

OVERSTRAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE OVERSTRAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024 IN THE PARISH HALL

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr B Stratton (Chairman), Mr Begley, Mrs Bond, Mrs Debbage, Mrs Newcombe, Mr Partridge, Mr Smith (Parish Councillors), District Cllr Fitch-Tillett, Ms Batterham (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Stratton welcomed those present.

2. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 12 April 2023 were taken as read.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report (see attached).

5. Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk presented a report and financial statement (see attached).

6. District Councillor Report

After a great deal of consideration and disillusionment with the current LibDem policies at NNDC, Cllr Fitch-Tillett has rejoined the Conservative Group as their spokesman for Coastal Management and hopes therefore to assist with a stronger opposition and that residents will be sympathetic with her decision.

Council Tax

Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett detailed her dissatisfaction that NNDC had increased its portion of Council tax again for the second year in a row but thanked Overstrand Parish Council for maintaining its precept.

Car Park Improvements

Cllr Fitch-Tillett mentioned the surprising commencement of works to the Pauls Lane car park and hoped that it would be finished off in a timely manner. A member of the public highlighted some issues with the amount of shingle that had been laid and the problems with access for wheelchairs and pushchairs that this may cause. District Cllr Fitch-Tillett agreed to follow this up with the Council.

Waste Contractors

There had been some teething problems in the first couple of weeks of rescheduling with missed bin collections, but the issue seems to be settling down.

Village Plan

Cllr Fitch-Tillett was pleased to hear that the village plan was progressing and detailed that the NNDC Local Plan was being looked at with an upcoming Planning Policy meeting.

Defibrillators

Cllr Fitch-Tillett was delighted with Overstrand Parish Councils plans for the installation of 3 additional defibrillators in the village but was not happy that NNDC would be charging OPC a fee to grant a licence. District Cllr Fitch-Tillett would take this up with the Council.

Promenade/seafront

Cllr Fitch-Tillett was unhappy to see the removal of the goats on the cliff in Cromer.

Part of the Overstrand promenade had been closed off by NNDC due to a cliff slip but it was hoped that this would be remedied quickly.

The beach huts on Cromer promenade had historically been removed during the winter, however this has not happened in recent years but would be looked at by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Fitch-Tillett mentioned the survey issued by NNDC regarding dog restrictions – Overstrand Parish Council discussed the proposals at its last Full Council and had submitted a comment of support.

Housing

Cllr Fitch-Tillett highlighted her concerns over the current housing situation in North Norfolk but was pleased with the Northrepps Scheme which is nearing completion.

7. Community Housing

Anna Clarke – Community Housing Enabler for NNDC gave a presentation highlighting the local need for affordable housing.

8. Coastal Transition

Rob Goodliffe – Coastal Transition Manager for NNDC gave a presentation highlighting the current challenges posed by coastal erosion.

9. Grant Presentation

Two representatives from the Overstrand Bowls Club were presented with a cheque for £407.88 as a grant towards the repair of the irrigation system as agreed at Full Council on 6 March 2024.

10. Other Reports

- 10.1 A verbal report was given on behalf of The Strand Club.
- 10.2 A verbal report was given on behalf of The Bowls Club.
- 10.3 The Clerk relayed a report received from The Gardening Club (see attached).
- 10.4 A verbal report was given by Mr Stratton on behalf of Overstrand Together.
- 10.4 A verbal report was given on behalf of the Methodist Chapel.
- 10.5 Mr Partridge highlighted the upcoming D-Day 80 Event due to take place on 6th June.
- 10.6 Mr Partridge highlighted the upcoming Digital Switchover.
- 10.7. Mr Partridge highlighted new legislation introduced by the Animal and Plant Health Authority which requires the registration of poultry flocks (of one or more).
- 10.8 Mr Partridge detailed the requirement to consider Biodiversity as a Parish Council with a view to consider what we have and enhancing that if at all possible.

11. General Discussion and Questions from the Floor

Questions were taken from the floor, which followed with a general discussion.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm

Chairman's Report
Overstrand Annual Parish Meeting 2024

2023/4 was another busy and productive year for Overstrand Parish Council with an increased number of Councillors and an ever-present enthusiasm to ensure that as a council we do the very best we can for Parishioners.

This years two flagship projects have been the continued improvements to the Parish Hall with upgrades to the toilets including a new baby changing unit, vanity units and toilets. I am pleased report that we have an increasing number of bookings for the hall and of course are always please to receive more enquiries. For those of you who don't know you can hire the hall from as little as £20 for a morning, afternoon or evening session.

