

Necton Parish Council



Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 4 January 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 Mark Kiddle-Morris, County Councillor
6 members of the public

1. To approve apologies for absence

There were no absentees.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of pecuniary interest were noted. Cllr Sisto noted his interest in item 5.4 he being a committee member of the Football Club and Cllr Woodward noted his interest in item 5.4 he being a committee member of the Sports & Social Club.

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting

Minutes of Council meeting held on 07 December 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.

Hale Road Lights 9041 & 9042: The Clerk had site meetings with Mr Banham (resident) and Mr Haydon (Westcotec), regarding both lights and remedial action is in hand.

Meeting adjourned for Public Participation Session at 7.38 pm

- Mr Banham expressed concern that the River Wissey is at very high level and is now a risk of flooding given the current weather conditions. It is believed that the river has not been cleaned out for about 20 years. It is unclear if the responsibility rests with the Environment Agency or the Norfolk Internal Drainage Board. Cllr Kiddle-Morris offered to investigate and advise the Clerk, who will then follow up with the appropriate agency.
- A suggestion was made that the Parish Council considers the purchase of another village automated external defibrillator (AED) and locate it by the shop.

Report from Cllr Kiddle-Morris

- The public consultation for Norfolk County Council budgets (Re-imaging Norfolk) ends on 14 January. One of the cost saving suggestions put forward is that NCC will no longer provide free grit-bin filling. The public are urged to comment on this and other items on the consultation before it closes.
- Top-up ranger visits are available to purchase from Norfolk County Council if the Parish Council wish to progress routine village maintenance matters faster.
- The two recent by-elections have changed the political landscape at county hall.

Public session closed 7.46 pm

5. Finance

5.1 To agree payments of invoices received during December

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

Payee	Reason	Chq no	Amount	VAT portion
G Joyce	December Salary	Standing order		
L Luff	Dec Salary	102544		
F Woodward	Nov expenses	102545	10.80	
Eon	November electricity	102546	358.66	59.78
TT Jones	November light maintenance	102547	150.88	25.15
ICO	Information commissioner (Data Protection)	102548	35.00	
BT	Parish phone line	direct debit	27.60	4.60
BT	Parish broadband	direct debit	47.12	7.85
G Joyce	Dec expenses	102549	10.99	0.34

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

5.2 To receive the current financial statement and progress against budget

The RFO reported the current financial statement – Receipts for December: £3.24 interest. Payments for December - £1,791.82 (as above). Current account balance is £6,922.00.

5.3 To note precept requirement submission to Breckland Council

Form B will be submitted to Breckland Council, stating the previously agreed precept figure of £50,000 before the deadline of 31 January 2016.

5.4 To consider grant applications received for 2016

Using the power of LGA 1972, section 137, the Parish Council 2016/17 budget for grants to local organisations is £2,000. The following grant applications were received:

Organisation	Amount requested	Reason
Necton Little Oaks	476.20	to fund an educational trip on Mid-Norfolk railway
Necton Sports & Social Club	756.00	new tables for the club house
Necton Football Club	1,520.00	4 new mobile lights
Necton Churchyard	350.00	supporting the grounds maintenance of churchyard

The Council **resolved**:

to provide 50% match funding for Necton Little Oaks, Necton Sports & Social Club and Necton Football Club and to grant the full award to Necton Churchyard.

These payments will not be made before April 2016.

The Council acknowledged that the Football application was a worthy project with its aim to increase opportunities for young people in sport. Cllr Matthews offered to work with Cllr Sisto to source other funding for the Football Club project.

6. Planning matters

6.1 Results of applications considered by Breckland Council

None received

6.2 New applications (comments sent to Breckland Council)

3PL/2015/1438 – 52 Chantry Lane, timber annex. No concerns or objections.

6.3 To receive an update on the Breckland Local Plan

Breckland Council will be holding a public consultation day at the Necton Community Centre on 11 February, 2pm to 7pm.

6.4 To note complaints received regarding light pollution from Dudgeon Wind Farm sub-station

Mrs Smedley, as advocate for residents on St Andrew's Lane, informed the Council of a number of complaints regarding lights on overnight and Sunday working during weekend of 12/13 December. The Council was asked to register this complaint with Breckland enforcement office, which was done on 17 December by email. The residents also complained directly. The Enforcement Officer following investigation advised that there was no breach of planning conditions and a request for weekend working had been granted in advance of the date. Mr Tompkins is aware of this matter and will keep the Council informed as to resolution. The Clerk understands from information on the Village Facebook page that Mrs Smedley received a solution in so much as the lights were re-angled to reduce glare in St Andrew's Lane direction.

7. To decide the Council's position regarding the new sector led body for Audit

The Council agreed to remain included in the new sector led body set up by NALC and SLCC to procure a new supplier for council audit requirements, following the completion of contract with Mazars at the end of 2016.

8. To receive updated policy documents

Cllr Cheshire completed the annual review of policy – Dignity at Work, bullying & harassment. It is now with the Clerk for formatting and publishing. The following policies are still under annual review:

Information & Communications policy, by Cllr Thompson.

Equality & Diversity, by Cllr Matthews.

Complaints & Compliments policy, by Cllr Matthews.

Training & Development policy, by Cllr Sisto.

9. To note Breckland Council's Voluntary Smoke-free Code at all public play areas/parks, entrances to schools and children's nurseries throughout the district

This new code was noted.

10. To receive updates from individual council members

- Cllr Axham will be attending the next SNAP meeting, 19 January, 6.30pm in Swaffham.
- Cllr Woodward advised that one welcome pack was distributed last month.
- Cllr Matthews updated on Norfolk ALC matters.

11. To receive update from Necton Allotment Society

The Clerk received a report from the Allotment Chairman regarding the state of the car park. The recent weather and ongoing car parking has made matters worse and suggests that the area should be closed temporarily to stop it getting worse. Discussions have been had with the land owner and a plan is forming to make good the area with aggregate, when weather permits.

The Council agreed that the car park be closed until improvement work is carried out.

12. To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda

Document review, bus shelters, Local Plan, risk management scheme, business planning.

13. Next meeting

The date and time of next meeting of the Council is **Monday, 1 February, 7.30 pm.**

14. To pass a resolution (under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press for a confidential item.

Resolution agreed.

15. To consider tenders received for lighting upgrade phase 2.

The tender responses were discussed and considered. It was agreed to return to all parties for more information. The matter will carry forward to the February meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____