

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday, 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Church Room,
All Saints Church, Main Road

Present:	Chairman	Cllr D Williams
	Vice Chairman	Cllr H Pipe
	Councillors	Cllr P Bailey
		Cllr S Davey
		Cllr P Wilkinson (also District Councillor)
	County Councillor	Cllr W Nunn
	Parish Clerk	Mrs S Porter
	Member(s) of Public	0

AP1/24 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AP2/24 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

AP3/24 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 6th March 2023 (AP1/23-AP8/23)

Proposed – Vice Chairman, Cllr Pipe

Seconded – Cllr Wilkinson

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 6th March 2023 are approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

All in favour

The Chairman, Cllr Williams, duly signed and dated the minutes of the meeting.
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AP4/24 Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman, Cllr Williams, reported the following:

In 2023/2024, the Council welcomed the new Norfolk County Councillor for Swaffham Ward, Cllr Nunn. Cllr Nunn reported that additional funding had been made available under the Road Safety Community Fund to help with safety and improvement schemes, such as lowering speed limits, making changes to road signs and markings and helping to address local issues and concerns. Cllr Nunn's help with the bus shelter project has been very much appreciated.

Cllr Davey reported that Glebe Farm had been advised that the trail bikes would only be operating at weekends. However, this was not the case. Cllr Davey advised that the Planning Department at Breckland District Council had not responded to the complaints made regarding the trail bikes. This has been successfully addressed as there have been few incidents of noise pollution in the vicinity of Glebe Farm.

Not a lot happened in the summer and the Parish Council did not sit in August 2023.

In September 2023, Mr Griffiths, the area Highways Officer at Norfolk County Council, visited the village and confirmed that a static speed camera would be installed as part of the S106 Agreement. A 30mph roundel, signage and an island would form part of the overall scheme to slow traffic down, the locations of which would be at the discretion of Highways and only fitted once the entire development had been completed. The island would not be built and 30mph speed repeater signs would not be erected if street lighting was installed on the new development.

Chairman Signed Dated

Due to the high costs, a zebra crossing near the Norman Gate entrance to the Community Centre could not be considered by Norfolk County Council. Some of these observations are still ongoing.

In September 2023, a meeting was arranged with the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Williams, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Pipe, Cllr Wilkinson, Mr J Stentiford of Surface Planning, along with the developer Mr S Mann of Minster Homes. At the Parish Council's request, they investigated the original contribution request from Norfolk County Council and discovered that the officer involved at the time appeared to have left the authority. Mr Stentiford stated that he had directed initial enquiries to the Norfolk National Environment Team (NETI) team, whom he thought was best placed to discuss a possible amendment. The issues with the current contribution, namely that the works proposed are likely to damage the ecological welfare of the Special Sites and Scientific Interests (SSSI) and will not provide any community benefit. The spending would be better directed to the Parish Council's infrastructure priorities based on local knowledge. The Council is yet to find out if the Agreement has been amended.

The Parish Council was delighted to inform residents that funding from County Cllr Nunn's annual Local Member Fund to the net value of £2,000.00 was approved to help fund one of the two new bus shelters. In addition to this, funding under the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme had been secured to the value of £5,027.00. The remainder of the scheme total would be secured by the Parish Council. Discussions are ongoing.

The Parish Council had the pleasure of reporting that the Narborough Airfield Memorial had been repaired. It was damaged after a road accident and had taken a while for it to come to fruition. Thanks goes to Cllr Wilkinson who kept up the pressure on insurers and builders. The Council has agreed to hold a rededication service with the RAF and put on a small reception in the Community Centre Hall afterwards. A date and time are to be arranged.

It was a great pleasure for the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Williams, Vice Chairman, Cllr Pipe, Mrs B Sands and The Burmor and Flagship Homes team leaders to visit Narborough School and meet nominated pupils to receive suggestions for naming the streets on the new development. All will be revealed in the coming year.

To finish 2023 on a lighter note, it was great to see so many people supporting the Community Centre Christmas Fair; the children attending loved Santa's Grotto. A big thank you is extended to all who helped organise and manage it. One comment from a young boy was, 'if my brothers left me alone, I would be a good Father Christmas'.

The high winds at the end of January 2024 saw some trees come down and cause hazards around the village. The Parish Council is looking at updating its emergency action plan, and a cascade telephone tree, in conjunction with Breckland District Council. The Community Centre is the rest centre for the local community, a place of respite for people who have been displaced from their homes due to an emergency or disaster. Be assured that residents do have somewhere to go.

Councillors debated the parish precept against the tax base for the parish of Narborough. To help residents, the following shows the breakdown. In 2023/2024 the tax base was 413.9 – for a precept of £20,000 this was £48.26 per Band D property. In 2024/2025 the tax base is 414.9 – for a precept of £22,000 (increase £2,000 / 10%) this equates to £53.02 for a Band D Property (9.87% increase on 2023/2024 = £4.76 increase pa / 40p increase pm / 9p increase pw and 1p increase per day). Band A = £35.35 (2/3 of Band D) and Band H = £106.05 (twice Band D).

In February 2024, the Parish Council saw that fly tipping in Breckland had been a problem for many years and now Breckland District Council was considering introducing mobile CCTV and body cameras to help target hot spots of fly tipping and dog fouling in a bid to catch offenders. Parish Councils would be able to submit requests in the future to lease the mobile cameras for short periods of time. The Parish Council felt also that this could be introduced as a means of identifying antisocial behaviour in the village.

