

# Necton Parish Council



## Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 05 October 7.30pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre

**Parish Councillors present:** Jeanette Webb (Chairman), Frank Woodward (Vice-Chair), Denise Axham, Joe Sisto, David Matthews.

**Also in attendance:** Gabrielle Joyce (Clerk) and 4 members of the public and District Councillor Nigel Wilkin.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Cheshire (work) and Cllr Thompson (family illness).

### 2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were noted.

### 3. To approve minutes of Council meeting

Minutes of Council meeting held on 07 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### 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.

- Ditch and flooding issues on St Andrew's Lane have been reported to Norfolk County Council Highways (ref no: 523451).
- Potholes on St Andrew's Lane, by entrance to old care home, were reported by a resident. This has been passed onto NCC via their online report system. Ref 525564.
- The first workshop of the Friends of Necton was held on 29 September. Some exciting projects were suggested and work has commenced already on a new raised bed by the entrance to the Community Centre.
- The next Rangers visit will be during the week of 16 November. Deadline for issues is Thursday, 15 October.
- Overgrown ditches between Chantry Lane and Court continue to be a concern to adjacent properties. Residents at 2 Chantry Court asked what could be done to clear the ditch of overgrowth such as confiers, etc. This will be referred to NCC Highways again.
- The Clerk noted that this past month has been very busy with preparations relating to the transfer of business of the Community Centre to the Parish Council.

Cllr Woodward noted that he received a complaint about the continuous running of the engine of the motor home parked in Chantry Court, which went on for 2 days. The Clerk advised that at a previous meeting at the Parish Office, the owner of the vehicle did intend on making the motor home serviceable and then utilising it.

Cllr Matthews noted that St Andrew's Lane also has two very deep ruts on the verges between the bridge and the first house. The Clerk will raise this with NCC Highways.

### Meeting adjourned for Public Participation Session

- A resident raised concern about the path leading to the A47 and bus stop, adjacent to the old garden centre site. This site continues to flood and make it impossible for people to walk
- Special Inspector Banham reported the latest crime figures as being 4. Mr Banham advised that he is now leading a team of Specials in Norfolk, focusing on rural crime.
- A resident asked if the current 50 mile per hour limit on the A47 be reduced to 40 mile per hour.
- Mr Banham advised that the street lights at the end of Chantry Lane were not best aligned resulting in light beam not focusing on the road and pavement. The poles are nos. 41 and 42. The Clerk will investigate.

There being no further questions from the public, the chairman resumed the meeting.

## 5. Finance

### 5.1 To agree payments of invoices received during September.

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

Payee	Reason for payment	Chq no	Amount
NRCC	hall hire	102518	61.64
EON	Street lights energy for August	102519	370.60
HMRC	PAYE	102520	180.44
G Joyce	September Salary	102521	
L Luff	September Salary	102522	
G Joyce	Expenses	102523	73.10
BT Phone	New office phone & installation of line	Direct Debit	154.39
BT Phone	Phone line rental for September	Direct Debit	29.53

### 5.2 To receive the current financial statement and progress against budget.

The RFO reported the current financial statement – Receipts for September - £19,434.78 (precept & grant), £462.20 (allotment rent). Payments for September - £1,679.05 (as on chq list). Current account balance is £21,173.66.

The quarterly internal audit covering Jul – Sept is now due and a date is being arranged between the RFO and Cllr Thompson.

### 5.3 To agree the progression of works identified in the annual inspection of lighting stock.

The Council **resolved** to commission the 5-year electrical testing on the lights, excluding the 31 new lights as they comply with legislation. The work will be funded from the current street light budget.

The Council also **resolved** to set up a working party to establish a refurbishment project for the remaining 103 lights. Members identified for this group are Cllrs Matthews, Webb, Woodward and Axham. The party will report back to Full Council in December 2015.

### 5.4 To adopt a new reserves policy.

A policy was circulated prior to the meeting. The Council **resolved** to adopt this policy.

### 5.5 To receive and consider a report on the Council's forthcoming duties in respect of workplace pensions.

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. Auto-enrolment into a workplace pension is a legal requirement and the Council's duty commences in February 2017. Cllr Webb will investigate independent advice provision opportunities from Norfolk ALC and NCC and will report back at the next meeting.

### 5.6 To receive and adopt a new set of aspirations in line with the Business Plan.

Document was circulated prior to the meeting. Some dates were revised. No new aspirations noted.

**5.7 To consider a report from NCC Highways on the installation of a Trod along North Pickenham Road.**

NCC Highways have identified that it would be feasible to install a Trod along North Pickenham Road linking up the footpath by Elizabeth Drive and the footbridge into the village dog walk and allotments. The approximate cost would be £17,209 which would qualify for NCC 50% funding, with the remaining balance coming from Parish Council funds.

The Council **resolved** to apply for NCC parish partnership funding for this project, with a view to including it in our 2016-17 budget.

**5.8 To consider a draft budget for 2016-19.**

A first draft 3-year budget for 2016 to 2019 was presented to members. This forms the basis of discussions over the coming months, which will lead to setting of precept in January 2016.

**6. Planning matters**

**6.1 Results of applications considered by Breckland Council**

No results.

**6.2 New applications (comments sent to Breckland Council)**

3PL/2015/1018/F – Council expressed concern about the lack of cohesion with the other properties on The Grove. The building whilst being smaller than the other properties, it appears over-sized for the plot.

3PL/2015/1128/F – no concerns.

3PL/2015/1089/F – no concerns.

**6.3 To receive an update on the Breckland Local Plan**

The Breckland Local Plan Working Group met on 29 Sept. Reports presented at this meeting can be viewed here: <http://democracy.breckland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=573&MId=3769&Ver=4>

Discussed at this meeting were the emerging residential site options. Within Necton 5 of 6 sites put forward were considered 'reasonable alternative'. Within the SHLAA addendum 2015, these sites are further shortlisted down to one as 'deliverable', providing a further 29 dwellings within the village during 2015-2020. This will form part of the consultation documents scheduled for the end of the year.

**6.4 To report on concerns received regarding the Old Diner site.**

Clearing of an access route onto the Old Diner site by the owner has raised some concerns by residents. The Council were asked to clarify the ownership of the row of trees which runs on the boundary of the Parish garden and the Diner site. The trees are outside the Parish land's boundary.

Cllr Axham previously raised concerns about the ongoing degradation of the building and responsibilities upon the owner in respect of Health & Safety. This matter is yet to be satisfactorily resolved.

The Council **resolved** to write to the owner, Mr Gray, and request that he make safe the building, honour his responsibilities in respect of health and safety and ask that he consider retaining the row of popular trees.

**6.5 To note response from Necton Management Ltd to our enquiry regarding covenants.**

The Clerk read out the letter received. It was noted.

**7. To finalise the dog walking survey volunteer roles**

Cllr Webb reported on the survey results. The council **resolved** to keep the area as a dog walk facility, but will review the situation should the issue of un-cleared dog waste continue.

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

- Cllr Axham reported that she didn't attend the SNAP meeting as the PCSO attended our Council meeting.
- Cllr Woodward reported that one welcome pack was handed out during September.
- Cllr Sisto asked if there was any update from NCC Highways in respect of School Road parking. The Clerk

advised there was not.

- Cllr Matthews reported on Norfolk ALC matters.

**9. To receive correspondence**

As listed on the Clerk's report.

**10. To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda.**

Workplace pensions. Document review.

**11. Next meeting**

The date and time of next meeting of the Council is **Monday, 2 November**, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

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