

Necton Parish Council



Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 7 December 7.30pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors present:

David Matthews (Chairman)
Frank Woodward (Vice-Chair)
Denise Axham
Joe Sisto
Steve Cheshire
Ian Thompson

Also in attendance:

Gabrielle Joyce (Clerk)
Cllr Nigel Wilkin, District Councillor
15 members of the public

1. To appoint a chairman following resignation of Cllr Webb in November

Cllr Woodward opened the meeting and called for nominations for the post of Chairman. Cllr Matthews was proposed by Cllr Thompson and agreed by all. Cllr Matthews assumed the role immediately. Cllr Matthews acknowledged the contribution made by Cllr Webb and wished her and her family well for the future.

2. To approve apologies for absence

There were no absentees.

The Clerk advised members of Cllr Carter's resignation received that morning, on grounds of other work and other commitments.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were noted.

4. To approve minutes of Council meeting

Minutes of Council meeting held on 02 November 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. 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.

St Andrew's Lane, Breckland owned strip of land between road and houses No: 4 to 18. This strip of verge is an upward slope to the property gates, which is dangerous underfoot as it is steep, muddy and has no handrail or steps. The matter was raised previously and it is understood that Breckland Council attended. As no progress appears to be made, the Clerk has made another approach to Breckland Council's environment department. Chris Hack, property services officer, is dealing with the matter and visited the site this month. The Clerk received an email on 26 November: Mr Hack has had a meeting with the Land Management Officer, Kirsty Mallett, at which the issues regarding the grassed area were recognised and discussed. The item will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Capital Asset Management Working Group, at the end of January, to discuss the options.

The **two lights (9041 & 9042)** on Hale Road and Chantry Lane have been realigned. However, it appears that they are still not providing their focus on the road/footpath. An evening site visit with the Clerk and Mr Banham will be arranged to investigate.

Pothole outside 3 Tun's Road has been repaired, but has become a danger once again. It will be reported back to NCC Highways again.

Allotments/dog walk area entrance has become very muddy. Investigation is required for an appropriate solution.

Meeting adjourned for Public Participation Session at 7.40 pm**Mr Nigel Tompkins, representing Dudgeon Wind Farm, provided an update.**

Accompanied by Mr Tyrell, Site Manager and Mr Dent. Middle of the winter on a major infrastructure project, good progress to date. There have been a small number of complaints received regarding noise and light pollution, which have been addressed. The landscaping material is on site waiting for appropriate weather to plant and the bund along the A47 side of the station is currently being constructed. Transformers are due into the site by road on Thursday, 10 December. Once these are in, the bulk of the construction is complete and the electricians will be onsite commissioning the plant. The project is currently on schedule to provide electricity to the national grid by first quarter of 2017.

Mr Tyrell informed the meeting of the new fundraising initiative on his site linked to maintaining good health and safety practice. His team has raised £4,500 already and this money will be distributed to local charities. Applications are welcome and more information available from the Clerk.

It **was agreed** to send a letter of thanks to Dudgeon for their consideration of residents during this major construction project.

Mr Tompkins, Mr Tyrell and Mr Dent left the meeting at this point.

Other public representations

- Traffic problems at the corner of Hale Road and Chantry Lane caused by construction traffic attending the building plot. The builder appears to be only working at the weekend. The road has long periods of obstruction. The matter is compounded by a resident parking his car on the road immediately opposite the site. The Council will **investigate** the matter.
- Sp. Ins. Banham clarified that the realignment of the lights (9041 & 9042) is still not providing adequate focus on the road and footpath. This matter will be investigated further (see agenda item 5 above)
- Mr Banham also advised that a number of lights along Hale Road and Tun's Road are obscured by overhanging trees. The Clerk will meet with Mr Banham to investigate further.
- Mr Woodbine (Sports & Social Club) informed of the poor state of condition in the car-park.
- Potholes were reported along North Pickenham Road, St Andrew's Lane outside The Grange and further along Chapel Road by boundary with Ivy Todd.
- Sp. Ins. Banham apologised for lack of crime figures again, due to ongoing issues with new systems. He advised public to be watchful of opportunist criminals especially during winter months.

