

SALTHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL
British Columbia Hall, Salthouse

SALTHOUSE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 May 2024

PRESENT: Cllr C Clark (Chairman), Cllr V Holliday (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Hartnett, Cllr b Griffin,
Cllr J Wright
Members of the public (20)

1. Welcome, apologies Cllr s Dawson, Cllr R Dawson
2. Declarations and Dispensation requests by Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below – None received.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2023 were agreed.
4. Chairman's Report

This has been a challenging year for Salthouse Parish Council, however with a new team we are now in a position to move forward with great optimism. I would like to thank Sarah Dawson who stood down as Chairman after twenty years of hard work and dedication to the Parish. Also, to John Stibbons for his unwavering support for the new PC both in his time as Clerk, and subsequently in helping steer the new council to get us back on track.

In November 2023 we held elections for the new PC after a year when the council was non-quorate for lengthy periods. After a very impressive 74% turnout a new council was elected, I would like to thank all the Councillors who stood for election. Reg Harris was one of the Councillors for a short but significant period and was immensely helpful in bringing his expertise and judgement to the PC.

We have recently co-opted two new Councillors; Sarah Dawson our former long-standing Chair and Rex Dawson, so that the PC now has a full complement of seven. Sarah's extensive knowledge will bring valuable experience and I would like to thank her for agreeing to serve on the Council again.

Lisa Harper has recently joined us as our new Parish Clerk. I would like to welcome her to the team. Again, thanks to John Stibbons who I know will continue to be a mentor for Lisa who is going to be a great asset to us.

Highlights

The PC has worked hard for some time to get agreement on changing the bus stop to a place where more villagers can access it, as well as keeping the existing one. Designs have been drawn up to place it on the village green area, and we hope to have that in place soon.

The groundbreaking toad patrol team had great success in collecting 2321 toads and 566 frogs. We ensured that the dyke dredging will be done much later this year to protect the safety of the breeding toads.

After a very successful village fundraising programme, the village now has a Community Orchard, which we hope will start producing fruit in the next couple of years. I want to thank all those who responded so quickly, making sure we raised significant funds which will help with the continued maintenance of the Orchard in the years ahead. I want to thank Danny Mac who spent much of his weekend helping Mike Rhodes digging and planting the Orchard and Ben Wells for agreeing to give up part of his allotment land for the Orchard.

Purdy Street

After many years in the planning, building work has finally started on the Purdy Street affordable housing. This is vital for the future of the village in ensuring affordable homes can be made available to those villagers who live here, and who may have family links to Salthouse.

Allotments

The Allotments and their future took up a great deal of the Council's time and continue to do so, but we are now getting to a more stable place. We have made clear that we do not want to move the allotments onto a site near the Church. We have been charged by NCC to tidy the allotments and to improve the state of the allotment track: this is an ongoing task as we have been frustrated by the weather in our attempts to do so. I want to thank Andrew Gray for agreeing to take on the task of digging and levelling the track. NCC have indicated that this work will satisfy their demands. We are also in a place now to offer new allotments to those Salthouse residents who have expressed a wish to have one.

I would like to thank the Heath Management Committee for their work in protecting and maintaining this very much loved part of the village.

We are preparing a comprehensive village email list and are asking anyone who wants to be on it to get in touch with the Parish Council. All personal data will of course remain private.

Challenges

We have been disappointed that after giving the PC their support for a TRO banning overnight motor-homes and vans on Beach Road, NNDC have now changed their minds and withdrawn those plans, overturning their original decision. This is going to be an issue going forward, as the PC had collated strong evidence over the last few years of the damage and pollution the overnighting on Beach Road was causing. We had clear evidence that chemical toilets were being emptied into the dykes causing damage to this vital environment. SPC will need to start monitoring this again and begin the campaign once more. It will be a challenge to persuade NNDC of the right of our argument.

Planning

A number of planning applications continue to be submitted for developing new

builds or for altering existing houses. This will continue to be a challenge in finding a balance with applications that are of benefit to the village and others that the Parish feels will damage the look and character of Salthouse.

Parking

This remains an area of concern for villagers in holiday periods and weekends as the popularity of Salthouse continues to grow.

Objectives

Connectivity.

BT's plan for landlines to move to digital has highlighted the vulnerability of Salthouse due to the lack of mobile phone signal and generally poor broadband. It's incumbent on the PC to look at ways of mitigating this and improving the village's connectivity going forward.

Neighbourhood Plan.

Other villages have started the process of getting a Neighbourhood Plan in place, or already have one. This is something the PC is looking to develop for Salthouse. It can take some time to arrange but we think it is a project well worth developing. Finally, I would just like to thank County Cllr Eric Vardy and District Cllr Victoria Holliday for their active support for the Parish Council and Salthouse this year.

5. Finances – The finances are running to budget and we are solvent.
6. Public Opportunity for Questions to Councillors
Bus Stop – plans have been circulated and the bollards will be back in place.
Request for a bus shelter was discussed, and there could be a funding issue. Action: Cllr Holliday to investigate.
7. Date and time of next meeting to be confirmed.