**Barton Turf and Irstead Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30 July 2024 at 7pm**

Attendance: Glenn Neave (GN), Helen McFadyen (HF), Doreen Dean (DD), Martin Mills (MM), Neil Sanderson (NS), Phil Drake (PD).

Also present: Nicola Ledain – clerk and County Councillor Richard Price

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from District Cllr Nigel Dixon and Andrew Wilton.

1. **Declarations of Councillors’ interests**

There were no interests declared.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 June 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

1. **Reports**
   1. **To receive updates from County / District Councillors**

Richard Price reported that the details of the Parish Partnership Scheme had been circulated. It was reported that the scheme was a conservative initiative and as there were County Council elections next May, this was the last guaranteed year that it would be offered. He also reported that ahead of the elections in May 2025, there would be changes to the election boundaries which were organised by the Boundary Commission.

The Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance had also warned that due to the excess rainfall, the water table was higher and therefore the chance of flooding throughout Autumn and Winter was higher than normal. Therefore, it was important for residents to check guttering etc in households. It was also hoped that regular meetings regarding flooding would be held in neighbouring parishes during the month of September primarily on a Saturday morning.

The council asked the County Council about the lack of phone signal in Irstead and if anything could be done to improve it. There was a NCC programme which was investing money into improving it and Cllr Price would circulate the details.

* 1. **To receive updates from the Police**

There had been no update from the Police.

* 1. **To receive a report from Barton Turf Community Charities**
     1. Moorings Update

There has been one new hirer of the mooring spaces,

* + 1. COIF Account update

The mandate had been sent and was being processed.

* + 1. Glass recycling update

This was in hand and would be submitted shortly.

1. **To receive updates on ongoing matters:**
   1. **Wildlife Working Party**

NS reported that after seeking advice from experts regarding the reed explosion in the ponds on the Common, they would be left alone. The ducks have now gone as they were no longer being fed. More great crested newts had been found recently as well as a lot of other wildlife including 5 species of butterflies.

* 1. **Black Shed Update**

It was reported that the wood chip had been put down around the Black Shed and thanks were given to those who worked on the area.

DD reported that feedback from the Heritage Lottery Fund (which had been circulated to all councillors) had revealed that an application for funding wouldn’t be a strong match due to not having a structural survey on the building. There was also feedback around some other comments which would need backing up and submitting with evidence letters in the final application. However, the feedback was not a rejection and the feedback covered most areas which had already been considered by the council.

In addition, it was also reported that Norfolk Community Foundation offered a pro bono survey. It was agreed that the survey should be pursued but it would be re-considered if the council hadn’t heard anything by the October meeting.

* 1. **New Victory Hall Update**

DD reported that they were pursuing two projects to get solar panels which would help mitigate rising costs. Having considered the budget for 2025, the hire fees might be raised by an additional 5%. Generally, the hall was going well.

* 1. **Defibrillators**

The training course was run well and was attended by 12 people. There might be a refresher session run in the next year.

1. **Correspondence**
   1. Neatishead Conservation Area Appraisal

The council had considered the document and had no comment.

1. **Water treatment results**
   1. The council asked if planning could be contacted with regards to the water treatment results, as the application had been approved with the condition that the water was tested.
2. **Policies**
   1. Standing Orders were agreed, subject to changing 2f to ‘7 days.’

1. **Highways**
   1. There were still lots of pot holes around the villages which had been identified by Norfolk County Council, and it was hoped that they would return now the flooding had subsided to repair them.
2. **Finance**
   1. The VAT refund had been submitted.
   2. The following payments were agreed for the Parish Council;
      1. Nicola Ledain – clerk salary July and August: £573.12
      2. Alan Lowther: £201.29
   3. The following payments were agreed for the Charities:
      1. Alan Lowther: £194.94
      2. NNDC waste services: £738.22
      3. Countrystyle Recycling £33
3. **Planning**

The council considered the following applications:

* 1. BA/2024/0272/HOUSEH – Shoals Cottage, The Shoal, Irstead – Construction of a two storey garage – NO OBJECTIONS
  2. BA/2024/0260 – Broadacres Residential Home – Addition of a new staircase – NO OBJECTIONS

1. **Items for next agenda or for Communities Charity meeting**

The chair added that he had spoken to the chair of Neatishead Parish Council regarding a date for the Broadland Initiatives meeting and some dates would be offered. This would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting ended a 8.50pm