

# Necton Parish Council



**Minutes of meeting held Monday, 6 October, 7.30pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre**

**Present:** Cllrs Frank Woodward (Chair), Ms Louise Willis, Ms Denise Axham, Mr Ian Thompson, Ms Gabrielle Joyce, Parish Clerk.

**Also present:** 13 members of public. Cllr Nigel Wilkins, District Councillor. **Guest speakers** – Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Norfolk County Council and Mr Phil Mileham, Deputy Planning Manager, Breckland Council.

## 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mrs Jeanette Webb (Vice-Chair) and Mr Dave Matthews.

## 2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest. Copies of current records distributed to members for personal reference.

### **Meeting opened to guest speakers with invitation for public participation.**

**Cllr. Kiddle-Morris** – Recognises that the village has a problem with ditch and **sewer** flooding with storm water. Currently trying to arrange a meeting with Anglian Water and NCC on site (Chantry Lane) to discuss how to rectify the sewer problem. This meeting is anticipated to be next month, but before Christmas. Cllr Kiddle-Morris committed to chasing the setting of this meeting. Moving onto the **ditches**, Cllr Kiddle-Morris stated that they are not NCC responsibility. He has received a report that states the ditches are blocked in several places by people placing things in the ditches. He proposed a solution – under the Parish Partnership, NCC would carry out the work, cover 50% of the cost and the Parish would contribute the remaining 50%. He has been assured that this work would be eligible for the Parish Partnership initiative. Under this agreement, NCC would commit to clearing the ditches completely, including undergrowth, in some cases digging the ditches deeper, depositing the spoil on the banks to further secure them. Cllr Kiddle-Morris proposed to have the job priced and return to our next meeting with this cost for the Parish Council to consider. Cllr Woodward raised an issue reported by residents about overgrowth in the **River Wissey** along the North Pickenham Road beyond the AW pumping station. Cllr Kiddle-Morris suggests that this may not be an EA responsibility but one for the Internal Drainage Board (depending on its status as a river or drain). Cllr Woodward provided photos to Cllr Kiddle-Morris who committed to investigating further. Following this meeting, he spoke directly with the resident who provided the photos. Cllr Woodward raised concerns relating to the **A47 junction**, currently a very difficult and dangerous junction, likely to get worse following the proposed development of residential properties along either side of the junction leading into the village. Cllr Kiddle-Morris responded stating that problems with junctions along the A47 are affected by the ongoing dispute about whether responsibility rests with the Highways Agency or Highways Authority. He will feed our concerns into the Highway Alliance and to the Highways Agency. Cllr Woodward expressed concern about the ongoing issue of **HGVs** on Chapel Road. A sign stating 'No HGVs except for Access' is required. Cllr Kiddle-Morris agreed to enquire. No further questions were raised and Cllr Woodward thanked Cllr Kiddle-Morris for his attendance and commitment to actions. Cllr Kiddle-Morris will report back at the next meeting.

**Mr Phil Mileham** – Provided an overview of **Section 106 and Unilateral Undertakings** – legal agreements under the Town & Planning Act, in effort to mitigate the impact of local development. Unilateral Undertakings enable amalgamation of contributions from smaller developments for the

provision of outdoor planning space within Breckland. These funds are shared out across Parish groups and managed by the Communities Department at Breckland Council. Currently for Necton, there is **£1000 in the children's play fund and £2,400 in the outdoor sports fund**. This money can be claimed to finance new initiatives that fit the conditions of each fund. This is in addition to funds collected via Section 106 for Mill St scheme. Cllr Woodward asked what effect a Necton Neighbourhood Plan would have on current Section 106 fund allocation. Mr Mileham responded that as Breckland are not yet introducing a CIL, a neighbourhood plan will have no impact on current fund allocation. A Neighbourhood plan will enable the village to have more influence in future planning development. Cllr Woodward thanked Mr Mileham for his presentation.

#### **Meeting re-convened.**

### **3. Approval of minutes**

Item 7.1 on minutes 2014/04 (04 August 2014) was corrected to state 'beginning' of Ram's Lane rather than 'full length' as clarified by Cllr Thompson. The minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

### **4. Matters arising from previous minutes**

None.

