

POTTER HEIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
5 Sceptre Close, Hellesdon Norwich NR6 5HE
Tel: 07917841665 **Email:** potterheighamparishcouncil@gmail.com

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on **Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall.

Present: The Parish Council Chairperson, S. Turner, presided over the meeting and the following Councillors were present: H. Bartlett, D. Bland, S. Chapman, R. Graves-Morris, M. Haslam, K. Lowe, H. May, D. Pickering and B. Standen,

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Bateman, District Cllr. H. Blathwayt. Guest Speakers: D. Kemp and P. Doktor (Environment Agency), T. Hunter (Water Management Alliance). 11 members of the public.

Meeting was brought to order: 7:30pm

1. Welcome from the Chairperson

Cllr Turner welcomed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. She thanked the parish councillors and the parish clerk for their support and hard work.

2. To consider apologies for absence

Apologies were received for Cllr. J. Stone, PC M Pritty, County Cllr. R. Price.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2023

The minutes were **AGREED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson
Proposed Cllr Chapman, Seconded Cllr Graves-Morris, all in favour

4. To receive Parish Council Reports

a) Parish Council Chairperson

Cllr Turner then delivered a presentation (Appendix A) detailing the work and the successes of the parish council for the past year.

b) Parish Council Leads

Allotments: The report from Cllr Pickering was presented (Appendix B).

Sam2: Cllr Bland reported the SAM2 was being trialled at a new location on the sign at the bus stop. Over a two week period there had been 32 vehicles over 40mph and 336 vehicles over 30mph.

Staithe: Cllr May reported there were some maintenance issues taking some time to be fixed. The planters were being well looked after and there had been some parking issues.

c) Financial Report (Clerk)

The Financial Report by the Clerk was presented (Appendix C).

5. Guest Speaker Tom Hunter – Area Manager, Water Management Alliance

Tom Hunter provided a presentation detailing the operations of his team within the local area. This covered maps of the drainage system, historical legislation, annual drainage checks and maintenance work, standard maintenance operations procedures, capital investment in replacing some pumping stations that are at end of life, this includes the

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one at Potter Heigham. He mentioned the exponential increased water fall over the winter causing many flooding issues and that agencies were working together to try manage these issues better in the future.

6. Guest Speaker David Kemp and Peter Doktor – Environment Agency

David Kemp introduced himself to the meeting and highlighted the reasons the flooding had been so bad this winter including excessive rainfall and high tides. He acknowledged the concerns of the risk of flooding to the Potter Heigham bungalows but protecting them then increased the flooding to the farmland and vice versa. He acknowledged that sandbags were not dispensed quick enough and the Environment Agency have resumed this responsibility to have more control over this.

Peter Doktor addressed the meeting in regards to action being taken to look at solutions to manage the flood risk better in the future. Work was being undertaken by Broadland Future Initiatives (BFI) on planning flood defence projects for the next 100 years. The plans had to be fluid as there was no exact knowledge of the extent of global warming and the impact this would have on the environment. The BFI was made up of multiple agencies and they needed local input to help develop solutions. 60% of The Broads were under sea level and it was predicted that the sea levels would rise with warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers.

This was followed by questions from the meeting including the possibility of opening up the 100 stream, which was confirmed as being a consideration.

Models of solutions would have to be tried and tested for efficiency and there would be decision making points and pathways in the future to ensure effective plans were in place. It was noted that any solutions were confined to budgets and available funding.

There was a suggestion to build reservoirs to better harvest water to be used in the drier summers, however it was explained this was not a solution for flooding due to the enormous volumes of water in question that would fill a reservoir in minutes.

A member of the public raised concerns of the serious impact the floods had not just on their fields and animals but their homes, causing septic tanks to flood. It was noted the height of the river banks were subsiding particularly at the low points and that the concrete flood defences were sinking. David Kemp explained the sinking was due to the land consistency and the 0.8m measurements of the banks were not currently going to be reviewed but may need to be in the future.

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7. To receive reports from community representatives and organisations.

a) County Councillor

The report from Cllr. Price to be uploaded to website. (Appendix D).

b) District Councillor

The report from Cllr. Blathwayt to be uploaded to website (Appendix E) Cllr Blathwayt also urged residents to check their insurance policy for what was covered by flooding as the government had an agreement with insurance companies they must offer some protection to private homes. He mentioned that central government funding was being sought to help alleviate expense on landowners to pay rates to the IDB.

c) Police

The report was received by the Clerk and would be available on the website for information (Appendix F)

d) Broads Authority

The report was received by the Clerk and would be available on the website for information (Appendix G).

e) Village Hall Management Committee

The report by Cllr. R. Graves-Morris was presented and he thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the ongoing costs of the village hall. The report would be available on the website (Appendix H).

f) Bingo & Quiz Nights

No report received

g) Soup and Chatter

S Turner provided an update on the events

h) Ti Chi & Cadets

A report was provided to the clerk and will uploaded to the website (Appendix I)

i) Parochial Church Council

D Pickering provided an update on the church and thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the grass cutting. The report will be uploaded to the website (Appendix J)

j) Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

A report was provided to the clerk and will uploaded to the website (Appendix J)

k) Table Tennis

A report was provided to the clerk and will uploaded to the website (Appendix K)

l) Stitchers

S Harris provided an update on the group which had 15-18 attendees with 3 new members. There had been a devastating loss of a member but the group continue to support each other and celebrate Christmas and Easter.

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m) Art Show

M Haslam provided an update on the Art Show. It had provided amateur artists opportunities to display and sell their work, with one young artist going on to exhibit at the Royal Summer Art Exhibition in London.

n) Mardlers

H Eady provided an update on the Mardlers group which continued to be very popular with around 55 attendees each month. The group started following covid to encourage people to start socialising again. They participate on a variety of entertainment events including coach trips and concerts. She thanked S Chapman for the book keeping support he offered the group.

o) Any other reports received from local groups

None

8. Public Forum

The cost implications of an error by Highways in painting road markings twice on Bridge Road was raised and the clerk would raise this with Norfolk County Council.

It was raised that the corner opposite the shop needed a proper walkway making by the hedge being cut back. This issue had been raised for many years and nothing had been done. The clerk would investigate this further.

9. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed: 9:25pm