

FINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, duly convened on **Wednesday 20 March 2024**
at **Fincham Memorial Hall**, High Street, Fincham, King's Lynn, PE33 9EJ.
Commenced at **7.00pm**. Chaired by Councillor Cathy O'Brien

Attending:

Councillors: C O'Brien (Chairman), S Blackmur, B Ponder, D Stringer & R Underhill

County Cllr Long
Borough Cllr Moriarty

Clerk (Locum) – K Walker

Press: 0

Public: 1

1. Attendance

As above

2. Apologies

Cllr J Lunan & Borough Cllr Devulapalli

3. Minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 22 March 2023

Accepted by all as true record of proceedings & signed by Chairman

4. Reports

4.1. Chairman of the Parish Council - Cllr. C O'Brien read out the following report:

This report gives an opportunity to thank all of our Parish Councillors, past and present, for their dedicated public service, all provided on a voluntary basis.

Since the last Parish Assembly on the 23rd March 2023, the Parish Council have held 6 meetings in which a range of issues were discussed on behalf of Fincham residents.

In May 2023 a new Parish Council was formed comprising the 5 candidates nominated for the Parish Council elections. Two additional councillors were subsequently co-opted at the July meeting, and a third joined in September 2023.

As part of the Borough Council's planning application process the Parish Council were consulted on a number of planning applications including:

- Proposed erection of single, detached, dwelling in Paddock Lane Fincham
- Two storey and single storey extension and alterations Midway Lodge High Street
- Construction of one single storey dwelling East of the Memorial Hall High Street
- Alterations to Ivy House High Street Fincham
- Alterations to The Old Chapel Chapel Lane
- Single storey extension to rear of The Bungalow High Street
- Replacement of rotten window frames and door West Wing Ivy House High Street
- Two storey side extension 2 Churchill Crescent
- Building to Replace Existing Wedding Venue Marquee Timbers Lynn Road
- Extension to rear of Old Post Office High Street

The long-term agricultural tenants surrendered their allotments at the beginning of the year. Having failed to find new tenants, or suitable uses for the land, the Agricultural Allotments which had been available since 1919 were reluctantly returned to the County Council. The Parish Council will continue to provide garden allotments.

Signed:..... (Chairman)

Date:.....

The Parish Council provided funds for the defibrillator that was installed outside the Memorial Hall.

In April, a new bench was installed in the layby opposite the Memorial Hall to provide residents with somewhere to sit. The bench was dedicated in memory of Sarah Thorpe who had served as Parish Clerk for 7 years until her death.

Having eventually secured funding to match the original cost estimate of the TROD to provide a safe footpath between Chapel Farm and Black Drove, we were advised that the cost had increased from £33,539 to £56,866. Although, the Parish Partnership had offered to fund 50% of the difference, the Parish Council was unable to provide the remainder (£11,648). Instead of waiting until more funds were found, the Parish Council suggested that the TROD should be built starting from Black Drove and extending as long possible to join the footpath on the north side of the road. The TROD was finished in February and is now being used regularly to provide a safe route to the nature reserve. We will continue to look for additional funds to complete the TROD between Black Drove and Chapel Farm.

The Speed Activating Messaging Sign (SAM2) which is shared with Crimplesham was returned to Fincham in July has been active every other month with the help of a resident.

The Community Speedwatch team were active on a number of occasions and speeders reported to the police. Unfortunately, with a decline in the number of volunteers for the scheme, it was disbanded. If there are sufficient volunteers for a new team in the future, the scheme could be reinstated.

Finally, in addition to attending Parish Council meetings, your Parish Councillors volunteer to undertake the many duties associated with maintaining and running the village in the interests of the people of Fincham, for which I sincerely thank them all. The powers available to the Parish Council are very limited and it is often very hard to manage residents' expectations.

4.2. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk - Borough Cllr. Moriarty summarised key Borough Council matters during the last year & provided an overview of corporate strategy

4.3. Norfolk County Council - Cllr. Long gave an overview of County Council statistics & achievements during the last year

5. Open Forum

A member of the public asked about clearing/cleaning of pavements & was advised to 'Report a problem' via Norfolk County Council's website, a link to which could be found on the Parish Council website

Meeting closed: 7.21pm