

# Ormesby St Margaret With Scratby Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January the 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 – 1900- at All Saints Parish Hall Scratby

## **In attendance:**

Councillors P. Nathan (Chair), K Wendt (V Chair), J Gingell, C Ingram, J Shrimplin, P Holley, G Freeman, C Williams – Officers C Fraser (RFO) & C Batten (Clerk).

**Absent:** Councillor J Rundle

The Chair delivered a welcome address to the meeting.

**1. Apologies** - Cllr S Calnon and Cllr A Grant.

**2. Declarations of Interest** - None

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**3.1** To approve the meeting minutes held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. Proposed by Cllr Freeman and Seconded by Cllr Shrimplin – **Passed**

**3.2** Matters arising - None

**4. Clerks Report** – The Clerk informed the Council that information on the Staithe and its use by vessels was still with Essex & Suffolk Water and the Wildlife Trust, and progress would be reported. The Clerk also announced that any Councillor requiring training on the platform technology being used by the Parish was available on request from the Clerk. It was confirmed that the Net Zero Project slides had been made available on Basecamp and that the project would be discussed for approval later in the meeting. The Clerk gave an update on the progress being made with various tasks and that due to the need to prioritise the work required, a little patience was required with aspects of Social Media and Web posts.

**The Chair moved to suspend the Council meeting** – Seconded by Cllr Wendt

**5. Public Participation** – A member of the public requested an update on the repair of the Gabions (Sea Defences Scratby). The question was referred to the Borough Councillor G

Freeman to answer during his report. During the report, it was confirmed that the Gabions had been discussed and that the CPE had submitted applications to the Environment Agency for funding. Cllr Freeman confirmed to the Public that this is and would remain a high priority, which would continue to have his attention.

Concerns were raised over the lack of a post box able to receive larger items and a question should be directed to the responsible person(s) as to the possibility of an appropriate box being installed in the village of Ormesby. It was agreed that the Rural Deliveries Manager would be approached on this subject.

Concerns were also raised regarding the use of footpaths and the reporting of their closure or safety due to the recent erosion. A member of the Public mirrored this concern and the damage to barriers and fences being caused by those intent on seeing the erosion. A need to research who should be amending the access information online was identified by Cllr Nathan.

Cllr Gingell requested that questions be raised with Borough Councillors and Community Champions regarding the support of vulnerable people in the parish in need of the basics of life. Cllr Holley agreed to also talk to the Head of Community Champions regarding the subject. Cllr Gingell then went on to raise the question of phone line digitalisation and asked that this be looked into by Borough and County Councillors, specifically what the plans were. Cllr Freeman responded that he hoped digitalisation would be completed during 2024.

**The Chair reconvened the meeting.**

## **6. Financial Matters – RFO**

**6.1 Payment List Jan 24** – The payment list was reviewed, and an amendment was made regarding a previously made transfer in December, but payment was due and made earlier this month. The payment list approval and the appropriate transfer of £2,274.64 were proposed by Cllr Ingram and Seconded by Cllr Holley – **Passed**.

**6.2 2024/5 Budget & Precept Approval** – Cllr Nathan, with the RFO, presented the 2024/5 Budget and Precept previously worked on by the Finance Committee. He

thanked all those involved in the preparation of the budget. An increase in the precept by 5% was proposed, which was a rise of just £2.18 per annum for households. Given the current and recent economic conditions, it was agreed that this was a very reasonable rise. Proposed by Cllr Gingell, seconded by Cllr Freeman – **Passed**

7. **Planning - 06/23/0540/F** Development of 55 dwellings (amended) – **No further Comment at this stage. 06/23/0616/D** Reserved Matters application - **No objections and 06/23/0616/D** Ground Floor Kitchen extension – **No objections.**

8. **Adoption of New Co-option Procedure** – Cllr Wendt confirmed that the Personnel Committee had looked at the procedure and, after an amendment, supported it. Cllr Gingell raised a question regarding the process at the Council meeting and was satisfied with the response and reasoning behind that section of the process. Adoption of the procedure was proposed by Cllr Wendt and seconded by Cllr Freeman – **Passed.**

9. **Net Zero Project** – Cllr Nathan gave a brief overview of the project and the advantages of being involved as a Parish. It was seen by all as a very positive step. Proposed by Cllr Wendt, seconded by Cllr Shrimplin - **Passed**

**Meeting Closed at 2023**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be on the 12th of February 2024 at The Village Centre.**

**Chair Signature:**

**Date:**