

Necton Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 02 February 7.30pm in the Necton Rural
Community Centre



Parish Councillors present: Frank Woodward (Chair), Louise Willis, Denise Axham, Jeanette Webb, Joe Sisto, Steve Cheshire, Ian Thompson.

Also in attendance: Gabrielle Joyce (Clerk), County Councillor Kiddle-Morris (NCC), District Councillor Wilkin (Breckland) and 17 members of the public.

Prior to meeting Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported on the following matters:

- NCC are anticipating a fund (£46 million over 4-6 years) from central government to support highway maintenance, starting in April 2015. Decisions are still outstanding on how this money will be spent.
- NCC budget consultation completed and a budget-setting meeting is scheduled for 15 February 2015.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Received from Cllr D Matthews (due to work commitments)

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 None

3. To approve minutes

3.1 Minutes of Council meeting held on 05 January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. To report progress on items not on the agenda from last meeting

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

4.1 Settlement of affairs with Douglas Tonks (payroll): It would appear that monies destined for HMRC via Douglas Tonks have now been credited to HMRC. The Clerk is still awaiting final statements of accounts from Douglas Tonks.

4.2 Car parking at school: A letter was sent to Mr Steele offering Council support to work together to find achievable solutions to the matter.

4.3 Clerk's appraisal occurred on 2 February, conducted by Cllrs Webb and Willis.

4.4 Ram's Lane sign has been put right by Breckland Council contractors. The sign on Tun's Road has been repaired by NCC Highways.

Public Participation Session

Mr Miles reported on a current dispute between Necton Management and a number of residents concerning the parking of caravans and mobile homes within the boundary of their properties. Mr Miles was speaking on behalf of other residents in attendance. It is understood that a covenant on properties restricts certain vehicle parking, and whilst this covenant has not been enforced in past years, Necton Management are enforcing now and have commissioned their legal representatives on the matter. The residents ask if the Parish Council would act as an intermediary on this matter. The Council are unable to provide any legal assistance or support, but they are considering an offer to mediate.

A resident on school road raised concerns about the ongoing car-parking problems around the school.

Special Inspector Banham advised of the crime stats for January – 13 in total (1 violence against person, 2 sexual offences, 1 theft, 1 other crime, 8 domestic related crimes), a small decrease on December, but still rather higher than previous months. Mr Banham reported that oil rustling is still a concern. Please report any suspicious activity to telephone number 101.

Mr Kirkby advised of an extra public meeting of NRCC committee to invite new committee members to step forward. Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday, 23 February. This is an opportunity for residents to become involved in the future of their community centre.

5. Finance

5.1 The list of accounts for payment was circulated prior to meeting. **It was resolved** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Reason	Amount
EON	Street lighting for December Street light maintenance 13 Jan to 12 Feb 2015	310.94
K&M	(includes residue credit)	95.83
NRCC	Room hire for January Salary for Jan 2015	22.00
G Joyce	(includes extra hours worked Nov)	
L Luff	Salary for Jan 2015	
HMRC	PAYE for Jan 2015	152.08
G Joyce	Expenses (stationery) Chairmanship training for Cllrs Web and Woodward	20.37
NPTP		140.00

5.2 Clerk reported on the current financial statement; stating that the current account balance stands at £11,196.85 on 29 January 2015, with all but one January payments cleared (one cheque still not presented). Cash flow spreadsheet circulated prior to meeting to all members.

5.3 It was **resolved** to fund Parish Clerk training for forthcoming elections.

5.4 It was **resolved** to pay 24.25 extra hours worked by Clerk during January in February's salary.

6. Planning matters

6.1 Results of applications considered by Breckland Council
3PL.2014/0590 Town Farm, outline planning permission.
3PL/2014/1252 Sparham Hall Farm, planning permission.
3PL/2014/0528 4 Church Cottages, planning permission.

6.2 New applications (comments sent to Breckland Council)

3PL/2014/1362/O Necton Church & School estate Trust, Former V A Infant School: The Parish Council **resolved** to object to this application on the grounds of increased traffic management problems at school times particularly with the addition of the previous application for 6 houses on the same site. It was also noted that the Council is disappointed that this old school building will be demolished and replaced with 4 houses that are unlikely to be considered affordable to local people.