### **5. Finance**

**5.1** Payments of invoices received in September, totalling £1,574.62 were agreed and cheques signed.

**5.2** Current financial statement circulated to members. 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of this year's precept and grant was received end of September and the current account stands at £24,981 as of 02 October. A query was raised regarding one bank account listed – Business Saver account (youth?). Cllr Woodward clarified that this account belongs to the Necton Youth Project, a separate trust with trustees (Cllr Frank Woodward and Mr Chris Sandell) to support running costs of the netball court area. It is not a Parish Council account, but Barclays online banking service has included it in the listing as Cllr Woodward is a signatory on the account.

**5.3** The 3<sup>rd</sup> party claim from Zurich insurance is still outstanding. Currently still awaiting report from loss adjusters, which can take 28 days.

**Resolved** that matter to continue to be chased.

**5.4 Resolved** to pay the Clerk a 'working from home' allowance of £18 per month.

### **6. Planning matters**

**6.1** Results of applications.

Notification of planning permission to 3PL.2014/0530/F 8 School Road

Notification of planning refusal to 3PL/2014/0776/F land adjacent 25 Chantry Court

**6.2** New applications.

3PL/2014/0940 Sangri-la. No concerns raised by Council.

3PL/2014/0943 Shell field, retrospective. **Resolved** to recommend to Breckland Council a temporary planning consent is awarded on the grounds of inferior quality of build which could deteriorate and become an eyesore, given their visibility from the A47.

### **7. To review and adopt the following council policies and regulations**

These policies were drafted and reviewed by a council working group. They are presented at this meeting for adoption by full council. A copy of each was circulated to members.

- 7.1 Grants policy & application.
  - 7.2 Code of conduct.
  - 7.3 Governance risk assessment.
  - 7.4 Financial risk assessment.
  - 7.5 Necton emergency plan – amendment updates.
- Resolved** that all policies be adopted.

## 8. Clerk's report

An electronic version of **expense claim** form now available. Emailed to all. VAT on products/service purchased by councillors via expenses system cannot be reclaimed by the council. An alternative method is to request purchase via the Parish Clerk.  
Update from **Flagship Housing**/Rachel Shedden regarding clearance of area of land backing onto Hale Road/Masons Drive and Briar Way. Work scheduled for clearing in early October and resident has been informed.

Attended **SNAP** meeting with FW on 16 Sep. Minutes and comments already circulated to members. Residents are encouraged to report incidents on telephone 101.

**Douglas Tonks** (payroll service provider) – issue with change of administration fee following departure of Mr Watling (multiple council discount). Have negotiated and we are now back to original £15 plus vat until end of March 2015. Review of service/contract at that time.

**Dates** for Parish Council meetings during 2015, set and circulated to members & B Bell for village hall booking.

**UK Networks Power of Giving** application might be suitable for our lights project, but tight deadline of 27 Oct. Will investigate further.

### 8.1 Streetlights

9087 Masons Drive light replaced (new LED) by K&M on 01Oct.

9041 opposite Shop on Hale Road investigated by K&M on 01Oct, lack of power to lamp, reported to UK Power for further action. They have a 15 day lead time.

9014 School Road repaired by K&M on 01Oct – replaced bulb.

9019 (new) opp Mill St reported to Westcotec on 30 Sep.

### 8.2 Street furniture

Delimiter sign on entry to village from A47 uprooted by unknown incident. Reported to Highways on 30Sep via their online system. Issue ongoing.

### 8.3 Clerk Training

Booked on Intro Training for Clerks, Downham Market 14 & 21 Oct - £40

Would like to attend Norfolk ALC Autumn conference at Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn on November 19th- £45

**8.4 Timesheet** for September circulated for approval by Council. This includes 30 hours in addition to contractual hours over the period (5 weeks)

**Resolved** to award payment for these extra hours.

## 9. Chairman's report

3 Welcome packs this month.

Note from Cllr Webb – Unreserved **apologies to Mr Spratt** who was cited as being uncooperative with Anglian Water in the installation of water to the allotments. Cllr Webb was informed by Anglian Water that the owner of the land (Mr Spratt) was not allowing their contractors onsite. This was untrue and Mr Spratt was not obstructing the progression of works. Water was available on the allotments on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Attended **CAB AGM** on 17 September.

