

**MINUTES OF THE NECTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2014 AT NECTON RURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE. TUNS RD NECTON AT 7.30PM**

**Present.** Cllrs Mr F Woodward – Chairman, Mrs J Webb – Vice Chairman, Mr I Thompson, Mr J Sisto, Miss L Willis, Ms D Axham and Mr J Watling – Parish Clerk.

**Also Present** 13 members of the public.

**Apologies.** Cllr D Matthews

**Necton Substation Update.** Ms Kari Hege Mork and Nigel Thompkins of Statoil gave a presentation on the latest developments of the proposed substation. The cabling for the project is approx 28 miles from the shore to substation, 67 turbines will be sited offshore for the project and they will produce enough electricity for 410,000 homes. The work on the substation at Necton will start in July and be completed by next year. In 2016 they will start offshore construction and that should be completed by 2017. The Necton substation will be owned by National Grid and Dungeon, National Grid will start their construction of substation in November 2014. Screening of the substation will be done on most of the visible sides of the substation. It is intended to set up a focus group with local people to discuss issues that may arise during the construction of the substation. Another public meeting will be held in June at Necton Village Hall by Statoil so residents can be better informed. £100,000 per year will be paid into a fund by Statoil which will be used to encourage young people to enter into wind farm industry. Cllr Thompson asked that some funds be set aside for Necton as they will be the most affected during the construction period, Mr Thompkins said they would look at that situation.

**Declaration of Interest of Items on the Agenda.** None

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014.** Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Willis they be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

**Matters arising from the minutes.** Cllr Webb raised matter of a dog bin for entrance to allotments. Cllr Matthews had suggested moving bin from Rams lane to site but Breckland would charge £75.00 to move it. Cllr Thompson suggested getting a new bin as Parish Clerk said a new bin would be approx £90. Parish Clerk to order new bin.

**Land at Tuns Road.** Cllr Woodward said the site is a mess and a new contractor from Sporle would tidy it up for £10 per hour. Cllr Thompson said an ad could be placed in Link Magazine to see if a Necton resident would be willing to tend the site for payment, Cllr Webb to arrange ad in Link. Cllr Sisto suggested a working party in the meantime could tidy up the site, Cllrs Webb, Willis and Sisto agreed to form the working party. Item to be put on July agenda.

**Bus Shelter.** Cllr Woodward said he had a meeting with NCC customer services regarding types and suppliers of bus shelters and Parish Council had to make a decision on what they wanted to do in the matter. The PC would be required to make a non refundable deposit of £2,000 to cover site reviews and expenses of NCC. He then gave details of the process that would have to be followed. Cllr Thompson asked what would the costs be and was informed total costs would be approx £20,000 with NCC paying between 50% and 75% leaving the PC to pay approx £5,000 to £10,000. Parish Council to look into possible grant options including section 106 money.

**Planning Applications.** **3PL/2014/0506** 32 Masons Drive. Single Storey extension. Proposed Cllr Thompson seconded by Cllr Sisto no objections but concerns about closeness of extension to boundary of dwelling.

**Planning Decisions Received.** Land at Corner of Hale Road and Chantry Lane. Permission granted for a new dwelling but H4 agreement with Anglia Water required. **3pl/2014/0156.** Land at Sparham Hall. Construction of compound for proposed offshore wind farm. Permission granted **3pl/2014/0833/0** Necton Garden Centre. Residential development. Permission granted.

**Correspondence.** Letter from Norfolk Accident Rescue Services thanking PC for grant . Thank you from Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice for grant donation. Letter from All Saints Church for grant donation of £300. Letter from resident regarding walkway from Chantry Lane to Chantry Court. Cllr Woodward said he had spoken to Breckland Council and asked for the weeds to be cut. Letter from resident regarding the new proposed dwelling on corner of Hale Road and Chantry Lane, citing the need for a H4 agreement with Anglia Water by the applicant. E mail from Cllr Matthews regarding Rangers visit to Ivy Todd and the work not being carried out properly, Parish Clerk to contact Highways on the matter. E Mail from Breckland regarding new local plan which will replace the existing LDF. Consultation on the new plan will take place over the next year. Cllr Woodward attended the last SNAP meeting and next meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**District Councillors Report.** None

**Chairman's Report.** Cllr Woodward distributed amended Village Emergency Plan. 9 welcome packs delivered in May and 5 were delivered in June. Also an advert for a new clerk to be put in Link magazine.

