

Minutes of South Pickenham Parish Council
Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Home Farm Hospitality Suite

Present: Cllrs John Blackburne (Chair), Sue Bloomfield, Carole Chalkley, Stephen Chalkley and Simon Kroon. **In Attendance:** Melanie Cousins – Parish Clerk.

Apologies for absence – Fabian Eagle – NCC/BDC Councillor

1. The meeting opened at 6.00pm.
2. The Chairman welcomed everyone present.
3. **Apologies for absence** – NCC/BDC Cllr F Eagle.
4. **Minutes of the last Meeting** – The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising not included on the agenda** – No issues were raised.
6. **Receive reports from NCC/BDC Cllr Eagle** – The Clerk had not received a report.
7. **NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2022/23** – It was noted that the first bench had been installed and the second bench would soon be installed as well. Everyone agreed that the installed bench and the cherry trees made an attractive entrance to the village.
8. **Update on NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24** – The road markings have not yet been applied; the Clerk to follow up on this with NCC. It was noted that there had been a recent incident where a car had missed Gypsy Corner; this would be reported by Cllrs S and C Chalkley.
9. **Update on Highways/Rangers issues** – The Clerk to follow up items raised by Cllrs with Highways/Rangers. The Clerk to report that the hedge needed to be trimmed and the pavements required sweeping. The Chairman will trim around the planters and the roses. The notice board still requires mending; the Chairman will inspect it. The map is illegible; the Clerk will review it.
10. **Invitation to bid for Parish Partnership Scheme 2024/25** – Cllrs did not have a scheme in mind and there was also concern about funding a further scheme.
11. **Correspondence** – **a) Armed Forces Covenant** – The Chairman advised that there is no need for any further action as the District and County Councils have followed this up. **b) Westcotec Ltd** – The Clerk advised Cllrs of two alternative companies that would be approached about street light maintenance (Cozens and TT Jones). It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up and report back on the contacts. **c) Road Closure Signs** – The Chairman advised that this had been raised with NCC, who would follow up the issues raised about incorrect information being given, which would sometimes result in drivers having to turn around and follow another route. **d) Breckland's Local Plan** – The consultation events, dates and times were noted. **e) Norfolk Police** – The Annual Budget Consultation would run until 24 November. **f) Flooding issues** – raised by CPRE Norfolk – The Clerk to follow up the training offered, although it was noted that there was no great concern about flooding currently. **g) South Pickenham Estate** – Cllrs thanked

the Estate for the local improvements they had made to the footpaths. **h) Former Fat & Bone factory** – It was noted that a portacabin had been installed. Cllr S Chalkley to advise the BDC Enforcement Team as the entrance is considered to be unsafe.

12. Approval of Accounts/Cheques issued – Bank balance on 31-08-23 = £349.03. The remainder of the Precept (£625.00) would be paid into the Bank Account during the 2nd half of the year. **Payments: a) Clerk's wages** – The Clerk advised that the payment for May 2023 had been incorrect and £60.00 was owed to the Council. It was agreed to postpone the Clerk's pay until the next meeting in order to correct this error. **b) Cheque for Cllr S Chalkley** – £8.97 for plants.

13. Planning 3PL/2023/0457/HOU – Single storey rear/side extension, The Bungalow, The Street, South Pickenham – It was noted that a further application had been made.

14. Matters for next Meeting – It was agreed to remove the Parish Partnership Scheme; include update on the Fat & Bone Factory; include wreath for Remembrance Sunday – £25.00 for British Legion; include update on Planning Application.

Date of next PC meeting – Wed 17-January-2024 at 6.00pm at the Home Farm Hospitality Suite.