

**Minutes of the Meeting of Lessingham Parish Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
2025 at 7.40pm at Lessingham Village Hall**

**Present:** Peter Peruzzi (Chairman)  
Sue Allen  
Georgina Dunn  
Emma Hallums  
James Holden  
Helen Twining  
Catherine Moore, Parish Clerk

**Also present:** County Councillor Richard Price and one member of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda**

None.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed**, proposed by Gina Dunn, seconded by Helen Twining, all in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

**4. Co-option of Parish Councillor**

No by-election had been called, and the Council was free to co-opt. An application was expected for the next meeting.

**5. Public Forum**

**a) Public**

A member of the public noted that Ingham had received grants for trees and had engaged with landowners, and asked whether this was something Lessingham could look at. Peter Peruzzi reported that some had been planted, although some of these had been lost through drought or an over-zealous mower. Richard Price noted that the County Council could help with this. This would be put onto the next agenda.

**ACTION: Clerk**

A member of the public noted that the footway near the cottages on School Road had a parked car blocking it, it was noted that there had been a lot of work at the property and the new owner had been parking there as the vans were on the road. It was noted that it was illegal to block a footway, and that their parking was at the back of the properties. It was **agreed** that this would be investigated, and the new owner would be approached face to face to see if it could be sorted in a friendly way.

**ACTION: PP / JH**

**b) County Councillor**

Richard Price reported that the Environment Agency would be launching the next phase of predictions for coastal erosion, this would be circulated once received. The big issue for the County Council was devolution and local government reform. NCC had been accepted for the priority scheme, together with Suffolk, to form a Mayoral Authority for both counties. A Mayor would be elected in May 2026. The unitary authorities needed to be over 1M residents. Suffolk wanted one Unitary authority for the whole of Suffolk, and Norfolk County Council was looking at their preferred proposal, and needed to ensure that the key statutory officer positions were

well filled while making cost savings. There would be no County Council elections in May 2025.

- c) District Councillor  
No report.

## 6. Planning

a) New Applications

PF/25/0292 Sun Dale, Hedgehog Walk, Bush Estate, Eccles-on-Sea: Front and rear extensions to dwelling with new duo-pitched roof over whole dwelling. Replacement side wall boundary.

It was noted that this was retrospective application. Concern was expressed that the extension was being built over a sewer access, and that there was no plan for what would be in the upstairs section. There were also concerns about the outside lighting, which had been ticked 'No' on the application form. There was no planning permission for the mobile home which had been plumbed and wired in, and this would not be able to removed once the extension was completed. Works had begun in August 2024. It was felt that this had been deliberately begun so that there was no choice but to grant retrospective permission. There were concerns about loss of privacy to the neighbouring properties, as well as a loss of light, as the proposal was imposing and out of character with the surrounding properties. It was **agreed** to object and make these comments, proposed by Gina Dunn, seconded by Helen Twining, all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

b) Applications considered between meetings

PF/25/0097 Grange Farm, Ingham Road, Lessingham: Change of use from a certified 5 pitches site to a private independent 10 caravan pitches site.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

- c) Decisions  
None.

## 7. Finance

a) Finances 2024/25 To Date

The accounts were noted. Since the last meeting the following had been received:  
➤ None.

b) Amendment in Tax Base

It was noted that the tax base figure had been amended to 268.2, so the Band D was £19.77, 11.04% reduction.

c) Payments

It was **agreed** to pay the following, proposed by Georgina Dunn, seconded by Helen Twining, all in favour:-

C Moore	Salary & Expenses Jan – Mar 2025	£525.83
HMRC	PAYE Jan – March 2025	£127.60
Norfolk PTS	Subscription	£57.50

## 8. Correspondence

a) General Correspondence

None.

## 9. Highways and Parish Assets

### a) General Highway Issues

None.

### b) General Parish Asset Issues

None.

## 10. Other Matters

### a) Update on the Little Tern Area

Peter Peruzzi reported that he had been discussing the issues, and had received agreement to a site meeting. Nothing had been heard since, and diggers had moved in with rocks being put onto the beach. The piece of dune in question was currently not being affected. Peter met with the Environment Agency and Richard Price and mentioned that he would like to be included in a meeting with the RSPB. This took place without Peter being invited, and he had questioned why. A site meeting would not be taking place now, and it felt that everything was back to square one. Peter would continue dialogue with them.

**ACTION: PP**

### b) Additional Litter Bin at Bush Estate

Helen Twining reported that she was working through a consultation with neighbours, and Peter had given some pointers on what was needed. Helen would contact Norfolk County Council regarding a street furniture licence for the location, at the corner of Beach Road and Heath Road near the pond.

**ACTION: HT**

There were no additional sites that could be considered for Lessingham at this time.

### c) Councillor Portfolios and Risk Assessments

Nothing new to report.

### d) Internal Auditor 2024/25

It was **agreed** to appoint Kerrie Wilton as Internal Auditor, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by Sue Allen, all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

It was **agreed** that the outgoing Clerk would prepare the audit papers for submission to internal audit.

### e) Statement of Internal Control

The Statement of Internal Control was **agreed**, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by Emma Hallums, all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 11. Chairman's Report

It was **agreed** that a Chairman's Report would be added to future meetings under Public Participation, for information only.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Peter Peruzzi reported that he had attended a meeting with the PCC regarding net zero

## 12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was **agreed** to exclude the Press and Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for the duration of item 11a due to the confidential business to be transacted, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by Sue Allen, all in favour.

### a) To appoint a Parish Clerk or Locum Clerk

The candidates were discussed and a preferred candidate was agreed, proposed by Peter Peruzzi, seconded by Sue Allen, all in favour.

**13. Items for the Next Agenda**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council was now paying for hire of the village hall. Catherine Moore was thanked for her service to the Parish Council over the last few years.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025** at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

**CHAIRMAN**