The second important project is the Parish Councils commitment to installing three new defibrillators at the corner of Coast Road and Mundesley Road next to the notice board, St Martins Church and half way down the main slope to the beach opposite the Cliff Top Café.

These three new defibs will compliment the one at the White Horse, which is now under the care of the Parish Council and give the best coverage possible to the village, beach and car park.

The installation of the defibs should be completed in the next few weeks. Once installed we will be running a number of free session here in the Parish Hall on how to use a defib so please keep an eye out for posters on our notice boards and come along.

There is also a schedule of maintenance and repair work for the children's playground and as soon as the weather permits this work will be carried out, in the meantime the playground remains open and safe to use.

The public consultation period for the painting of yellow lines at a number of junctions in the village is now completed and it is hoped that the work will be done in time for the main summer season. This project is funded 50/50 between the Parish Council and funds held by our County Councillor Ed Maxfield.

The parking issue in Clifton Way while not completely resolved seems to be stable by using no parking cones.

NNDC and Broadland Housing have this year approached us with regards to an Affordable Housing scheme in Overstrand, these discussions are ongoing and we will know more in the coming months in terms of the proposed scheme and its viability. You will be able to follow the progress of the scheme by reading the monthly Parish Council minutes.

Over the past year the Parish Council has received a number of planning applications for consideration and comment. While North Norfolk District Council is the planning authority and has the ultimate say on planning matters the views of the parish council and parishioners are important. We do our best to put forward the best and most balanced response we can to all planning applications taking into consideration the views expressed by parishioners at our Parish Council meetings. But it is worth reminding everyone that if you have a particular view on a planning application then you can have your say by logging onto the NNDC planning portal and leaving your comments.

The village allotments continue to be an important part of the village with a steady stream of applicants waiting for vacant plots. The Parish Council carry out regular inspections and communicate with all allotments holders keeping them informed of any issues or concerns that might arise during the year and ensure that the allotments are kept up to the highest standards.

Our ever popular Bonfire and Firework Display in November was again a great success and we received any number of comments on the quality of the display and for holding our nerve in light of the weather on the day. I would like to thank all those that help set up the event and all those that supported the bucket collection on the night and it is these generous donations that allow us to continue the event year on year. Our Neighbourhood Plan has reached another crossroads and now needs your involvement in order to finalise the policies. We need to increase the number of parishioners on the working groups so that we have again a good balance parishioners and councillors. Once we have that we can complete the draft policies and move to the final stages of producing the plan for public consultation.

If you are interested in getting involved then please come and have a chat after the meeting.

As Chairman I wish to thank all Councillors for their hard work and dedication, and feel it is important to stress the active roll that all Councillors play in the running of the Council by bringing to the table varying skills that make the Council proactive rather than reactive.

I particularly want to thank one person by name and that is our Clerk Kelly who has this year done a fantastic job and at the same time has made sure that we as councillors stick to the rules and keep our feet on the ground.

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

The financial year ends on 31 March and the figures stated show a comparison between the figures for this financial year and last financial year.

Receipts

	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Precept	29,000.00	29,000.00
Parish Hall Rents	1,535.00	1,785.00
Allotment Rents	465.00	505.00
Post Cards and Village Leaflet	71.05	39.65
Flag Flying	60.00	20.00
Fireworks	1598.94	989.44
DVD	102.50	15.00
Website	100.00	150.00
Grants, Donations, Refunds & Bank Interest	309.91	11,222.99
Total Receipts	33,242.40	43,727.08
VAT Refunded	3272.22	1,470.21
Total Receipts per Cashbook	36,514.62	45,197.29

Payments

	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Staff Costs	20,261.33	24,746.30
Training	547.80	454.60
Administration & Insurance	1,934.81	1,580.60
Audits	406.00	404.80
Subscriptions	545.88	613.74
Grants & Donations	0.00	1,500.00
S137	47.97	25.00
Helping Hands	0.00	0.00
Publicity, Marketing & Events	1,601.44	800.13
Amenities	3,462.80	2,079.85
Street Light Energy & Maintenance	610.23	1,422.95
Allotments & Fireworks	1,901.10	2,172.18
Website	410.62	995.82
Parish Hall Costs	2,426.17	1,878.85
Parish Hall Extension	0.00	0.00
Reserve Spending	17,861.33	0.00
Total Payments	52,017.48	38,674.82
VAT Paid	2,537.66	1,286.27
Total Payments per Cashbook	54,555.14	39,961.09

The payment figures do not include VAT, as the Council is able to reclaim VAT back from HMRC. The VAT on purchases for this financial year comes to £1,286.27 and to date £1,470.21 has been claimed back, which includes outstanding VAT from the previous Financial Year.

