

# Necton Parish Council

Minutes No: 2019/3

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 04 March 2019 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre



### Parish Councillors (6) present:

Councillors David Matthews (Chair), Jean Bass, Fraser Bateman, Joe Sisto, Alice Spain, Denise Axham, .

### Also in attendance:

James Howard (Clerk)  
20 members of the public

**Date:** Monday, 04 March 2019

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Place:** Main Hall, Necton Rural Community Centre

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris due to prior commitment..

Apologies from Cllr Thompson (business commitment) and Cllr Stopp (family illness) and Cllr Hayton (delayed on business).

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

None received.

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting of 4th February 2019

Approved and signed.

### 4. Adjournment for Public Participation (15 mins allowed for). Commenced 19:32

Reports from members of the public included:

A member of the public expressed an opinion that Breckland Council were not doing their job. North Pickenham Road trod is a complete mess and needs much attention. Grass cutters simply blow cuttings into the road, Binmen miss bins and drop rubbish and bin carts are reversed at dangerous speeds. Cllr Wilkin to investigate.

The Ivy Todd sign is still hanging off and needs re-reporting or chasing.

At Ramms Lane the drain into the ditch has had a tree cut down but the roots have been left in the ditch blocking water flow.

The footpath on Tuns Road has been left in poor shape following the recent drainage work – clerk to investigate.

Reports of thieves in the area (tools, plant, oil etc.) requires vigilance.

There have been 3 recent accidents on the A47 at Necton (the Clerk is logging incidents but only has details of 2 to date).

### Session ended 19:43

5. Reports from:

- Parish Clerk – report attached to minutes.
- Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris – report read by Clerk and attached.

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- Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin – Cllr Wilkin warned that should pressure continue to be made regarding the A47 there may be unintended consequences such as allocation of land for many houses. On other developments only 10% of homes are affordable against a target of 40%. This high Target attracts appeals from developers and a target of 20% was considered more appropriate. It was also stated that Breckland Local Plan did not affect Necton.

6. To receive minutes from the recent NRCC meeting.

Received.

7. To receive minutes from the recent Festival Planning Committee meeting.

Received

8. Necton Festival – to receive an update from Cllr Bateman.

Cllr Bateman reported that all is progressing well with more sponsors, further kids entertainment planned etc. but that there is always room for more. Marketing is revving up on Facebook and the Website etc. and three charities should benefit in equal measures – EACH, Merle Boddy and NRCC. There should be a fire engine and a police car on the site for interest as well as farm animals and other things to create a more inclusive interest. Posters and leaflets will appear soon and volunteers to help are requested from villagers for such duties as managing parking, setting up etc. Security will be on site and is now booked.

9. Planning matters – to note new planning applications and discuss.

- 45 Ketts Hill – The outline planning was approved but the final plan appears to show a much bigger and somewhat different development. The Council decided to OBJECT on the following grounds – overdevelopment, entrance too steep plus loss of hedge, lack of amenity land, and concerns over proximity. The Clerk will report the Council's decision.
- 10 Hale Road – The Council APPROVED this development.

10. To approve the request for a weeks' work placement for a school student.

Approved subject to Clerk preparing a risk assessment.

11. To discuss the moving of benches and decide on positions and timescale.

Positions decided on were Chantry Lane, Jubilee Way and possibly outside the church. Two new benches would be placed in the community garden when complete. A date to move is not yet fixed.

12. To discuss the latest issues around Vattenfall and decide on next steps.

The Council agreed to sign the Loop Energy offshore ring main proposal – Clerk to action.

Anger was felt at Vattenfall's attempts to "divide and conquer" i.e offering support to various groups without discussion with the Council or an official approach.

The Clerk had asked Vattenfall to reconsider siting and submit an agenda for a formal meeting. Vattenfall have refused.

PINS – a chair has been appointed and acknowledged our reply to questions. Vattenfall's comments are not accurate and disagree without grounds therefore it was felt dangerous to have a meeting. Vattenfall have so far failed to attend any formal meetings such as Council meetings or meetings with George Freeman MP. The Chair stated that he was very impressed with communications from our MP.

The Council would only consider a meeting with Vattenfall if it could be a formal meeting and we received an appropriate written agenda in the first place. Chair to email out comments on community benefits etc. for agreement.

It was questioned why Vattenfall used Scottish guidelines regarding community benefits etc.

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Vattenfall have approached people in the village and offered small amounts to small groups including the SSC. This was considered unacceptable.

The example of Statoil was also quoted where the council was promised a great deal and ended up with two bus shelters only.

It was pointed out that comments on statements of common ground appeared on the website and then disappeared without any known reason.

The Chair asked Councillors to look over the responses for PINS and comment ASAP to Councillor Spain.

The position of loss of agricultural land is unclear

Benefits could be added under section 19.29.

Accompanied site visits to go ahead and it was strongly felt that the Council and residents should point out THEIR sites of interest to be included.

13. To discuss litter issues and receive an update on the Village Clean-up.

The litter pick will go ahead as planned on 13 April.

14. To discuss the marl pit and decide if the council wishes to have an interest.

The site is due to be auctioned off with a starting figure of £17k. After much debate the Council concluded it was unlikely to have an interest although details of contact at Breckland have been noted. It was also suggested that a footpath through the site (possible sec 106?) would be useful.

15. Finance – to agree payments of invoices and other expenses received during February (see list)

Agreed – now mostly paid by BACS.

16. To receive an update on the swimming pool following a meeting with the school and decide any actions required.

A brief review of the meeting with the school Head on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb was given. The old pool is probably unsustainable with costs of approximately £30k per month and old, obsolete equipment. A new pool at £1m++ was discussed but not very optimistically. Dialogue with the school will continue.

As an aside the Chair then mentioned the 5 a side football tournament grant offered to the SSC which could not go ahead without approval from the Council. He also mentioned incidences of foul language aimed at Council staff would not be tolerated.

17. To discuss a potential one-year action plan. To make decisions for additions or changes.

The Councillors approved the concept and will comment on additions, subtractions and priorities once studied.

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

Cllr Bass – expressed concerns over the entrances to Costa Coffee when it opens in April. Cllr Wilkin stated that there would be 2 entrances, one on Tuns Road and one on the A47. There is a potential for accidents and many motorists “cutting through.”

Cllr Spain – felt that the fence at the Costa site, which appears to be trespassing on our land, now has a light built behind it and some hedge removed despite assurances nothing would be done in close proximity to our land. Cllr Wilkin agreed to produce a plan and the Clerk will investigate.

Ramms Lane has two dog bins that need replacing, Clerk to action.

Cllr Spain asked if anyone attended the National Playing Fields Association meeting (nobody did). It was pointed out that they had a lot of funds for grants.

Cllr Matthews – informed the meeting that the Clerk and himself were visiting the solicitors tomorrow to progress the registration of land. The Council had not been previously informed that this action was ongoing.

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

- Vattenfall
- Swimming pool update.
- Land registration.
- New standing orders to be agreed.

**Meeting closed 21:00.**

DRAFT