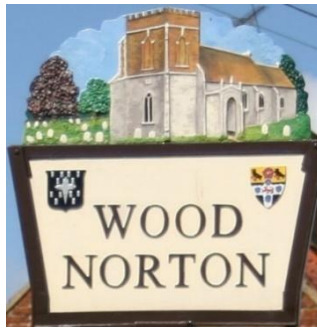




WOOD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 20th November 2024 at the Village Hall at 7:30pm.

In Attendance: Parish Councillors: Marcus Crowe (Chair) Jean Johnson (Vice-Chair), Loraine O'Keefe, Tim Lidstone-Scott, Tess Morley and Daniel Coe. Clerk: Ophelia Donovan. Public 0.

- 1) Cllr. Crowe welcomed those present and thanked Cllr. Johnson for standing in as Chair during the September meeting.
- 2) Apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr. Hankins and County Cllr. Aquarone.
- 3) Minutes:
 - a) Matters which were discussed but not on the agenda (for information only) concerned a letter received by Cllr. Lidstone-Scott regarding the clerk's pension scheme, the re-enrolment deadline is in April 2025. Cllr. O'Keefe stated that the ditches on her land had been cleared but will mention this later, when discussing the item on the agenda.
 - b) The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th September were approved by full council as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr. Crowe.
- 4) Cllr. Johnson declared an interest as a member of the Parochial Church Council and churchyard volunteer. Cllr. Lidstone-Scott declared an interest as a churchyard volunteer. Cllr. Crowe declared a pecuniary interest in payments.
- 5) There was no report received from Cllr. Aquarone. The report from Cllr. Hankins had been previously circulated by the clerk. Cllr. Crowe made everyone aware of an e-mail regarding a lack of affordable homes in Wood Norton.
- 6) There was no public participation.
- 7) The request for a donation to the churchyard was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that the council would offer to pay the final invoice for the final cutting of the biodiversity area, up to £200, this decision is to be reviewed annually. It was also agreed that Cllr. Crowe would respond to the resident who made the request.
- 8) Rats:
 - i) The situation with the invasion of rats has vastly improved.
 - ii) There was a request made by a resident to the council that a contribution from the contractor who spilt the grain should be requested towards the £480 which had been paid to the Pest control company by the residents. Cllr. Johnson suggested a letter of advice be sent from the council to farmers in the area advising them of the incident. Councillor Crowe proposed that this was not a good idea as it may alienate us within the wider community. It was eventually agreed that a contribution could not be sought as there was no clear evidence as to whom caused the spillage. Cllr. Crowe stated that he will contact the resident to confirm the council's decision.

- 9) The clerk provided details of correspondence received. This included a general query relating to defibrillators.
- 10) Finance:
- a) Cllr. Crowe presented the current financial situation as follows:
Community Account £2,847.10
Business Account £4,647.95
Village Sign Account £1,386.97.
Defibrillator Account £1,094.66.
- b) Payments for November and December were agreed. It was agreed by the council that a transfer of £37.39 should be made from the community account to the defibrillator account. This decision will need to be ratified at the next meeting. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson. Seconded: Cllr. Lidstone-Scott.
- c) The cost of the room hire for the NARS training was agreed in the sum of £15.00. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson. Seconded: Cllr. O'Keefe.
- d) The Auditors gift in the sum of £20 was unanimously agreed. Proposed: Cllr. Jennings. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson.
- e) The budget for 2025/2026 was agreed. Proposed: Cllr. Coe. Seconded: Cllr. Jennings.
- f) The precept was discussed. It was agreed that the precept should be increased by 5%, this would allow for inflation, cover any training the new clerk may need and any future capital expenditure. The council hopes to not have to increase the precept next year.
- 11) An update on highways matters was provided. A road closure was in place to allow Anglian Water to fix the culvert issue along Foulsham Road. Cllr. O'Keefe confirmed that the ditch and pipes on her land have been cleared. Cllr. Crowe confirmed that Highways have cut the hedge along the B1110 and that positive comments have been received about this.
- 12) Cllr. Lidstone-Scott provided an update on the defibrillator. The Annual Report was completed before the meeting and will be ready by the 22nd November 2024. It was agreed that the emergency telephone renewal payment is due in the sum of £120, it was unanimously agreed that this should be paid. Proposed : Cllr. Lidstone-Scott. Seconded: Cllr. O'Keefe. Cllr. Crowe advised the council that a resident had not received their magnet providing details of the code to the defibrillator. Cllr. Lidstone-Scott said that he would drive to the resident's home to deliver a magnet to them.
- 13) Planning applications. The Local Plan review requested replies to their consultation by the 19th December 2024. The council did want to submit a response.
- 14) The issue of dog fouling was discussed. Cllr. Crowe said that he had seen a lot of plastic bags in the hedge he had been cutting.
- 15) The placement or purchase of additional dog bins was discussed. It was agreed that moving the bins to Stibbard Road and the Foulsham Road may reduce the number of dog fouling incidents. The clerk is to determine what the process is in order to move the bins. Cllr. Crowe offered to move the dog bins once the parish council receives permission to move the bins. Proposed: Cllr. Morley. Seconded: Cllr. O'Keefe.
- 16) Cllr. Morley provided an update on the NARS training, this was a success and Cllr. Morley said that she had received £50 in donations which she will donate to NARS. Cllr. Crowe expressed his thanks to Cllr. Morley for organising the event. It was agreed that the council should express their thanks to the volunteer from NARS.
- 17) The updated Standing Orders were unanimously adopted by the council. Proposed: Cllr. Jennings. Seconded: Cllr. Coe.
- 18) Cllr. Lidstone-Scott advised that after reviewing further information concerning the Sewage Treatment Scheme, this is not something he would recommend the council to pursue.
- 19) Cllr. Morley had nothing to report in relation to social media.

- 20) An update was provided concerning the footpath. A member of the team from Norfolk County Council will send a technician to inspect the footpath by the end of November.
- 21) Biodiversity Plan.
- a) Grants available-deferred.
 - b) A resident's suggestion for a "world clean up endeavour" was discussed. It was agreed that the Biodiversity sub-committee would discuss this idea in more detail.
- 22) Urgent items. Cllr. Johnson confirmed that the key to the noticeboard is not working and requested that a new key be purchased. Proposed: Cllr. Lidstone-Scott. Seconded: Cllr. Coe.
- 23) Cllr. Crowe provided some dates for the Action Sheet.
- 24) Items for inclusion on the next agenda include dog bins, footpath, Action Sheet, defibrillator training and affordable housing.
- 25) It was agreed that the parish council meetings will take place at the village hall at 7:30pm on the following dates:
- Wednesday 15th January 2025.
 - Wednesday 19th March 2025.
 - Wednesday 21st May 2025.
 - Wednesday 16th July 2025.
 - Wednesday 17th September 2025.
 - Wednesday 19th November 2025.
- 26) The council resolved to move to a closed session in accordance with s.1 (2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 in order to discuss the following items.
- a) The clerk's resignation was accepted by the council. Cllr. Crowe thanked the clerk for her support.
 - b) The new clerk's terms were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr. Crowe should continue as RFO.
 - c) The decision to advertise on the Norfolk Alc website was ratified. It was agreed that the advertisement should contain wording to the effect that the vacancy is on a locum basis with a view to becoming permanent. Proposed: Cllr. Jennings. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson.

The meeting closed at 21:31.

Signed:.....
Chair, Marcus Crowe.

Dated:.....