I will hand over the Chairmanship and I wish my successor every success. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors who have served the village of Narborough with diligence and a lack of selflessness, the Clerk, District Councillor and County Councillor for their hard work and support during the past year.

AP5/24 Clerk's Finance Report 2023/2024

The Clerk had circulated a financial summary of the year-to-date accounts, period ending February 2024, and reported that the finances were in a healthy position.

AP6/24 Annual Village Reports from Representatives of Local Groups, Clubs & Organisations

AP6.1/24 Narborough Bone Mill

A written report had been submitted by the Narborough Bone Mill (Appendix 1).

AP6.2/24 Narborough Local History Museum

A written report had been submitted by the Narborough History Society/Museum Group (Appendix 2).

AP7/24 Annual Village Reports from Councillor Representatives to Outside Bodies

AP7.1/24 Narborough & Narford Community Centre

Cllr Williams, in his capacity as Chairman of the Narborough & Narford Community Centre, reported that a new Committee had been appointed in June 2023. There were found to be some financial anomalies and missing paperwork in the accounts, all of which were corrected, and banking procedures were subsequently tightened up to avoid this happening again in the future. By September 2023, the finances were reconciled and three new Trustees were notified to the Charity Commission.

Appreciation is extended to Mrs Susan Nairn and Mr Peter Alling for their help in auditing the accounts, which in turn enabled the accounts to be submitted to the Charity Commission on time.

The Sports & Social Club settled its account by paying somewhere in the region of £8500.00-£10,000.00 and this enabled £2,600.00 to be spent on the essential purchase of 90 brand new chairs for the Hall. Users of the Hall had since expressed their appreciation in the upgrade. A few new tables were purchased for the Florence Green Room and the Sports & Social Club had agreed to vacate the store room in there, which was currently being used for stock and other equipment. Regular meetings were now held with the Sports & Social Club and the relationship was good.

The Annual Village Fair and Christmas Fair were both a huge success and enjoyed by all.

AP7.2/24 Icen Partnership

There was nothing to report to the meeting.

AP7.3/24 Sports & Social Club

There was nothing to report to the meeting.

AP7.4/24 Swaffham SNAP

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the Swaffham Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) held quarterly public meetings to consider policing priorities in the area. Antisocial behaviour and vandalism tended to be a consistent topic, with the majority of crimes being carried out in Swaffham. Police officers did have the powers to issue penalty notices for certain offences.

AP7.5/24 Breckland District Council

Borough Cllr Wilkinson circulated a presentation of Breckland District Council's achievements during the past year. This would be attached to the minutes.

AP8/24 Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

Chairman Signed Dated

Narborough Bone Mill Annual Report March 2024

The remains of Narborough bone mill include a large water wheel which can be seen from the Nar Valley Way footpath which can be accessed from River Close. Volunteers work on site every Thursday when visitors can cross our footbridge and look around our visitor centre to see finds discovered from digging the site in 2015.

Our Wildflower Meadow flowered for the first time in late May. We put a picnic bench and insect hotels in the meadow. We cut paths through the meadow all summer and invited the public to join us to see the flowers, we had many visitors. The meadow was created with a Norfolk Community Foundation grant.

We opened for Mills Weekend in May when we also celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. We held Heritage Open Days in September, both events were well attended with some excellent feedback from visitors. We had our water wheel turning at both events and our model of the mill was on display.

Bone mill volunteers cleared Narborough Church yard of brambles & nettles, and cut back the public footpath next to the Church. We kept grass cut on the public footpath opposite the mill through the summer and cleared fallen trees which were blocking the footpath.

We removed debris from our river wall which collapsed into the river early last year, we plan to replace the wall this spring after seeking professional advice.

We had a stand at Narborough Fair with finds and displays from the mill on show including a video of the water wheel turning and a slideshow of the meadow in flower.

We put up a Kestrel box and several Bat boxes left over from our Breckland Council Green Grant in August. Several bird boxes have nest cameras and we watched Jackdaws and Great Tits raising their chicks again this year. A Kingfisher nest tunnel will be built into the new river wall when its rebuilt.

In September Peter Wilkinson, Breckland Council Chairman visited the mill with his group of walkers on a sponsored charity walk which he organised.

We gained another volunteer in September, Howard, a retired Fireman from Heacham, who plans to move nearer to Narborough this year. Barry who volunteered with us from 2016 to 2020 passed away in July and will be sadly missed.

Our next open days will be National Mills Weekend on 11 & 12 May, we will be open 11am to 4pm. There is free entry, parking and refreshments. Details will be on our website and in Nar Valley News.

We are actively recruiting volunteers, if you would enjoy light work at our historic, tranquil riverside location with plenty of wildlife to watch, please contact us through our website www.bonemill.org.uk.

Graham Bartlett
Project Coordinator

**Narborough History Society/Museum Group
Annual Report March 2024**

The museum continues to attract a steady flow of visitors, mainly from people outside of the village. Family history enquiries have been received from Australia, New Zealand, and from a number of Norfolk people tracing their roots. Links have been established with Watton Museum and Swaffham History Society.

New this year is the Reading and Research Room (supported by Norfolk Community Foundation through Breckland Council Match Funding), where visitors can browse through the books and collections at their leisure. Bill Clarke's fantastic collection of domestic memorabilia is also on display.

Join us for a cup of tea and a slice of cake, inspect the collections, or spend time in the bird hide. Admission is free (donations accepted). Open every Thursday and the first Sunday of the month from April to October.

David Turner
Museum Curator