

Necton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held Monday, 1 September, 7.30pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre

Present: Cllrs Frank Woodward (Chair), Mrs Jeanette Webb (Vice-Chair), Ms Louise Willis, Ms Denise Axham, Mr Ian Thompson, Mr Dave Matthews. Ms Gabrielle Joyce, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 14 members of public. Cllr Nigel Wilkins, District Councillor.

The Chair welcomed the new Parish Clerk, who started this month.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Joe Sisto.

Action by

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 04 August 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3.1 Matters arising from minutes

Dog poo bins have been installed by the allotments. Breckland Council have added these bins to their list and their collection round on Fridays.

Costs for Mr Lake to maintain the garden on Tuns Road – 5 sessions at £20 per session, plus an annual spray and tree pruning for £50.

4. Correspondence

Mr & Mrs Wrycroft regarding the ditch at Chantry Lane, adjacent to the property they are in the process of purchasing. This ditch is the responsibility of NCC. Cllr Webb has informed Mr & Mrs Wrycroft by email on 26 Aug.

Ongoing matter relating to clearing of brambles on a parcel of land backing onto property at 20 Hale Road. Breckland Council confirmed that this land was transferred to the ownership of Flagship Housing. Cllr Webb has written to Ms Shedden of Flagship Housing and is awaiting a response.

A letter requesting funding support was received from Norfolk Hospice. This will be held for consideration at the council's precept meeting.

Membership renewal information was received from SLCC.

Legal Briefing from NALC – amendment to Standing Orders relating to the new legislation on recording of meetings. Necton Council's Standing Orders have been revised to reflect this change and circulated to all councillors.

Invitation to AGM of Norfolk Association of Local Councils on 4 October 2013. Cllrs Woodward, Matthews and Willis to attend.

Email from Department of Communities and Local Government regarding neighbourhood planning. A document which councillors are invited to read.

Invitation to Mid-Norfolk CAB AGM on 17 Sept at Swaffham Community Centre. Cllr Woodward to attend.

A speculative brochure from Shelter Solutions promoting bus shelters. Further information has been requested.

Norfolk Parish Training Partnership training course information for new councillors and clerks.

Confirmation of the council's VAT rebate, which has been electronically credited to council's bank account.

5. Clerk's report

There was no Clerk's report.

6. Chairman's report

Cllr Woodward reported on new grant opportunities from Brecks Partnership that the village forum might wish to access.

Photographs relating to the recent flooding of Chantry Lane have been received from residents and they are available to view.

Membership of Norfolk Rural Community Council will be considered.

The village sign by church is in need of repair. The original maker has quoted £250 for a repair of this sign. Last done 10 years ago.

Resolved that - the repairs be carried out.

FW

The poor condition of the village entry sign on Tuns Road was also cited as needing repainting.

Resolved that - a quote would be requested.

FW

Item published in the local paper about the recent drainage (Chantry Lane), which states that NCC were contacting the parish council regarding a resolution to the matter.

Resolved that – Cllr Matthews would follow up on progress with NCC.

DM

7. Councillors Reports

7.1 Cllr Thompson asked if a walking track or grass/hedge cutting could be investigated for the section of Hale Road out of the village leading to Ram's Lane and the beginning of Ram's Lane which is frequented by walkers, but over grown hedges and verges make it dangerous. Norfolk partnership might be an avenue to investigate for funding of a footpath.

Resolved that – this be investigated.

FW

Standing Orders, item 26, no time limit on when organisations provide supporting documentary evidence of expenditure of their grant is specified. This matter is addressed within the Grant Awards policy which has been circulated for review and adoption.

Resolved that - organisations who received grants in March 2014 would be invited to provide evidence of expenditure.

GJ

7.2 Cllr Matthews reported that the following issues have been registered with the Highways Agency – Chapel Road signage for HGV traffic; overgrown hedging along 16 Chantry Lane; protective cover over drains at 16 Chantry Lane. The hedge has since been cut. The Rangers are still to investigate the banking along Ivy Todd.

There's a meeting with Stat Oil on 4th September at 7.30pm, where the wish list

produced from the Village Forum will be presented for their consideration. The next meeting of the Village Forum is on the 23rd September.

Norfolk ALC is seeking to recruit a new legal company who would provide a free service to its members. Their audit review conducted by Louisa Canterra is nearing completion. The new IT infrastructure for remote working access is in place. Parish Councils are invited to host a new round of Café Clusters. This might be of interest for Necton. NALC funding from NCC is still under negotiation. There is funding available from the Youth Advisory Boards for suitable youth projects within the county.

7.3 Nothing to report from Cllrs Axham or Willis.

7.4 Cllr Webb reported that the draft risk assessment, financial risk and grants policies have been circulated to all councillors for review.

Resolved that – a working party meet to review and consider. JW

A workstation risk assessment has been presented to the new clerk for completion.

The matter with Anglian Water and water installation to the allotments is still unresolved and further discussions in hand.

Resolved that - matter be escalated to their complaints procedure. JW

Meeting suspended to allow representation from the Allotment Society who presented a cheque for 50% of the annual rent, in recognition of the efforts of the Parish Council in the matter with Anglian Water.

Meeting re-convened.

8. Planning matters

8.1 Results of applications – none.

8.2 New applications - No new planning applications.

9. Finances

Receipt of VAT reclaim of £4853.35 has been credited to the bank account.

The current account balance stands at £8,716.55 on 1st September. The other bank accounts remain unchanged from previous month's report.

Payment (£3,900) from Zurich Insurance (3rd party claim) relating to repair of damaged light is still outstanding.

Resolved that – this matter be followed up. JW

9.1 The accounts for payments for August were agreed.

10. Allotments

Dealt with in previous item.

11. Street Lights

Awaiting 3rd quote for refurbishing remainder lights.

12. Drainage & Ditches

Highways have inspected the ditches at Chantry Lane and Mill Street. They have indicated that clearance work will be undertaken.

Resolved that – if no further action by next Parish meeting, the matter will be escalated to appropriate MP and other agents. DM

13. Policy Reviews

Dealt with in previous item. Also, the Breckland Council Code of Conduct is added to the list of policies for review by working party. Cllr Thompson and Cllr Webb are yet to meet to review the policy on accountability and governance.

Resolved that –policies for adoption be brought to the October meeting. All

14. Public Recess

A resident reported that another elderly resident in a mobility scoter suffered injury by brambles as she travelled past No 8 Mill Street, where brambles are overhanging the pavement.

Resolved that – a letter be written to resident, explaining the matter and her responsibilities. GJ

A resident asked if the river on North Pickenham Rd can be cleared. It is overgrown. This is an Environmental Agency matter.

Resolved that – the EA be contacted. GJ

A resident provided a personal report on the recent matter of Anglian Water and the installation of water on the allotment.

Cllr Wilkins asked if the council would welcome a visit from Cllr Kiddle-Morris at the October meeting. This suggestion was welcomed.

A resident asks if the recent flooding on Chantry Lane might have been exasperated by a re-blocking of pipes on a previously problematic section.

15. Welcome Packs

Three delivered to new residents during August.

16. Next meeting

Parish Meeting **6th October 2014**, any items to be submitted to the Clerk.

The precept meeting is on 23 October at 7.30pm. Public are welcome, but there will be no public recess.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____