

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BROOKE METHODIST HALL ON
MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Mr Spinks, Mr Tobin, Mr Pitelen, Mr Newman, Mrs Brown, Mr Wilson Mrs Hannah and Mrs Jones.

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr Fuller (District Councillor).

Absent: Mrs Beardsell, Mrs Mason-Billig (County Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence:

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of meeting on 28th November 2022:

The minutes had been previously circulated and were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman accordingly.

4. Matters arising from meeting on 28th November 2022:

4.1 Flashing speed signs

Mr Tobin has contacted Westcotec for advice as to how to retrieve the data collected by the speed sign and is awaiting their response.

4.2 Benches

Highways have given permission for 2 benches to be installed between the bins on the Norwich Road lay-by. Mrs Jones will ask Steve to quote to lay concrete bases and fit them.

4.3 Land registration

Mrs Brown had nothing new to report.

4.4 Electric charging points

There is no update.

4.5 Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Newman has done some research in to Neighbourhood Plans. Very few small villages in Norfolk have them. He will continue to do research and try to speak to a representative of one to the villages that has one.

A Neighbourhood Plan takes around 2 years to complete. The Local Development Plan will be completed around about June this year so it would not be possible to have one in place by then.

5. County and District Councillor's reports:

Mr Spinks asked Mr Fuller to explain why in the Draft Local Plan, Brooke has been allocated 50 houses. Mr Fuller stated that:-

In essence the Council has determined a need of 1225 houses for the rural parishes not covered by other allocations [eg Wymondham, Poringland etc] but the 1225 is just one element of a complete local plan that comprises 45000 homes by 2037.

Parishes have been clustered together, largely in primary school catchment areas, which is the best proxy for the social canvas and local extent for a parish. The average size is 25 and 45 sites have been chosen.

The 1225 represents about 2pc of the entire local plan provisions for 45000 homes. Insofar as Brooke's share of the local plan $50/45000 = 0.1\text{pc}$ of the entire load. By contrast, Norwich and the fringe parishes are bearing 70pc of the entire load with the larger settlements eg Aylsham, Diss & Harleston taking another 10pc.

So Brooke has an allocation of 50, absolutely coupled with a new roundabout to control speed and improve access. This is contained within the 30mph limit.

This is not a case of singling Brooke out for special treatment. 400 sites were whittled down to 45. And, the ones that fell away in Brooke included ones that the PC might have preferred but failed technical tests on highways, location and impacts on Listed buildings, for example.

Brooke's 0.1pc of the total for 180 parishes in aggregate represents somewhat less than the aggregate growth indicated by population changes that Jonathan laid out in the meeting based on his own independent analysis. In essence, over 20 years, it represents an average of 2.5 homes per year for the plan period.

6. Planning:

6.1 New and amended planning applications

2022/2410 – Proposed conversion and extension of 2 buildings to form 1 dwelling at outbuildings south of Fox Lodge, Highfield Lane.

The proposal was discussed and of the Councillors present, 6 voted to return a response of 'no objections' and 2 abstained.

2020/1916 – Amended application – proposed erection of 2 detached dwellings at land North of The Bungalow, Howe Lane.

The application was recommended for refusal with the following comments:

The proposed development is not in keeping with the location, would be overdevelopment of the site and would overlook neighbouring properties.

SN0588 – TPO for Horse Chestnut tree at the Meres, The Street.

This application was made by the Parish Council to protect the Horse Chestnut tree at the Southern end of the mere (formerly known as the the noticeboard tree). It was agreed therefore agreed to return a response of 'in favour' of the application.

7. Public Spaces:

7.1 Trees and hedges

Mrs Jones reported that she has around 100 hedging whips to be planted and would gratefully accept any help in doing so.

7.2 Highways

There are some potholes on The Street which Councillors will report to Highways.

8. Finance:

8.1 Clerk's financial statement

The Clerk's financial statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted as a true representation of the current financial position of the Parish Council.

8.2 Cheques to be authorised

The following cheques were approved for signature:

£10.00	Brooke Methodist Church	Hall hire
£1206.00	Fosters Solicitors	Fees in connection with Squash Club

8.3 Precept

Councillors voted to maintain the precept at the same cost per band D household as last year. The tax base for 2023-24 is 550 households (3 fewer than 2022-23) at £37.85 per household that equates to a precept amount of £20,817.50. Mr Spinks proposed that a precept request for the sum of £20,817.50 is made. Mr Tobin seconded the proposal with all present in favour. The Clerk therefore completed the forms accordingly.

9. Parish Council administration:

9.1 Councillor training

Mr Newman is signed up to undertake Councillor training next week.

9.2 Cheque signatories

Mr Spinks has been unable to complete the necessary process to become a cheque signatory. The Clerk asked for another volunteer in his place as it is important to have 3 signatories. Mrs Jones offered to do it. The Clerk will ask Barclays to send the necessary forms.

10. Correspondence:

A member of the public has emailed to draw the Parish Council's attention to 2 new fences which have been erected in the village. They both contravene planning regulations and no planning application has been made. One is in place of a mature hedge which has been removed without permission. The PC has been asked to report the matter SNDC planning department.

11. Items for agenda and date of next meeting 27th February 2023:

Village communication
 Speed signs
 Benches
 Electric charging points
 Neighbourhood plan
 Development north of the village
 Meres management group

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm