

**Minutes of the Meeting of Sustead, Bessingham & Metton Parish Council
Held on Monday 13th May 2024, at 7pm
At Hanworth Memorial Hall.**

PRESENT: Mr. A Fell (Chairman)
Ms. P Howell
Mr. M Blyth
Mrs. A Williams
Ms. M Bowland
Dr. A Parker
Mrs. Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)
District Cllr John Toye
8 members of the public were present.

24/33. Apologies: Apologies were accepted for Alan Depoel-Wood.

24/34. Declarations of interest and dispensations to speak: None.

24/35. The Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes from the meeting held on 13th May 2024 were agreed and signed off as a true record.

24/36. To receive reports:

Eric Vardy, County Councillor: County Cllr Vardy had sent his apologies prior to the meeting. He had emailed a report to Councillors. Disappointment was expressed regarding the appointment system brought in by the County Council, and County Cllr Vardy's response to the Parish Council's questions. There are concerns that fly tipping will increase as a result. District Cllr Toye advised that the District Council are monitoring fly tipping.

John Toye, District Councillor: District Cllr Toye reported that the planning service at NNDC is rated as a platinum service. The new Local Plan has been considered by the planning inspector with some suggestions. District Cllr Toye encouraged Councillors to attend the SNAP meetings, to help influence police priorities. 5th September at 5pm at the NNDC offices. The next PosiviTea meeting is on 15th August in North Walsham.

24/37. To suspend the meeting to allow for public comment on agenda items: A Parishioner asked what the Parish Council intend to do about the booking system at the recycling centres. The Parish Council will email to complain, and members of the public are encouraged to write too. The Clerk will get the best email address to complain to, and will contact NALC to ask them to publicise it.

A member of the public advised that the engineers came today to clear the drains. They did not appear to know what work needed to be done, and what has already been carried out. Some of the road has still not been cleared properly. Any highways issues can be reported at www.norfolk.gov.uk/39652 Everyone is encouraged to report issues directly to the County Council. The Clerk will check with the Highways Engineer to see if the drain problem has been rectified.

24/38. The Three Villages Hall

- (i) To update on work carried out, and to receive the current financial position:** There was a successful fundraiser last Friday, which raised just over £350. There was a meeting with Catherine Wedge-Clark, who advised about an available fund. There is a significant fund available. The electricity, flooring and a window all need work. This work will cost £28,000, which will need matched funding. The deadline for this is 31st December. The Parish Council will need to find £7800 which will not be refunded, and £10,000 which will. The Council is asked if it can pay £7800, and then fundraising will take place to replace this. It will be for approx. four or five months. There is £376 left in the ringfenced hall fund. A VAT rebate has been applied for, £1800 of which will go back into the village hall fund. Following discussion, it was agreed to apply for the grant, and to borrow the money from the current account. (proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bowland, all agreed).
- (ii) To consider painting quotes:** Three quotes have been received. One can start immediately. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote for £1800, £900 of which will be payable immediately.

24/39. 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. Cllr Williams will chase Eon to see why the tariff has not been updated.

(ii) To approve payments: The following payments were agreed, and cheques were signed:

E.on – electric DD May	£72.00
Anglian Water – June water DD	£17.31
E,on – electric DD July	£143.97
A Parker – Water management conference reimbursement	£35.00
A Williams – J Abbs Electrical reimbursement for V. Hall	£2453.17
K Cotgrove – August salary	£331.20
HMRC – August tax	£19.80
Ace Fire – extinguisher annual service	£130.62

24/40. Planning Matters:

(i) To discuss applications: None.

(ii) To receive late planning applications: None.

24/41. Highways matters:

(i) Update regarding flooding issues in Bessingham: Councillors met with the landowner, and discussed the problems with flooding. Highways attended a meeting too, and felt that the flooding issues are not down to just one property. A number of properties are suffering from surface water issues. There was a lengthy discussion as to why the flooding is taking place, and if any properties are contributing. It was suggested that a pipe should be laid from the spring in a landowner's field, across the road, to a ditch across the road. It was suggested that the internal rivers drainage board for advice. District Cllr Toye will find out the best company to contact, and will copy the Clerk into correspondence.

24/42. Invitation to bid for the Parish Partnership fund from Norfolk County Council: The Clerk explained that this can be used as 50/50 funding for Highways projects. The Parish Council has no current projects.

24/43. To note the Clerk's resignation and to agree the next steps for recruitment, including agreeing Councillors to deal with the recruitment of a new Clerk: The Clerk has handed in her

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notice. Thanks were passed to Kirsty, the current Clerk for all her hard work. Councillors will need to be arranged to deal with a replacement. It was agreed that Cllrs Fell and Bowland would deal with the interview process.

24/44. Correspondence:

(i) Free community event in Sheringham – Nature Connections PositiviTea: Noted, but unfortunately no-one was able to attend. The next one is in September.

(ii) Notification of Roadside Nature Reserve Designation: Noted.

24/45. Any other business, for information: There are training courses offered by Community Action Norfolk. Cllr Williams will circulate information to Councillors.

24/46. Date of next meeting: Provisionally, Monday 11th November 2024, 7pm, at the Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:07pm. It will take place in the Three Villages Hall or Hanworth Hall, renovation work depending.

Signed

Date