

Necton Parish Council



Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 01 December 7.30pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre

Present: Cllrs Frank Woodward (Chair), Ms Louise Willis, Ms Denise Axham, Mrs Jeanette Webb, Mr Joe Sisto & Ms Gabrielle Joyce, Parish Clerk.

18 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr D Matthews and Cllr I Thompson.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. To approve minutes

3.1 Minutes of Council meeting held on 3 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3.2 Minutes of Council closed meeting held on 18 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. To consider the co-option of Mr Steve Cheshire as a new Parish Councillor

It was resolved to co-opt Mr Steve Cheshire as a new member of the Parish Councillor. Mr Cheshire then took a place at the council table.

5. To report progress on items not on the agenda from last meeting (Clerk's report)

The Clerk provided a written report to Councillors prior to the meeting and summarised some of the key points.

Youth funds – As per resolutions at the council's precept meeting 23 October 2014, the funds in respect of Necton Youth Project and dissolved youth club have been amalgamated into one savings account – Youth fund. The total figure within this account is now £1,316.51. Terms for utilisation of this money are yet to be determined by Council.

Bad car-parking – following our letters to Ashill Parish Council and Cllr John Hannah, Chair of NCC seeking clarification of responsibility for dealing with obstructions on the highway. Cllr Hannah responded by email quoting Mr Steve White, NCC *"Either can deal with this but it is likely to be more affective if the police attend. They can ultimately prosecute, although unlikely, while in reality all we (NCC) can do is send a letter."* The specific matter of car parking on dangerous bend in Ashill was raised at the recent SNAP meeting on 18 November.

Lights on Elizabeth Drive – two light posts were identified as being at risk as a consequence of residents connecting boundary fences to them by way of metal fixings. Both matters are now resolved.

Light maintenance contractor review – Discussions ongoing to understand how to work together. It has not been their practice to provide fault report updates, however, they have committed to doing this from now on. With regard to the maintenance schedule, negotiation is ongoing to secure a back-dated reduction to reflect the installation of LEDs. With regard to spec of works, Copies of inspection and cleaning reports have been requested. An on-site meeting is yet to be arranged.

Installation of a Trod along Hale Road –NCC Highways confirmed the viability of a Trod along Hale Road to connect with Ramm's Lane. This would suit an application for 50% funding in the NCC

Parish Partnership Scheme 2015/16 for which bids are now been invited. (closing date 30 Jan). Investigation is in hand to secure the remaining 50% from the S106 Mill St fund. Requests for support have been sent to Cllrs. Kiddle-Morris (NCC) and N Wilkin (Breckland). Response received from Cllr Kiddle-Morris offering support. Villagers views have also been sought via Facebook (Necton Village page) and 17 comments were posted (all positive). Mr Bell has also provided his support (as a neighbouring resident)

Installation of a bike rack – Work is in hand on building an application for funding to install a bike rack in the forecourt of the NRCC for use by those cycling to public transport links.

Better Broadband – BT have connected the village with fibre to the cabinet. This means that residents can now contact their preferred supplier and purchase high speed broadband.

Lines on School Road junction were delayed due to the impending work by BT. Now that is complete, we should see the lines repainted in the next week or so.

Vandalism - An incident during the weekend of 23/24 November where the dog-poo bin by shops at Chantry Court was vandalised. The cost of replacement is estimated to be about £120, based on previous.

6. Finance

6.1 **It was resolved** to agree payments of invoices listed on the cheque list, circulated in advance of meeting to members.

6.2 Clerk reported on the current financial statement; stating that the current account balance stands at £23,645.52 on 28 November, with all November payments cleared. Cash flow spreadsheet circulated prior to meeting to all members.

6.3 Cllr Willis reported her findings following her quarterly internal audit control and provided a written report for file. No concerns were identified.

6.4 Payment of extra hours worked by Clerk during October were ratified for payment in November salary.

6.5 **It was resolved** to enable the Clerk to take TOIL during December in return for the extra hours worked during November.

6.6 **It was resolved** to allow the NRCC to utilise the Parish Council grant of £540 received in April 2014 for a different project to their original application. The grant will now support the NRCC's project to install a hatch between the kitchen and the small meeting room.

