



MINUTES OF LYNG ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN LYNG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL 2023 AT 7:30PM

Prior to the meeting it was noted that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting dated 11th May 2022 recorded that the meeting was held by zoom which was incorrect. The meeting was held in the Village Hall in person and the minutes would be amended accordingly.

Introduction from Chair – Steve Davies welcomed people to the meeting

To receive any apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Suzan Jarvis who was running late but hoped to attend later.

To receive Chair's report –

'It seems that since taking up the Chair in May 2022, the majority of my time and the Parish Council, has spent in discussion on issues around two main areas, the access of vehicles onto the Playing Fields and water on the allotments.

These two issues led to the instigation of a wide range of policies that previous Lyng Parish Councils had not instigated or were not updated. It seemed that a lot of the work this year has been to update and play catch up on a lot of this type of work along with other business. I am pleased to say that this "catch up" phase is now coming to an end, albeit with one or two major decisions to be made and the new council should be able to move forward to benefit the residents of Lyng.

Following a legal challenge on behalf of the Bowling Club regarding vehicle access onto playing field, the Parish Council has had to engage the services of its own legal counsel to investigate the matter, which was resolved in that it was proven that although there was a right of access across the playing field, it was not by vehicle. Since then, the Parish Council has put in place a policy for any individual or group to adhere to should they wish to take a vehicle onto the field. This has been acted upon on three separate occasions and proven to be successful, helping to ensure the safety of all users of the playing field.

The Allotment Association has led to, we hope, greater sharing of resources and assistance, but the issue of water for periods of drought for some plot holders remains a concern. An alternative to spending thousands of pounds of residents' money was to extract water from the drain bordering the allotments, and I am pleased to note that investigations by the Allotment Association, and the council, should result in a license to extract water and store it on the allotments should be in place by this summer.

Work has also been done on improving the allotments by engaging the services of a company to trim, cut and re-establish a clean boundary around the allotments. This has been a significant investment this year, which will now be budgeted for on a four-year cycle perhaps. There has also been a full tree survey completed in the Parish and part of that must now include the Church Yard of St Margarets, which will result in a spend not foreseen at the last budget setting. This will be paid for out of reserves this time but included in the budget for future years.

New notice boards and the upkeep of older notice boards has been undertaken, a new notice board for the Cemetery installed displaying the rules and regulations, and extra signage for keeping dogs on leads put up. Councillor Orton who had the brief for the cemetery notes: the Churchwardens identified major issues with fouling. I asked them to keep me informed but have heard nothing further, so we may hope that the problem has abated. However dog fouling is still an issue within the village, with constant complaints against dog owners not picking up and disposing of

waste. Many of the dog owners within the village do pick up and do dispose correctly, as can be seen by the quantities that appear in the dog waste bins each week. However, there remains a small minority of owners who refuse to pick up and allow their dogs to drop their waste wherever they walk. The only way this can be dealt with is by villagers being constantly vigil and by reporting the issue to Breckland Council, not just clearing up and venting on social media. The more complaints Breckland Council log, the more they will have to send wardens around to the village. The Parish Council will continue to remind dog owners of their responsibility and are looking into extra dog waste bins further around the village boundaries.

Speeding vehicles within the village continues to be an issue, and for a variety of reasons, this year we have had little feedback from the SAM2 equipment to take to the police or NCC. The last set of actual data presented to the Council showed approximately 25% of vehicles regularly are above 30 mph, with a small minority over 40pmh, but even one speeding vehicle is a cause for concern. It has been acknowledged many times that the village is a rat run between the A47 and the Fakenham Road, but the Wensum link will hopefully take pressure of Lyng and surrounding villages. Although legal challenges are still ongoing, reports from NCC and highways are favourable this will go ahead. It will remain a priority of the new council we hope, to monitor and press for assistance from the police and Highways to reduce the potential for any incidents in the future. Other anti social behaviour is still an issue, especially small scale vandalism, which even though irregular and often minor, is costing the residents financially. Two new dog bins have had to be purchased, plus shrubs and trees vandalised, not to mention petty vandalism at the pub. Again, there is little the Parish Council can do but urge residents to be vigilant, educate our younger residents, and inform the relevant authorities.

The addition to the village of the statue of Bam Bam, the renewing of the village sign and the installation of a bench to mark the late Queens Jubilee will have contributed to the overall improvement of Lyng, and are part of an ongoing effort to improve the facilities within the village. The information regarding public transport shows that there is a service running through the village four days a week, all be it small and not widely used.

The Parish Council remain committed to the upkeep of the village, even though its responsibilities have increased over the year, and are endeavouring to commit to future projects where appropriate and where finance allows. It is hoped that the incoming council will continue to be more transparent and efficient in their work, and engage residents more through social media and other methods. It also aims to engage in and to encourage growth in the pride of residents of their village and continue to work with other bodies for the benefit of all residents.'

Steve Davies
Chair, Lyng Parish Council

In addition, thanks were extended to the Clerk for all her hard work during the past year.

Cllr Orton confirmed that the Council had been able to move forward with support from an experienced Clerk. It was emphasised that if the abuse by dog owners, of the permitted footpath continues then the landowner will remove the privilege.

Cllr Drabble suggested the Council consider supplying biodegradable paint for spraying dog mess (as Reepham have done) in an attempt to deter offenders.

There was disappointment at the lack of attendance by the Police at Council meetings and disappointment at the lack of attendance by residents to this meeting. There was discussion about ways the Council could engage with residents in future including the use of the Hill and Vale.

To receive the District Councillors' report, County Councillors' report and reports from Community Organisations

No reports had yet been received but would be published on the Parish Council's website once received.

Open session – To consider any items raised by members of the public

A resident raised concern about speeding traffic and suggested that village gates were installed. It was confirmed that Norfolk County Council Highways had previously been consulted regarding the position / installation of village gates. Due to the high cost of the gates, it was agreed at the time that the SAM2 was a better option as it provided data which the Council could use to support further measures to prevent speeding.

It was agreed that there was a need to renew the need for an action plan and that speeding would be one of the focuses. Concern was raised about the proposed New Town development which it was acknowledged would increase vehicle movements and speeding. The Council had used social media to encourage residents to respond to Brecklands policy consultation with a view to expressing their objection to the proposed New Town.

It was agreed, following comments received that the Council should review its strategy for community engagement to advertise meetings, although it was acknowledged that the Council already use social media, the Council website and the Council notice board to advertise meetings.

There being no further questions the meeting was closed at 8pm