3PL/2015/0013 Woodstock, no objections.

3PL/2015/0032 Brook Farm, no objections.

6.3 Land past Top Farm, Fransham -APP/F2605/C/14/2220700 – a meeting of Breckland Council for enforcement of this planning application was postponed from 20 Jan. A new meeting is to be arranged and the Clerk will inform members once advised of new date.

7. To report on progress of discussions with NRCC

7.1 Following an initial meeting with NRCC committee on 26 January, the Parish Council are investigating possible models to provide the best governance structure for the NRCC, enabling the current management committee (trustees of charity) to step down. Guidance has been sought from ACRE and Norfolk RCC. Further meetings are scheduled. The original working group comprised Cllr Willis, Thompson and Matthews. Cllr Webb has taken over from Cllr Thompson and Cllr Matthews has stood down from this group. Cllr Webb, Cllr Willis and Cllr Woodward attended the first meeting and they have agreed to continue.

8. To adopt new policies

8.1 Email & Social Media policy; Training policy; Dignity at Work; Bullying and Harassment policy; Equality & Diversity policy; Compliments & Complaints policy. It was **resolved** to adopt these policies.

9. To consider the part funding of a local PCSO

9.1 An invitation from Norfolk Constabulary to Parish Councils to share in the funding of a local PCSO in addition to current service. Discussion ensued. It was **resolved** to wait for further information to be circulated on the scheme prior to any decision.

10. To discuss and provide responses to the CPRE Light Survey

The Clerk sought members view's on this survey.

11. To consider the Council's approach to the Rural Housing Alliance's request for action on affordable rural housing.

A working group was established to consider this in more depth. The working group members are Cllrs. Woodward, Sisto and Cheshire and supported by the Parish Clerk. Cllr Woodward to offer some dates for meeting.

12. To consider applying for Local Council Award Scheme (Clerk)

The Local Council Award Scheme replaces the Quality Council Status and is now open for registrations. The cost for registration is £50 payable to NALC and a further £50 accreditation fee

paid to Norfolk ALC once accreditation takes place. The accreditation remains in place for 4 years. It was **resolved** to register for the scheme.

13. To receive report from working party in respect of light refurbishment project (Clerk)

13.1 Cllrs Axham and Cheshire met with the Clerk on 12 January, to discuss options to refurbish the remaining lighting stock. The general cost of refurbishment of the remaining light stock is in the region of £40,000 to £82,000 depending on whether replacement of the concrete columns is carried out at the same time. Options considered;

a) A loan from the PWB. Given our current financial status, taking a loan would leave the council over-exposed and this option was not considered a safe route now.

b) External funding. This would be the ideal solution and the forthcoming Statoil fund, which will be administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation, will be targeted once they have established the process.

c) Increase in precept to cover. This was considered not to be an acceptable burden to place on residents in this climate. The existing lights are adequate and not in a state which requires emergency replacement.

It was noted that there is a definition of road lighting and footway lighting, and clarification of which lighting the Council currently maintain might influence this matter. The Clerk will research this further.

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

- Cllr Axham attended the recent SNAP meeting and there is a possibility of a car-parking warden to attend the village.
- Cllr Sisto reported on comments made to him about the increase of dog poo left on the footpaths. Cllr Webb will investigate if we have any further signage to post in the area.
- Cllr Webb advised that the Clerk's appraisal was carried out and a report would be available for the next council meeting.
- Cllr Webb reported on the recent Allotment committee meeting, very well attended and 50% of the area is currently let. The committee asked if the Clerk would contact Mr Broke (landlord) in connection with the repairs needed on the entry and car park area.
- Cllr Woodward reported that 5 welcome packs were distributed by Mrs Bewes.

15. Next meeting

The date and time of next meeting of the Council is Monday, 02 March, 7.30pm

16. Resolution (under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960), to exclude members of the public and press during the consideration a confidential item

16.1 Consideration of correspondence received relating to a previous legal matter. On a resolution proposed by the Chairman, the members of public left the meeting.

16.2 The Clerk informed members of the content of correspondence. The Council's solicitor is assessing the matter and will advise the Clerk on their recommendation for action once their assessment is complete. It was **resolved** to wait for this response before further action.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____