

Necton Annual Parish Meeting



Minutes of Meeting held Thursday, 28 April 2016 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre

Note: These minutes will be formally approved at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2017.

Parish Councillors present: Frank Woodward (vice-Chairman), Denise Axham, Clive Pellett and Joe Sisto.

Also in attendance: Gabrielle Joyce (Clerk), Cllr Kiddle-Morris (NCC) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Francesca Shearcroft, Parish Link. Bernard Bell, NRCC volunteer.

2. To approve minutes

Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Parish Council Reports

3.1 Chairman's report on the Council year 2015 (Cllr Matthews was not present, this report was read out by Clerk):

The Parish Council has operated throughout the last 12 months with a number of vacancies for Parish Councillors. This inevitably puts additional workload on those remaining Councillors, I would wish to place on record my thanks to all of them, in particular my Vice Chairman Councillor Woodward, who we are pleased to have back after his trip to New Zealand to see his daughter and grandchildren.

Changing faces of Necton Parish Council

My thanks to those good councillors who have left - Jeanette Webb and Charles Carter. Councillor Webb was our Chairman and steered us through a rocky period with the upmost skill and professionalism.

Other community volunteers

Mark Jennings who is our play area inspector, carrying out weekly inspections and ensuring our equipment is in good working and safe order. Peter Fitz Harris who has carried out some essential DIY jobs in the parish office, keeping our Clerk happy (always important). Bernard Bell who continues to give support to our Clerk on community centre matters. Marian Bull who is our "eye on the centre" person This year, we have already welcomed Clive Pellett, and we believe there are a couple more people considering stepping forward for co-option in May. (2 vacancies at present)

I must state that with our Parish Clerk, who has outstanding qualities, the Parish has progressed massively across a whole range of areas and improvements, to the facilities for our Parishioners.

Significant events 2015/16

- *Award of Foundation status in September, with good feedback from assessors*
- *National Parish Council of the Week by National ALC as recognition of our award status*
- *New Parish Office - helping to increase our engagement with all in our community, lots of visitors during opening hours.*
- *Trusteeship of NRCC - ensuring it remains open as the long-serving committee was finally allowed to retire.*
- *Looking at improvements to the Sports and Social Club, also the car parking area and road down to*

the Club

- *Transfer of financial responsibility of the children's play area and outdoor gym area from NRCC and into the PC, enabling these village assets to be supported by the Council precept.*
- *Allotment Society has established a sound financial and management base and increase in plot holders, new seating, fencing and soon to be upgraded car parking facilities, always weather permitting*
- *Local Grants awarded by the Parish Council - Necton Little Oaks and churchyard already received. Match funding awards awaiting confirmation from Sports & Social Club and Football Club that they have received balancing funds.*

Resident issues & what the Parish Council did to help

- *Dog fouling - raised awareness through articles, leaflets. Our caretaker has been washing down all our bins, making them easier to see and more inviting to use. Thanks to Mr. Luff (Lenny) for his unstinting work in keeping our village clean and tidy*
- *Traffic congestion - particularly the junction of Tuns Road and the A47, keeping it on the agenda with NCC Highways, calling on our Ward Members to support our cause. Suggested a slip road to Swaffham, using the small parcel of land owned by the Parish Council, this would at least ease the congestion.*
- *Car parking at school - working with the school, site meeting with NCC Highways to discuss practical options. One such solution is the (soon to be) drawn "drop-off" zone to help keep traffic moving.*
- *Over development fears & Local Plan - keeping this on every PC meeting agenda, meetings with Breckland Planning to keep the village voice heard, encouraging potential developers to work with us before they submit plans, e.g. Ernst Farm and Plans from Lanpro*
- *Potholes - quick reporting to NCC Highways. E.g. Our report on the Tun's Road craters was dealt with by NCC within 48 hours.*

Infrastructure Projects

- *Bus shelters on A47 - already in planning stage, funding on the way from Statoil for two new bus shelters, one either side of the A47*
- *Hale Road Trod - partnership agreement with NCC, which should be in place before the end of next month*
- *New surface in play area - securing S106 funds, to provide a better play area for our children, the work on this continues into next month*
- *Lights - upgraded from old technology to new low cost LEDs, saving on our energy bills and carbon footprint*
- *CCTV proving its value in monitoring slight vandalism at the Village Hall and play area*

In addition to my work as Chairman of the Parish Council, I was elected this year as the Chairman of Norfolk ALC, services our 450 Town and Parish Councils, this is a very challenging role and hopefully we will see improvements during my period of office.

My final thanks again to our excellent staff - Gabbie Joyce & Lenny Luff who work directly for the council and Sue James who works for the Community Centre - all continue to work hard.

3.2 RFO's report on the Council's draft finances for 2014-2015:

The RFO gave an overview of the Parish Council's finances. The figures presented at this meeting are still subject to audit. The presentation is available alongside these minutes on the Parish Council website.

4. Reports from outside bodies

4.1 District Council: no attendance or report.

4.2 County Council: Cllr Kiddle-Morris presented this report and a copy is available alongside these minutes on the Parish Council website.

5. Reports from organisations

Necton Lunch Club: Mrs Di Daniels's reported that the lunch club which has been running for almost 2 years is very well attended, indeed has a waiting list as the numbers are limited to 25 given the current kitchen facilities.

Necton Allotment Society provided a written report, which the Clerk read out. A copy is published alongside these minutes on Parish Council website.

6. General Parish Issues

- **Development & emerging Breckland Local Plan:** There are a number of potential planning developments that will be presented for consideration over the next few months. Members of the public are invited to express their comments at the monthly Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council continue to communicate with Breckland Council to ensure resident's views are heard and considered within the emerging local plan. A further public consultation is expected during the Summer and residents are encouraged to participate.
- **Questions from the floor:** Mr Daniels spoke of his challenges as a person with partial sight, navigating his way by foot through the village. He noted a number of particularly difficult areas:
 - Crossing from the shop to the surgery side of Hale Road, where there is no dropped kerb or designated crossing points. With two bus stops, heavy traffic and parked cars, the area is difficult to negotiate for able and less-able-bodied people.
 - The footpath on School Road leading to Chantry Lane disappears into grass, which is dangerous particularly when wet,
 - Parked cars on kerbs, reducing the pavement area for people,
 - Overhanging branches, catching people at eye-level,
 - Old footpaths which are broken in many areas

Cllr Woodward thanked Mr Daniels for this information and **recommended** that it be put on the Parish Council's agenda for consideration.

No other matters were raised and the Chair thanked all who attended and brought the meeting to a close at 9 pm.

Minutes signed by Chair (or designate) _____ on _____