



## LEZIATE & ASHWICKEN PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2024 FROM 18.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bal Anota (BA), Adrian Bramwell (AB), Victoria Kempley (VK), Graham Mathais (GM), Andy Blatch (ABL) and Michael de Whalley (MdW) -all as members of the public except for the Chairman and clerk.

The Parish Clerk (CB)

Borough Councillors Michael de Whalley and Bal Anota

No members of the public present.

1. **WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIRMAN**
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**  
Cllrs Collis and Moriarty.
3. **Approval of the circulated minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.** Proposed AB, seconded MdW and all in favour who attended this meeting.
4. **Chairmans Annual Report -** BA and MdW having both being Chair in the last year advised:
  - 4.1 TRO for Brow of the Hill had been surveyed, was moving forward and updates to follow.
  - 4.2 The fencing at play area by the Village Hall was replaced including new gates and offers a safer area for children to play.  
The memorial bench to former Cllr George Solley has been fitted in the play area.
  - 4.3 The Parish Council arranged funding for the defibrillator at the Village Hall and thanks to the Village Hall Committee for funding the installation.
5. **Borough Councillors Reports-**  
Annual Report from Bal Anota 23/24. Independent Councillor and Member for Gayton and Grimston and Cabinet Member for Property and Corporate Services.

Following the election and gaining the most Party votes, we, the Independents, set about forging a "Partnership" with the Greens and Lib. Dems and coming to an "Understanding" with Labour Members.

Our Partnership Members then set about agreeing a Corporate Plan, Objectives and actions to complete for the financial year. All of which can be found on the Borough Web Site.

The first challenge for me was to understand and see how my Portfolio operated, During the last year I've had many visits to the wide range of assets owned and operated by the Council, these were from small retail units to huge industrial warehouses, during this time I invested a lot of time to get to know how we operate our leases and tenancies and soon highlighted that we should look to a more cost effective way of our all-inclusive rents – to a more sensible service charge – as you know over the last few years the cost of energy and unitalities have gone

up by 40/50% and this was highlighted in our performance indicators, I had visited the Mintlyn Crematorium and met the team and the manager Chris Black, who showed me around the site, it was humbling to see how dedicated all the staff are, this has to be one of the hardest thing for families to lose loved one and it was so lovely to see how the team communicates with the families with support and from a service to a direct cremation the level of dignity is marinated throughout.

The second part of my Portfolio is Corporate Services – this is a big aspect of the Councils main operation and contributed the biggest revenue to the council, which includes public open space, the crematorium, cemetery, and closed churchyards and all of the boroughs car parks and back office operations, it is important to note without this income we would be able to for fill our statutory objectives let alone our non-statutory services that we provide.

The Crematorium has kept me busy of late with the memorial Safety Testing that was carried out in mid-2023, there will be lots of social media around this end of May beginning of June to highlight why we do this and its importance – please look out for my media on this.

This Administration has been very involved with the Parish Council, which for me was a welcomed change, there was 2 engagement sessions setup by the leader to listen and engage with our local communities, for me this is a very important issues, as many Parish Councils feel their voices are not heard and listened to, Parish Council to me are the most important part of local government – they are the grass roots of all villages and are very well vest to local issues, especially around planning, flooding and other local issues, I would love to see more weight given to Parish Councils in regards to Planning Applications and other issues which directly effects the local area.

**Cllr de Whalley** advised that it had been a challenging year and he had taken on portfolio roles with a lot of changes required. Alistair Beales has just taken over as leader of the Borough Council with Simon Ring as deputy. Interview are taking place for Chief Executive following the resignation of Lorraine Gore who leaves in September.

A new direction is taking place following peer review and the independent partnership.

This an opportunity to make the most of this partnership.

Thanks were given to Terry Parish, Jim Moriarty and Lorraine Gore.

## 6. County Councillor Report – Jim Moriarty

### **Rural community green spaces to be rejuvenated through new government fund**

Grants of up to £75,000 will be provided to help communities to plant fruits, vegetables and trees, creating orchards and kitchen gardens for all to access and enjoy. Landscaping projects could also create raised beds and improve areas to plant different flowers around village hall facilities and other community green spaces, making space for pollinators and nature to thrive.

Funding will also be awarded to support the expansion of natural play facilities which encourage children to spend more time outdoors, in addition to projects which focus on improving access to green spaces such as new paths and seating. To make the spaces more accessible to disabled people, funding will also be available for the creation of disabled parking spaces.

Defra is working with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to scope the Community Green Spaces Fund with applications expected to open in early summer.

The full Government press release can be viewed [here](#). Local Enterprise Partnership integration into Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils

### **LEP Changes**

Key functions and employees of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) transferred to Norfolk and Suffolk on 1 April 2024 as part of the Government's devolution process. LEP functions include business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes.

Business support will continue to be provided by New Anglia Growth Hub – which delivers the LEP’s business growth programme, including the administration of grant schemes. The Growth Hub has supported businesses and the region’s economy, with the economic impact of its Business Growth Programme measured over a 10-year period at £1,032,797,741, creating new jobs and safeguarding existing employment.

### **Nominations now open for the Flourish Awards 2024**

Norfolk County Council has announced the return of the Flourish Awards for 2024 – with nominations now officially open.

Hosted by the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance (CYPSA), the distinguished awards recognise the people, projects, teams and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to help children and young people in Norfolk Flourish.

Any project, team or organisation can be nominated by members of the public or a professional, with the winners being decided by a panel of children and young people (CYP), made up of members of Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards and other CYP groups, and parents.

Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourishawards2024](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourishawards2024) to make a nomination. Nominations are open until 24 May 2024.

There are eight Flourish Awards up for grabs, each based on an area of young people’s lives which are important to them.

The eight nomination categories are:

- Family and Friends Award
- Learning Award
- Opportunity Award
- Understood Award
- Resilience Award
- Individuality Award
- Safe and Secure Aware
- Healthy Award

The Flourish Awards welcomes nominations for individuals, teams, and organisations that have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to progress in their respective categories. In its first year, the Flourish Awards received more than 300 nominations, with 160 different nominees selected. Eight winners were announced across the categories, with 16 others named Finalists.

To nominate, visit the official Flourish Awards website at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourishawards2024](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flourishawards2024) and complete the nomination form.

### **7. Parishioners Open Form – none present.**



The meeting closed at 18.40