

**Minutes of the Meeting of Sustead, Bessingham & Metton Parish Council  
Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7pm  
At the Village Hall, Sustead.**

**PRESENT:** Mr. A Fell (Chairman)  
Mr. A Depoel Wood  
Ms. P Howell  
Mr. M Blyth  
Ms. M Bowland  
Mrs. A Williams  
Mr. E Vardy (Norfolk County Councillor)  
Mrs. Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)  
No members of the public were present.

**23/31. Apologies:** None.

**23/32. Declarations of interest and dispensations to speak:** None.

**23/33. The Minutes of the last meeting:** Minutes from the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were agreed and signed off as a true record.

**23/34. To note any matters arising, for information only:** The Clerk is tryinh to obtain permission to erect a noticeboard in the church car park in Metton.

**23/35. To consider co-option of a new Councillor:** No-one has come forward. This will remain as a standing item until the vacancy is filled.

**23/36. To receive reports:**

**Eric Vardy, County Councillor:** County Cllr Vardy emailed a report prior to the meeting. This covered nature recovery, reducing food waste, and the future of adult social care. County Cllr Vardy has a budget available for traffic safety and environmental matters. This can cover tree and flower planting. County Cllr Vardy asked what is happening regarding the flooding in the village. This has not been resolved. Highways feel this is an issue due to the septic tanks in properties in the village, not the drainage.

*County Cllr Vardy left at 7:17pm.*

**John Toye, District Councillor:** District Cllr Toye had sent his apologies in advance of the meeting.

**23/37. To suspend the meeting to allow for public comment on agenda items:** None.

**23/38. Financial matters:**

**(i) To approve the current financial position:** The cash book and bank reconciliation were emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was duly approved.

**(ii) To approve payments:**

£70.00	NALC – annual website fee
£260.00	K Cotgrove – Aug salary
£65.00	HMRC – Aug tax
£20.00	Sustead Village Hall – hall hire – it was agreed that this is not necessary, as the Parish Council own the Hall.

**23/39. Planning Matters:**

**(i) To note applications received between meetings (for information only):** PF/23/1446. Scan Clear, North Barningham Road, Bessingham. PC no comment.

**23/40. Highways matters:**

**(i) To consider further action regarding a property using a passing place for parking:** NCC Highways confirmed that there has been no stopping up order on the passing place, so it should not be used by the property. It is dangerous as it is on a bend. A white van also regularly parks on another passing place too. The Clerk will contact Highways to report both properties.

**23/41. To update on the Village Hall and approve any actions necessary:** The Name of the hall has been changed with North Norfolk District Council to 'The Three Villages Hall'. Quotes have been obtained for external decoration to the hall. Updates will be sent out to residents to let them know what is happening to the hall. A Williams has purchased some crockery. The Parish Council is able to use approximately £1900 from the Parish Council savings account, but were advised not to use the current account. It was agreed to make the £1900 available to purchase furniture etc. A Williams will try to obtain grant funding for the external decorating.

**23/42. To consider action to reduce dog fouling in the village and surrounding footpaths:** Instances have increased recently. Dog waste bins are not a desirable option. It was agreed that the Clerk will put notices in the noticeboards to remind people of their responsibilities. Signs will be put at the footpaths worst affected.

**23/43. To consider requests by current and prospective MPs to attend a Parish Council meeting:** The Clerk has received requests from Duncan Baker and Steffan Aquarone to attend a Parish Council meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk will write to decline their requests, as the Parish Council is non-political.

**23/44. Correspondence:**

**(i) Norfolk County Council Highways invitation to bid for Parish Partnership funding:** A new found of funding is now open. Councillors will consider  
**(ii) Neighbourhood Watch questionnaire:** Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.  
**(iii) Parish Rangers upcoming visit:** A list was emailed to the Clerk prior to the meeting. However, some items are not suitable for the Parish Rangers, so the Clerk will arrange a site meeting with the Highways Engineer for a number of road issues.

**23/45. Any other business, for information:** A bottle banks was suggested at the Village Hall. The Clerk will make enquiries as to costs and possible financial benefits.  
The Green was discussed. The County Council cut it currently, and parking can be an issue. It was discussed whether to cut it regularly or to rewild it. It was agreed to keep it cut, as it would look more pleasant. P Howells will speak to the resident who parks there, to ask them not to encroach further onto the Green, and ask if they might be able to mow the green.

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**23/46. Date of next meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7pm, at the Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:22pm.

Signed

Date