Receipts

Precept: The Parish Council did not increase the precept for this Financial Year.

Parish Hall Rents: Parish Hall rental has increased again and with improvements to the website and additional advertising, it is hoped that hiring will further increase over the coming year.

Allotments: All rents for the allotments are collected and paid up to September 2024.

Postcards, Village Leaflets and DVDs: The income for these items has reduced this year. We still have a number of all these items left and if you have a guest house, self-catering facility or business in the village and think you may be able to sell some of these on behalf of the Parish Council then please let me know and I will arrange to get them to you. In addition, if you would like to be included in our Local Section on the website and advertise your business you can do so for only £25 a year.

Flag Flying: Flag Flying income has decreased this year. Please do get in touch if you wish the flag to be flown for a special occasion.

Fireworks: It is great to report that the firework event happened again in 2023 despite the threat of the weather and thanks to the generosity of members of the public we are pleased to report that we have got £989.44 towards this year's event.

Grants: Grant income includes funds received from The Overstrand Millenium Group of £10,214.09 and has been ring-fenced for improvements and maintenance of the playground.

Payments

Training: A number of Councillors and the Clerk have attended training sessions this year, which included budget training for all.

Administration & Insurance: This includes postage, stationery, printing costs, telephone and Parish Council Insurance.

Grants: Grants were paid to St Martins Church for burial ground maintenance during the year and to Poppyland Radio towards the purchase of a gazebo to aid outside broadcasting.

Amenities: These payments cover emptying of dog bins and maintenance of assets. It does not include street lighting and the Parish Hall.

Allotments & Fireworks: Firework costs increased this year and was partially covered by the generous donations received at last year's event.

Street Lights Street lighting costs has increased this year due to the rise in electricity costs.

The Parish Council has worked well within budget and there are no concerns regarding the finances going forward to the next Financial Year.

CLERK'S REPORT 2024

Firstly, I would like to thank the Chairman for his comprehensive report.

Recently Cllr Nahajski resigned as a member of the Council, and we wish her well in her future endeavors. This leaves a vacancy which shall be advertised by NNDC in due course so please look out for this on the Parish noticeboards if you are interested. Should no election be called, the Council can look to fill the vacancy via co-option.

I'm also pleased to report that the Parish Council's precept has remained the same. Given the rising costs-of-living we are all facing, this is a small but welcome help to Council Taxpayers.

The Parish Hall remains one of the village's great assets and I am pleased to have been able to welcome new hirers with a children's dance class on a Wednesday afternoon, very soon a Wednesday morning yoga class, numerous craft fairs and private hires throughout the year. Cllr Newcombe has kindly spent time adapting the website to incorporate a dedicated Parish Hall page so please do take a look. The page includes a live calendar of events so you can easily see what's going on and when and if there is availability should you wish to hire the hall.

I have recently managed to successfully let two vacant allotment plots to people on the waiting list. I would like to thank Roy Spittles for his help in showing potential tenants around the site.

I would like to say a big thank you to my Chairman Bruce for his unwavering support and always being at the end of the phone! In addition, I thank all Councillors for their dedication and hard work and look forward to the year to come.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for attending this evening.

Kelly Batterham
Clerk to Overstrand Parish Council

Overstrand Gardening Club Report 2024

We are delighted to report that the gardening club has had another successful year with an average of 30-35 members attending the monthly meetings.

Last year we had a variety of speakers on range of gardening subjects, garden workshops and other social events including afternoon tea in a member's garden in August.

This year since February we have had 6 new members join our club and several visitors attend the meetings, while on holiday. Our speaker next month in May is Dr Ian Bedford – (the Norfolk Bug Man) with a talk on Wasps (not the bad guys you think they are!).

Our programme of speakers this year will cover a range of topics, from plant hunters, garden design and Pelargoniums and more!

We are looking forward to a coach trip in June to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, which has proved popular and is now fully booked.

The Club is for all those interested in gardening, from those who have just taken up the hobby and want to know more – to those with more experience, and happy to share their know-how with others and make new friends.

New members and visitors are welcome. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall in Pauls Lane and meetings start at 2.30 – 4pm.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Next year 2025 will be celebrating our 25th silver anniversary of the Gardening club. So we are looking forward to sharing our hobby, making new friendships and a happy future.

For more information contact Yvonne Ford (Chairperson) at overstrandgardeningclub@gmail.com