**Parish Clerk's Report.** Clerk read out a prepared statement as follows. Over the past 14 years I have been proud to be clerk to this Parish Council, during this time both parties have striven to ensure the village has had a good effective professional Parish Council. My efforts in my role have been recognised by the Parish Council in my annual appraisal and it's nomination of me for Clerk of The Year Award run by Norfolk Association of Local Councils. However, over the last few months I have been subjected to a constant barrage of bullying and harassment by one Parish Councillor. This has culminated in this one Parish Councillor lodging 19 separate complaints against me to the Parish Council. These complaints in my opinion are both spurious and malicious and are based on distortion of facts and in some cases lies. I have also been subjected to threats of legal action by this councillor in the form of a solicitor's letter. All these actions have caused me extreme stress and has impacted on my health in a serious way resulting in rapid weight loss and the contracting of a serious infection which resulted in a 7 week period where my doctor signed me off as unfit for work. I have now reached the position where I am no longer able to carry out my responsibilities as clerk due to this bullying and harassment directed against me. I am therefore very reluctantly tendering my resignation to the Parish Council with the proper notice period. I shall then consider what legal avenues I can and shall pursue as a result of what has happened over the past few months.

**Parish Councillors Reports.** Cllr Sisto said he attended Necton Village Forum meeting where the groups within village bring forward ideas before next meeting including street lights, bus shelters and village garden. It was asked if George Freeman MP had replied to letter sent to him, Clerk said no reply had been received. Clerk to write again to Mr Freeman. Cllr Thompson raised matter of planning decisions received late from Breckland Council, clerk to write to Breckland on the matter. Cllr Webb had contacted Westcotec concerning the dimness of the new lights, Westcotec had replied giving an explanation of how the new lights work. Cllr Woodward to arrange a meeting with Westcotec to discuss the matter. Cllr Webb unable to attend the last meeting of The Allotment Society but informed meeting that water would be switched on 7<sup>th</sup> July and this would involve road closures. Access into both sides of Community Garden is rutted and suggested Mr Brooke could attend to matter. Parish Clerk informed meeting under the terms of the lease Parish Council were responsible for maintenance of whole site. Meeting suspended.

**Public Recess.** The question of volunteers doing the corrective work to Community Garden access was raised and resident asked if volunteers did work would they be covered by Parish Council's insurance, Parish Clerk informed meeting that if Parish Council organised the work then a risk assessment would have to be carried out, also high visibility jackets would have to be issued along with suitable footwear and Parish Council would have to provide proper tools. It was suggested that if volunteers wanted to do work informally then they could do so. Residents from Ivy Todd raised concerns about traffic using the roads and causing damage to verges and causing problems to residents. They had been informed by Norfolk County Council they had no money in the budget for the work and suggested residents do the work themselves. They asked for a strong representation from the Parish Council to NCC on the matter. Cllr Woodward to speak to Cllr Matthews to arrange a meeting between NCC, residents and local farmers who use the road and cause some of the damage. Meeting informed Poles 40 and 46 affected by trees and pole 42 and 41 are mounted incorrectly and some lights on corner of Hale Road and Mill Street are shrouded by trees. The hedge at Eastgate Farm was raised and Cllr Webb said she had written to Breckland on the matter. Resident informed meeting that the work between Chantry lane and Chantry Court footpath had not been done, Cllr Woodward said he would contact Breckland on the matter. Meeting resumed.

**Confirm Date & time of Next meeting.** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Necton Rural Community Centre commencing at 7.30pm.

**Meeting then went into camera.**

**Payment of Accounts Payable.** It was decided to withhold payment on 2 cheques and then it was proposed by Cllr Woodward and seconded by Cllr Sisto that the remaining items due for payment be paid, this was agreed unanimously.

**Adoption of Accounts.** Meeting informed that a new internal auditor had to be appointed and they were currently doing the year end audit but accounts were not yet ready for voting. Cllr Woodward said a special meeting would have to be arranged once the accounts had been audited.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm**