

Necton Parish Council

Minutes No: 2016/6/1

Minutes of Council Meeting held Monday, 03 October 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural
Community Centre



Parish Councillors (6) present:

David Matthews (Chairman), Frank Woodward (Vice-Chairman),
Joe Sisto, Ian Thompson, Clive Pellett, Phil Hayton.

Also in attendance:

Gabrielle Joyce (Clerk)
31 members of the public
Cllr Nigel Wilkin (Breckland Council)

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Cheshire (work commitment), Cllr Axham (health) & Cllr Kiddle-Morris (other Local Council business). These apologies were acknowledged and approved.

2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensation

None.

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting held on 05 September 2016

The minutes were **agreed** by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. To report progress on matters arising (Clerk's report)

The Clerk circulated a written report prior to the meeting and summarised some of the key points:

- Public rights of way deadline: A meeting with Helen Chester and the Footpath working group has been arranged for 11 October.
- The Council's application for Quality status has been submitted to NALC.
- Dudgeon Community funding has been secured for a new audio system for council meetings and automatic hand dryers for the community centre toilets.

5. Reports from:

5.1 Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris:

A written report was read out by the Clerk:

Norfolk & Suffolk Devolution: The public consultation period ended on the 23rd August. Collated results have been submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) for consideration. If minded to go ahead with devolution proposals, he will place an order in Parliament which giving the proposal standing in law. All participating councils will vote to accept or refuse the deal. This is likely to take place sometime after the 21st November.

County Council Budget: Norfolk County Council has a projected budget overspend of £22m for the current financial year. All departments have now been told that use of reserves to balance budgets is unsustainable and will not be permitted and they must have a clear plan to get their service back on track. The main areas of over spend are in Children's Services (£11.812m), Adult Social Care (£8.802m) and Resources (£1.706m).

5.2 Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin:

Some delicate and complex planning issues being considered across the district at the moment.

The training workshop delivered to Necton Councillors is being considered for delivery to other Parish Councillors.

A complaint lodged against Cllr Wilkin has been investigated and concluded that there was no wrongdoing and the matter is now closed.

Cllr Matthews gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Wilkin for his delivery of a planning workshop to Necton councillors and complemented his content.

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Public Participation Session opened at 19.41

- Many residents wished to raise concerns about the planning applications on Mill Street. Council agreed to provide an opportunity for them to speak at that point of the agenda.
- A resident queried the location of the proposed crossing on Hale Road. Cllr Hayton explained the location and its rationale.
- The local pre-school, Little Oaks, are seeking practical assistance with fundraising for their new building project.
- A resident asked if training could be provided for the outdoor gym equipment. This request will be detailed in writing to the Clerk, who will investigate.

Session closed at 19.49

6. Planning Matters

6.1 To receive results of outstanding applications

3PL/2016/1023/F 21 Kett's Hill, 1 new dwelling, permission granted by Breckland Council.

6.2 To receive new planning applications relevant to the village and make comment

3PL/2016/1011/O – 18 Mill Street, 4 new dwellings

The Chairman reported that a resident telephoned him regarding this application, raising her objections. Cllr Thompson felt the site was very small for the proposed dwellings, the altered entrance was too close to the corner and the area has a known flood risk. Cllr Woodward concurred with the flood risk and raised concern about the management of Japanese Knot-weed. Cllr Hayton expressed concern about vehicle spaces and parking restrictions. The item was opened to members of the public wishing to speak.

It was **resolved** to oppose this application on the following grounds:

- Density – the site is too small to provide adequate provision for a terrace of 3 houses and associated parking. Equally, the density is out of proportion to the rest of the street scene.
- Street congestion – the proposed parking allocation appears insufficient and parking is likely to spill onto Mill Street, which is not wide enough to allow passing traffic.
- Safety – Mill Street is used extensively by walkers; schoolchildren, residents accessing local services and walking for fitness and pleasure. A proposed access for this development is sited too close to a very sharp bend with no visibility for oncoming traffic or pedestrians.
- Flood risk – this site was historically a village pond and is a low point collection area. There is documented evidence of ongoing flooding issues directly connected with the drain that flows through this site. Any development would need to consider a long-term solution to this matter so that it does not impinge further on existing properties.
- Japanese Knotweed – it is understood that correctly documented controls of this invasive weed are not being carried out. This matter should be adequately addressed prior to any permission.

3PL/2016/0983/O Erne Farm, 46 new dwellings

This land is identified by the Parish Council as a preferred site for development within the emerging Local Plan. There is provision of a 2.32ha community park, to be gifted to the Parish Council.

Cllr Hayton said he would be keen for the Parish Council to adopt this land, whilst mindful of the risk; there are long-term benefits to the village. Cllr Thompson said he supports this application but concerned at the increase from 32 to 46 dwellings. Cllr Pellet agreed that a return to 32 dwellings would be more acceptable.

It was **resolved** to support this application, but with a request that the numbers be reduced back to the initial 32.

The agent, Ian Reilly has sought an indication from the Parish Council regarding when they may wish to adopt this open space. The Clerk has advised that a full risk assessment of this proposed asset transfer be undertaken before agreement, to ensure adequate provision for long-term management liability. The Clerk was directed to reply with an indication of adoption at 75% completion of site.

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3PL/2016/1088/O, 14 Mill Street, 2 new dwellings

Cllr Thompson felt this site was overcrowded back garden infill. Cllr Hayton agreed that it looked 'squeezed' and there is a concern about adequate drainage. Cllr Pellett concurred with these views. Cllr Wilkin said that the flats to the rear of the site might have upstairs living space overlooking the new dwellings.

It was **resolved** to oppose this application on the following grounds:

- Density – this infill of back garden is considered inappropriate. The dwellings appear cramped and the proximity of the current properties at the rear of this site is likely to cause loss of privacy issues.
- Flood risk – there are many natural drains between Mill Street and Chantry Court (where this site backs onto) which already cause flooding for residents.

3PL/2016/1158/O, land adjacent to Damson Cottage, Hale Road, 2 new dwellings (resubmission)

It was **resolved** to reiterate the Council's previous position of support for this application.

6.3 To receive update on Local Plan

Consultation is open until 31 October. The current proposal falls short of what the Parish Council wanted in terms of site selection. It was **resolved** to re-state this position in response to the consultation.

6.4 To receive an update on the Parish Council's request to Breckland Council to issue a section 215 notice on the old diner site and the old school sites

Simon Woods (Breckland Council) advised that he is still working on appropriate wording for a s215 notice to the Old Diner. Cllr Matthew reported that a resident is watching nightly drug related activity on this site. The Clerk was directed to return to Breckland Council with this information and request heavy gauge metal sheeting be installed across all access points at a cost to the owner or agent. Cllr Wilkin was asked to raise this issue with his officers for their support with resolution.

Mr Woods also advised that contact would be made with Norfolk County Council regarding the site and building on School Road. The Clerk noted that the grass had been recently cut on the NCC owned land on School Road.

6.5 To consider a response to the NALC policy consultation on the Neighbourhood Planning Bill

Members were requested to respond with their individual views to the Clerk by the end of the week, which will be collated into a response before the end of the consultation period.

7. To receive an update on highway improvements for crossing facilities at Hale Road

The Clerk is still waiting for an update on this matter.

8. To receive a response from Cllr Kiddle-Morris regarding the matter of ongoing internal residential flooding at Elizabeth Drive

Cllr Kiddle-Morris has reported on 29 September that he was struggling to find anybody of significance within Anglian Water to return his calls or emails. He further reported on 03 October that he has made contact with Anglian Water and will provide an update by the next meeting.

Cllr Hayton reported that a similar issue with a local council in Essex revealed that nappies flushed into the drainage system were the cause of blockage and flooding.

9. To receive update from Necton Allotment Society

Paul Young, the new Chairman of the society, provided a short verbal report. He was elected at their AGM on 28 September.

Cllr Matthews reported some concerns raised about flooding across plots closest to the stream. It may be that new plots need to be opened within the adjacent open space to meet demand. The matter will be monitored.

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10. Finance

10.1 To agree payments of invoices received during September

The following payments were agreed. The total payment being £2,666.68

Payee	Reason	Chq no	Amount	VAT portion
BT	Phone rental for Sept	DD	31.08	5.18
BT	Broadband for Sep – Nov	DD	97.20	16.20
G Joyce	Sep Salary	SO		
L Luff	Aug Salary	102621		
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath for Remembrance day	102622	20.00	
Eon for August	August energy for lights	102623	332.02	55.34
TT Jones for August	August maintenance for lights	102624	152.81	25.47
Mona Hill Trust	Firs Field Allotment & dog walk lease 2 nd instalment Oct 2016 to 6 Apr 2017	102625	750.00	
G Joyce	Sep expenses for stationery & mileage	102626	120.15	15.64

10.2 To receive current financial statement and progress against budget

Receipts in September:

05-09-2016	£2.21	interest on lights fund
05-09-2016	£0.87	interest on general reserves fund
05-09-2016	£0.19	interest on youth fund
05-09-2016	£228.00	Admin fee from NRCC
29-09-2016	£25,000.00	precept 2016/17 2nd instalment
29-09-2016	£1,047.50	grant 2016/17 2nd instalment

Current actual income yr. to date: £93,054.

Actual outgoings yr. to date: £74,298. This includes full reserve build as per budget (£8,120)

Projected budget year end surplus is £1,860 (having taken the built reserves out of the equation).

10.3 To receive and consider draft budget 2017/18

A draft budget version 1 was circulated to members ahead of meeting. It was **resolved** to establish a full member working party to consider this and bring proposals to the November meeting. The Clerk will circulate dates for consideration.

11. To consider a response to the precept capping consultation

It was **resolved** to support the NALC response.

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

Cllr Woodward – 3 Welcome Packs were distributed last month. He attended the recent SNAP meeting and reported the recent incidents at the community centre car park. The meeting was well attended by police and a new officer in charge of speeding was introduced. Incidents of children playing with traffic on School Road was reported.

Cllr Matthews – reported on a recent invitation to RAF Marham. The site is gearing up for 10,000 employees. They have an extensive heritage centre which is worthy of a visit, pre-booking required by small groups. They also have a charity fund of £250,000, to which local charities can apply.

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13. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda (for information only)

Budgets, reserves policy review, light inspection report, personnel group report, footpath working group report, risk management review, code of conduct review.

14. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting Monday, 07 November 2016, 7.30 pm.

Confirmed.

15. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the press and public ahead of the next agenda item – a confidential item relating to contract award

This resolution was no longer required at this point and therefore not considered.

16. To receive an update on the bus shelter project & agree appointment of contractor

The closing date for receipt of tenders was the 20th September and no tenders were received. The Clerk is currently sourcing quotations from a number of companies. No appointments can be made at this time. A site meeting with Highways England (represented by their contractor Amey) and Treadwell Developments Ltd is scheduled for 5 October, which will clarify the exact location and type of shelter permitted. Cllr Matthews reported that the procedure negotiated by the Parish Council with the bus company to collect eastbound school children at the westbound stop to save them crossing the A47 has failed this term, a parent has reported their child being asked for payment for an extended journey. This matter will be investigated.

Meeting closed at 21.08

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____