later.

So, anyway, things will be a little bit clearer by 21st March and a little bit more clear by September. My hope is that things move quickly and that we have a unitary council for our area that is smaller than Norfolk County Council so that we can all feel that the issues we care about are dealt with by a council that recognises who we are and where we live. I also hope the councillors that are elected have the idea and ambition to create councils that work really well for local people.

Debt

It's unfortunate that media stories circulated that LGR would land North Norfolk residents with a share of the County Council's debt. The question has been asked about this in the County Council's Scrutiny Committee and the official in charge of the budget confirmed my assumption: that the debt is rather like mortgage debt, not credit card debt. So, although it is a lot of money it is backed by assets which will transfer to the new councils along with the debt.

The County Council's budget

The County Council continues to have to save large amounts of money from its budget in part because of growing demand for services and cuts to government funding. At the 'Scrutiny Committee' where we examined the budget I asked what success the council had had in making savings in the past (as against just being bailed out by the government which happens most years). It was asked what they are going to do about needing to save hundreds of millions of £ in the next five years too. We didn't get answers to either question but will keep asking. For information, the key points from the council's budget are:

Key facts and figures from Norfolk County Council Budget

- **Gross budget:** Norfolk County Council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools).
 - We spend over £700 million in Adult Social Care, £367m in Children's Services (non-schools), £283m in Infrastructure, £44m in Communities and Environment and £46m in Fire.
- **Net Budget:** The council has a net budget for 2025-26 of £572m. This is the amount we raise in council tax to fund the services we provide.
- **Budget growth:** The 2025-26 budget provides growth of £121m, including
 - £31m of inflationary pressures
 - £35m Legislative pressures (including increase in National Living Wage) and the cost of increased Employers National Insurance
 - £15m demand and demographic pressures
 - Budget growth of over £25m to fund recurrent 2024-25 overspends in Adult and Children's Services.
- **Funding and savings:** At the same time as £121m cost pressures, funding has only increased by £32m. Government has abolished Rural Services Delivery Grant and diverted funding from rural areas to metropolitan areas. To balance the position, the 2025-26 budget includes savings of £45m.
- **Council tax:** For 2025-26, an increase of 4.99%, including an increase of 3% for general council tax, and 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.
 - A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or approximately £34 a week, for county council services in 2025-26.

Norfolk County Council 2025-26 council tax bands:

- A - £1,170.42**
- B - £1,365.49**
- C - £1,560.56**
- D - £1,755.63**
- E - £2,145.77**

F - £2,535.91
G - £2,926.05
H - £3,511.26

Additional hazardous waste days at Norfolk's recycling centres

The county council's agreed budget includes money to hold an extra series of household hazardous waste events.

The events will take place at seven recycling centres this spring and are in addition to the usual events which take place in the autumn.

Customers must use the [recycling centre booking system](#) to attend the free of charge events, which will be held throughout April and May 2025. Bookings are expected to open a week before each event.

The spring hazardous waste events will be held on:

4 and 5 April at King's Lynn

11 and 12 April at Dereham

25 and 26 April at Thetford

2 and 3 May at Norwich North

9 and 10 May at Hempton

16 and 17 May at Caister

23 and 24 May at Norwich South

A list of what can be disposed of at the hazardous waste days can be found [here](#).

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