7. To receive an update on the street light refurbishment project

A report on this project was circulated to all members prior to meeting. **It was resolved** to establish a working party to investigate in detail and report to full Council in February 2015. The working party members are Cllrs Axham and Cheshire and Parish Clerk.

8. Planning matters

8.1 Results of applications considered by Breckland Council
No results received at this time.

8.2 New applications (comments sent to Breckland Council)
There were no new applications received in advance of this meeting.

8.3 Clerk reported two enquiries received in connection with Condition 9 of planning permission 3PL/2012/0703/F (substation on A47), which she brought to Breckland Planning Department for clarification. The response from Chris Curtis, Breckland planning enforcement manager –

“Condition 9 of planning permission 3PL/2012/0703/F requires the submission of a landscaping scheme. A scheme has been submitted, determined and discharged on 15 July 2014. The approved scheme shows implementation post construction. Construction is ongoing so planting has yet to be carried out and will take place in the planting season after construction is complete.”

9. Policy review

It was resolved to establish a sub-committee to review and recommend revised Council policies on Health & Safety and Bullying & Harassment. The sub-committee members are Cllrs Webb, Sisto, Axham and Woodward. Meetings will be arranged for January and the sub-committee will report its recommendations to Council in February 2015.

10. To receive updates from individual Council Members (for information only)

Cllr Axham reported her attendance at the recent SNAP meeting. Anglian Water representatives are calling on properties to upgrade water meters. These visits are not pre-notified by Anglian Water, so residents are urged to ask for identification if they receive a visit.

Cllr Willis reported on the status of Tree Preservation Orders on the old school site. There are 3 TPOs on this site along the boundary with Bells Meadow. Cllr Willis was informed by Breckland Planning that planning consent overrides a TPO, which would suggest that these 3 trees plus another 4 may be removed if not included in a future developer's plan.

Cllr Sisto reported on his visit with Mr Steele, school headmaster discussing car parking and speeding. The school are investigating the possibility of a car-park for parents in the green area adjacent to the school. They are also investigating tarmacking the grass verge outside the school. The school is pleased with the newly installed 20 mile per hour lights, but would also like other measures to help with speed control. Cllr Sisto and PCSO K Banham will work together to get the children on a 'speed-checking' operation.

Cllr Sisto thanked Silver Threads for their recent donation of £1000 towards the village defibrillator project, which the Football Club is leading. There is another £300 required. A result of outstanding application is expected in December.

Cllr Woodward reported on his attendance at the recent NALC Conference in Kings Lynn. Attention is drawn to the need for Council to do regular inspections of its facilities and assess their suitability for use by public. Such inspection is recommended by insurance providers. This will be incorporated into the Council's health & safety policy, which will be reviewed during the next two months.

Public Recess

Cllr Wilkin, Breckland Council – Cllr Wilkin has given his support to the application submitted by Parish Council for S106 funding for the installation of a Trod, however, he advises that the officers believe it falls outside the scope of the funding conditions. He has offered to investigate this further.

New changes in planning policy state that developments of less than 11 properties do not require to provide an affordable housing contribution.

There has been an announcement regarding the upgrading of the A47 and Necton is not identified within the programme. Cllr Wilkin will initiate a request of support from Mr Freeman, MP for mid-Norfolk to have the Necton area of A47 considered early in an upgrade programme as this is one of the many pinch-points that will continue to hamper traffic management regardless of improvements at the beginning and end of the A47.

PCSO Banham – Work on the substation site is now finished until the Spring as per their original plan.

Crime figures for Necton from Nov to now is 6, that's 2 against the person and 4 other (this could include domestic). Pork and turkey are hot items at present, with Christmas on the horizon.

Mr Luff, village care-taker advised that a lost car trim is currently lying behind the post box by shop. It will be removed shortly if not claimed.

Mr Treasure expressed disappointment regarding lack of access to the S106 monies that have been allocated specifically for recreational purposes for the village.

A vote of thanks for the Parish Council for its work during 2014 was proposed by Mr Treasure.

Meeting resumed.

11. Next meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, 05 January 2015, 7.30pm at the NRCC.

The Chairman closed the meeting 8.45pm.

Thank you to Barbara Woodward and Bill Webb for providing the festive refreshments that followed this meeting.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____