Public session closed 8.15 pm

6. Finance**6.1 To agree payments of invoices received during October.**

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

Payee	Detail	Cheque No	Amount £	VAT portion*
G Joyce	November salary (includes a tax refund)	102535		
L Luff	November salary	102536		
G Joyce	November expenses (stationery, administration, travel)	102537	49.68	2.60
F Woodward	October expenses (travel)	102538	4.05	
J Webb	November Expenses (poppy wreath)	102539	35.00	5.00
NRCC	Room hire for Oct, Nov, Dec	102540	66.00	
Eon	Electricity charges October	102541	370.60	61.77
TT Jones	Maintenance charges October	102542	150.40	25.07
TT Jones	5-yr electrical testing	102543	1,354.08	225.68
BT phone	October calls & November line rental	direct debit	28.15	4.69

* VAT will be reclaimed at the end of March 2016.

6.2 To receive the current financial statement and progress against budget.

The RFO reported the current financial statement – Receipts for November: £727.90 vat reclaim in on 6 Nov. Payments for November - £4,304.53 (as above). Current account balance is £12,191.40.

6.3 To receive information regarding precept setting for 2016/17

The tax base for 2016-17 is 692.60, an increase on this year's tax base. Therefore, a precept of £50,000 (as considered by Council in November) equates to £72.19 a year (£1.39 a week) on a band D property. This is £18.04 a year more than this year or 35p a week extra per household.

In addition, Breckland Council have confirmed that the central government specific transition grant for parish councils will be paid again for 2016-17 - £2,095, which is lower than that received in this year. They have also indicated the level of grant Necton can expect to receive for the following 2 years, with a dis-continuation anticipated by March 2019.

6.4 To agree Council budget 2016-17

The presented budget was proposed by Cllr Thompson and agreed by all. The precept to be requested from Breckland Council for 2016/17 is £50,000.

6.5 To consider recommendations regarding the next phase of light upgrade

The Council considered the recommendations presented. The following resolutions were agreed:

- To upgrade the identified 30 lights as listed on appendix 2 of the tender.
- To issue the tender on 8 December with a deadline of 29th December for receipt.
- Tenders to be opened by the Clerk in the presence of the Chairman.

The item will carry forward to January's agenda.

7. Planning matters

7.1 Results of applications considered by Breckland Council

3PL/2015/1208/F 1 School Road renovation, permission

3PL/2015/1018/F, The Grove new dwelling, refusal

7.2 New applications (comments sent to Breckland Council)

No new applications

7.3 To receive an update on the Breckland Local Plan

Public consultation period begins on the 11 January through to 22 February 2016.

8. To propose nominations for Norfolk ALC to be considered at their AGM on 6 Jan 2016

The Council agreed the following nominations for the Norfolk Association of Local Councils AGM to be held on 6th January 2016 at County Hall, Norwich:

Norfolk ALC, AGM nominations

President - Cllr Peter Wilkinson (Narborough DC, Breckland Cabinet Member)

Vice President/s; Cllr Jack Sadler (Spixworth); Cllr Janet Holden (Fakenham); Cllr Alan Evans (South Wootton);

Cllr Peter Wilkinson (Narborough); Cllr David Matthews (Necton); Treasurer Cllr Janet Holden (Fakenham)

In the event of the new proposed Constitution being agreed, where only 1 Vice President would be required, the Council's nomination for Vice President was agreed to be Councillor Jack Sadler (Spixworth)

9. To receive update on A47 bus shelter project

Following a meeting with Nigel Furnig, from Amey acting on behalf of Highways England, the Clerk has a full brief of how to take this project forward. The Clerk estimates the process will take approximately 6 months before work commences on site.

10. To receive update on play area resurfacing project

The Clerk advised that the application for funds from the s106 Mill Street development was recommended for approval and funding is anticipated by Christmas, enabling an installation for end January, weather permitting.

11. To receive updates from individual council members

- Cllr Axham attended the SNAP meeting, where parking on School Road was raised. The police have attended there and received abuse from parents dropping their children off.
The Community Chest fundraising initiative from the EDP has begun again. Residents are invited to collect tokens on behalf of the village and bring them to the Clerk.
A further light inspection was carried out with Cllr Woodward on stock in Elizabeth Drive and Jubilee Way and a report was provided to the Clerk.
- Cllr Woodward advised that one welcome pack was distributed last month.
- Cllr Matthews updated on Norfolk ALC matters. The Clerk and Cllr Cheshire will represent the Council at Norfolk ALC's AGM on 6 January 2016.

12. To receive correspondence of note

As listed on the Clerk's report.

13. To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda.

Document review. Lights tender response.

14. Next meeting

The date and time of next meeting of the Council is **Monday, 04 January, 7.30 pm.**

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The meeting was followed by light refreshments in celebration of Christmas. The Council expressed their thanks to Barbara, Richard, Paul and everybody who contributed to making this happen.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____