

Necton Parish Council



Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 13 April 7.30pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre

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

Also in attendance: Gabrielle Joyce (Clerk), 12 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 None

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 Cllr Matthews declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 17.

3. To approve minutes

3.1 Minutes of Council meeting held on 02 March 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 Old school planning application. A further letter (by email) was sent to Clerk of Necton Church and School Estate Trust asking for clarification of the use of the pool for public use (although the subsequent planning permission states as a condition that it remains solely for the use of the school). The Clerk also asked if the Trust would consider a financial contribution to support a solution to the current car-parking issues. Reply received by email 03 April and copy circulated to members. This item raised a query about the use of pool for local public who booked through the school. Clerk to follow up on this.

The Clerk also received a response to the Council's offer to formulate a joint initiative to address the congestion along School Road. Mr Ian Dalglish, School Governor, has agreed to be the school's lead on this issue. Cllr Sisto has initiated communications with Mr Dalglish.

4.2 The small parcel of parish land adjacent to A47 to NCC Highways. An email was sent to Jonathan Winnett Norfolk Highways Engineer on 24 March in the first instance to consider if this proposal would be viable. Reply received by telephone on 2 April. The offer would be brought to the next regular meeting between NCC Highways, Highways Agency and members, which is expected to be sometime in May. Mr Winnett will report back to the Clerk.

4.3 Match funding for the Trod on Hale Road. The Clerk confirmed that as yet no match funding has been identified. The Council wish to appeal the decision by Breckland Council relating to the application for funds from the Section 106 Mill Street agreement.

Meeting adjourned for Public Participation Session

- Special Inspector Banham reported the crime stats for March – 7 in total. A reminder to public to remain vigilant and keep their doors locked, especially when outside in the garden.
- A resident reported on the traffic issues along Chapel Rd with artic vehicles, which is damaging the road and ditches on each side. This item is on the agenda.
- Mr Treasure advised that the Village Forum are meeting on 14 April at the NRCC, 7.30pm. Mr Treasure also reported on the establishment of 'Friends of Necton' a group of people who help out with jobs in the village.

Meeting resumed.

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 for payment | Amount |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Gary Lake | Horticultural mx on playing field and village garden by Tun's Road | 60.00 |
| Gary Lake | 1 st payment of grass-cutting 2015 | 587.50 |
| SLCC | Conference – training | 124.20 |
| G Joyce | March Expenses | 19.08 |
| J Webb | March Expenses | 27.00 |
| Norfolk ALC | Annual membership subs | 306.26 |
| EON | Monthly electricity - February | 280.86 |
| K&M Lighting | Monthly maintenance for lights | 183.58 |
| NRCC | room hire | 22.00 |
| Mona Hill Trust | Allotment & dog walk rent | 750.00 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 140.80 |
| G Joyce | Mar salary | |
| L Luff | Mar salary | |
| Necton Sports & Social club | Grants 2014 | 350.00 |
| Necton PCC | Grants 2014 | 350.00 |
| Necton Little Oaks | Grants 2014 | 250.00 |
| Pandora Project | Grants 2014 | 262.50 |
| EON | Monthly electricity – March | 310.94 |

5.2 Clerk reported on the current financial statement; stating that the current account balance stands at £8,203.38, with all payments cleared. 31 March 2015 is the financial year-end for the Council and the Clerk is currently finalising accounts. A VAT claim of £561.99 has been submitted. Cash flow spreadsheet circulated prior to meeting to all members.

5.3 Energy supplier EON offered the Council a new 12-month contract at a rate of 11.056p per kWh and no standing charge. This would work out at about £48 plus VAT extra a month. This is cheaper than other quotes received. It was **resolved** to accept this new contract.

5.4 It was **resolved** to pay 18 extra hours worked by Clerk during March in April's salary.

5.5 Cllr Willis presented her quarterly internal control report. There were no issues or concerns.

6. Planning matters

6.1 Results of applications considered by Breckland Council
3PL/2014/1362/0 Former school for 4 new houses – outline permission
3PL/2015/0159/F Elizabeth Drive – permission

6.2 New applications (comments sent to Breckland Council)
No new applications.

6.3 Other Planning related information

Cllr Matthews raised concern that large-scale development along the North Pickenham Road will be considered without reference to the Parish Council. The Clerk **was instructed** to contact Breckland Council's planning department about the matter.

7. To receive an update on current status of NRCC due diligence

7.1 The Clerk has begun a due diligence investigation of the NRCC. The Clerk is now also a trustee of the NRCC. Cllr Cheshire raised concern that this presents a conflict of interest and recommended that the investigation be continued by a Parish Councillor. This will be carried forward to next agenda.

8. To receive draft business plan for consultation

8.1 The Council **resolved** to adopt the business plan.

9. To receive report from Cllr Matthews regarding the condition of Chapel Road

9.1 Cllr Matthews met with Mr Winnett, NCC Highways last year to consider the damage to the carriageway and verges. It was agreed to place restriction signage, however this has subsequently been removed. The Council **requested** that a further meeting be scheduled with NCC Highways to resolve the matter.

10. To consider developing the basketball court into a multi-sports area.

10.1 Cllr Sisto explained this item. The Council have noted and will consider funding opportunities.

11. To adopt new policies

10.1 Expenses policy (circulated prior to meeting). With the inclusion of 'up to one month' in relation to submission of expenses, it was **resolved** to adopt this policy. The policy will be published on the Council website.

12. Chair's report

- Cllr Woodward reported that 5 welcome packs were distributed since last meeting.
- New rules under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, empowers councils to issue on-the-spot fines of £100 for dog walkers who do not clear their pets' mess. This fine may be increased to up to £1,000 if not paid within 7 days.
- The allotment association secured £920 funding from the Breckland participatory funds, which was managed by the Icieni Partnership for this area.

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

- Cllr Sisto has had reports of dangerous and illegal parking at the junction of School Road and Tun's Road.
- Cllr Web reported on the recent allotment association meeting. They have fundraising events – an open garden at Bees Pit Cottage, 33 Mill Street on 5 July and a stall at the Village Fair on 15 July.
- Cllr Axham reported on the recent SNAP meeting.
- Cllr Matthews reported on recent Norfolk ALC activities.

14. Next meeting

The date and time of next meeting of the Council is Monday, 11 May, 7.30pm. This is also the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM).

15. Resolution to exclude press and members of public from the meeting for consideration of next items of business.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council **resolved** to exclude members of press and public from the meeting for consideration of items 16 to 18.

16. To consider proposals for the village street lights maintenance contract

The existing contract is due for renewal on 15 June 2015 and the Clerk has sourced three quotes for the Council to consider. It was **resolved** to commission TT Jones for a 4-year contract.

17. To consider payment request received 02 March 2015

The Council **agreed** to make this payment.

18. To consider salary increase for Clerk

The Council **agreed** to increase the Clerk's salary to SCP 21 effective of 1 April 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____