**SNAP meeting.** Raised a concern about parking on a very sharp bend in Ashill, which is causing an obstruction for passing traffic. This is no longer a police matter, but a NCC matter. Cllr Woodward would like the Clerk to write to the Chair of Ashill Parish Council, providing the car registrations numbers, to ask for his guidance on alleviating this traffic obstruction.

**NALC meeting.** Nick Dean, Temporary Ass Chief Constable gave an overview of policing in Norfolk, stating that there will be more cuts. I raised the issue of poor parking with Cllr Brian Hannah, Chair of NCC, who stated that it was not their responsibility. A contradiction to information I received at the SNAP meeting. Suggest that we write to Cllr Hannah to clarify the matter.

Brandon Lewis, MP Communities & Local Government Minister for Planning & Housing, said that councils should create a Local Plan, which would provide more influence to councils on local development.

Charlotte Eisenhart, NALC Improvement & Development Manager, gave an update on Quality Council status and recommended all parish councils apply for quality status.

NALC Autumn Seminar, Wednesday 19 November. Any councillors wishing to attend notify Clerk.

There are still policies outstanding for production and working sub-groups will be arranged once Cllr Webb returns from holiday.

Café clusters – **Resolved** that Necton be offered as a venue.

There is concern that recent notices posted at village hall and play area suggest that they will close. Cllr Thompson clarified that the notices say more use of services is needed to ensure they don't close. There is a shortage of volunteers and those currently serving wish to retire.

**9.1** Quote received from Mr M Sier to repaint the 'Welcome' sign at the entry to village. £150 to include materials and labour.

**Resolved** to commission Mr Sier to carry out this work.

## 10. Councillors Reports

**Cllr Sisto.** Thank you for road markings on A47. School Road road markings are needed, following recent work. Complaint from the Sports & Social Club regarding accumulation of rubbish directly outside the fencing. Discussion ensued about ownership/responsibility.

**Resolved** to investigate this.

What is the current state with the plan for a bus shelter? Cllr Woodward confirmed that it is on the wish list for funding from Stat Oil.

School Road speeding. Could we look at funding for some speed restrictions?

**Resolved** to investigate the current NCC partnership funding.

If the village hall and or play area were faced with closure, would the parish council take over? Cllr Woodward confirmed that the council would take these facilities on.

Community Defibrillator. There is an application in progress for funding from the Watling foundation, but if unsuccessful would the Council provide funds?

**Cllr Thompson.** Could we investigate the possibility of funding of a Trod along Hale Road under the Parish Partnership Scheme.

**Resolved** to investigate.

**ClIr Willis.** Invited to look at allotment accounts. Attended the NALC AGM.

**ClIr Axham.** Nothing to report.

**Public Recess**

A resident asked if the Parish Council would consider installing a bike rack near or close to the A47 entry, to provide a facility for those who leave their bikes locked to light posts. There are regularly at least 4 bikes there left by people using public transport.

Will be put on next month's agenda.

A resident reported light no 9043 Hale Road as out.

A resident asked if the new LED lights could be orange. Not possible.

A resident reported a strange vehicle around the allotments, plus some other random sightings of unusual car movements. There's been an increase in catalytic converter thefts and lead from church roofs. People are urged to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to 101, or if an incident is in progress to 999.

A resident reported that loose tarmac following resurfacing is still lying on corner of Ketts Hill, Ivy Todd, Rams Lane. It needs clearing.

Will report to Highways.

A resident reported that fly-tipped rubbish on North Pickenham Road, past pumping station is still there despite having reported it to Breckland Council on 26 Sept. Since then tyres have also been fly-tipped there. ClIr Woodward committed to reporting it.

ClIr Wilkin advised that the police had a report of 2 young children being approached by a vehicle in Necton.

**11. Next meeting**

Parish Meeting **3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014**, any items for agenda 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 9.15pm.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_