

Necton Parish Council

Minutes No: 2019/7

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 17 June 2019 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre



Parish Councillors (7) present:

Councillors Jean Bass (Chair), Fraser Bateman, Joe Sisto, Alice Spain, Phil Hayton, Thirza Hicks, Frank Stopp.

Also in attendance:

James Howard (Clerk)
17 members of the public

Date: Monday, 17 June 2019

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Main Hall, Necton Rural Community Centre

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris apologised due to illness.

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

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Necton Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Hayton declared an interest in item 14 but not a pecuniary interest.

3. To approve minutes of the Council meeting of 13th May 2019

Approved and signed.

4. To approve the annual governance statement 2018/19.

Approved and signed.

To approve the accounting statement for 2018/19.

Approved and signed.

To confirm the process by which electors may exercise their rights of inspection of Annual Return.

The following statement was read out - The relevant documents will be published on the Councils website and on the notice boards, following this meeting. Members of the public can express their rights to examine the accounts and make arrangements with the clerk to do so.

To receive the internal auditors report.

Received.

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5. Public Participation.

Grass cutting in the village has not been kept up and is now urgent. Clerk will inform Breckland Council.

A permanent speed limit of 40mph for the A 47 was requested but stated as unlikely to happen as the road is not populated by housing. A new safety audit is due once the new development opens. Traffic lights were also discussed. All these points will be raised at the forthcoming meeting with Highways. Near the junction of Ramms Lane and Brackenwood someone is burning large quantities of rubbish regularly – Clerk to investigate.

There is the possibility of a road closure on Tuns Rd for 6 weeks for utilities work. The Council have received no notification and will contact the Street Works Coordinator to check.

Support for the swimming pool was raised and this is discussed in a later item.

6. Reports from:

- Parish Clerk – read and attached to minutes.
- Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris – absent due to illness.
- Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin – absent.

7. To receive minutes from the recent NRCC meeting (for reference only).

Received.

8. To receive minutes of the recent Festival Planning Committee meetings (for reference only).

Received.

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

Festival is now less than 5 weeks away. Signs are out on the A47 and social media has been pushed. About 200 tickets have been sold to date. Fraser thanked all involved for their efforts. The groups running order is now decided. Lots of activities for children are planned and lots of food will be available. One raffle has a prize for 4 people to attend a guided tour of Parliament followed by afternoon tea.

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

REFERENCE: 3PL/2019/0511/HOU
PROPOSAL: Single Storey Extension to rear
LOCATION: NECTON: 23 Ketts Hill Necton
APPLICANT: Mr D Jackman

Approved

REFERENCE: 3PL/2019/0558/O
PROPOSAL: Proposed Plot for New 4/5 bedroom property & Cart Lodge
LOCATION: NECTON: Lodge Cottage Ivy Todd Road Necton
APPLICANT: Ms Rutterford

Approved.

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REFERENCE: 3PL/2019/0562/O
PROPOSAL: Erection of 9 Dwellings (4 detached Bungalows & 5 detached Houses)
LOCATION: NECTON: Ex School Playing Field School Road Necton
APPLICANT: Mr Vincent Somers

Objected to on the following grounds:

- Over- development.
- Unclear plans issued.
- Tree shading plans – arbitrary and inaccurate.
- Loss of school waiting area – loss of amenity.
- Will create too many cars for available spaces.

REFERENCE: 3PL/2019/0629/A
PROPOSAL: 1 x Internally illuminated Co-op Logo
LOCATION: NECTON: CO-OPERATIVE FOOD AND PETROL STATION TUNS LANE
NECTON
APPLICANT: FOOD PROGRAMME DELIVERY ORCHID

Approved.

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

The planning application for Vanguard is complete and now awaiting a decision (within 3 months). It then goes to the Secretary of State for 3 months. Issue of support from Vattenfall will be raised with George Freeman at the next meeting. It was understood that Vattenfall will not make any offers until they receive planning approval and recent small grants have been viewed as propaganda. As an interested party (statutory body and consultee) the Council cannot discuss compensation until planning is decided. It may well be 3 years until Vattenfall support projects such as the swimming pool. The idea of an offshore ring main seems to be gathering support especially in light of plans for carbon neutrality by 2050. The Council never agreed the statement of common ground.

12. To discuss the Councils views on neighbourhood planning and decide a course of action.

Neighbourhood plans can be overturned by a Borough Council but this is expensive for them to do so. Necton is currently under the whim of local developers who may build where the community object to and avoid support for the village if building less than 10 houses at a time. With a plan Necton could have more say on open spaces, allotments, safe routes to school etc. A plan is a lot of work but grants are available to assist. Breckland have a dedicated officer who could help. Ultimately the plan would go back to the community for approval. After considerable debate the Council supported going forward and decided to form a small sub-committee to include members of the public to progress this issue.

13. To discuss Necton Swimming Pool current issues and consider council involvement.

It was understood and accepted that many in the village supported keeping the swimming pool. A sum of £8000 is needed for urgent work but the ongoing budget is up to £100,000 for proper maintenance and repair and an ongoing staffing cost of £30,000 per annum. The Council are not allowed to support the school financially but even if they were these sums are beyond council budgets. A business case is needed but looks very weak in terms of future revenue. The next steps are down to the school to decide.

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14. To discuss the marl pit and the possibility of council involvement.

The land could be used to provide a safe path to school as well as an area for school use and picnic area. With a likely purchase price of £30,000 and the need for fencing at about £15,000 to £20,000 to make the site safe and usable, plus the issue of contamination which is not fully known, it is outside the Councils budget and will not be progressed. The property will be auctioned on 17th July.

15. To note and approve payments made for May 19.

Noted and approved.

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

In future updates and items for inclusion will be a combined agenda item to save time.

Cllr Bass – the Council has received a letter requesting that the car park should remain a porous surface if resurfaced. It also requested that any changes to floodlights on the basketball court will not inconvenience the neighbours. The council will respond positively to these comments. Cllr Bass indicated that outstanding policies should be completed by September.

Cllr Stopp – reported that speeding cars on Tuns Road was a problem including a very near miss near the church. The SAM2 speed measuring device will be relocated to monitor this.

Cllr Hicks – raised the issue as to whether it would be a good idea to turn off the street lights between midnight and 6am to save electricity. This will go on the next agenda for debate. She also felt that there was a lack of sporting opportunities in the village for girls and suggested a tennis court would be welcome. This will also go on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Bateman – noted the availability of S106 money for sporting facilities and suggested it should be an NRCC issue to allocated these funds.

Cllr Sisto – would like the upgrade of the basketball court through s106 money to go on the next agenda. It was also suggested that the vacancy for a Village Caretaker go forward with a new job specification. This will also be an agenda item. Action on Clerk to put forward old contract and suggestions for alteration.

Cllr Spain – Asked if we could cut the grass in the village. This is Breckland Councils responsibility and most felt should be left with them. It was pointed out that two and not one new dog bin were needed. Another to be ordered.

Cllr Hayton – Ketts Hill suffers from gravel on the road which is particularly dangerous to motor cyclists. It was requested that residents were informed of their obligation to sweep this and keep it on their property.

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

Covered under item 16.

18. To fix a date and time for the next Parish Council meeting.

Monday 8th July 7.30 pm was agreed - with the decision to consider the second Monday of the month for future meetings to be decided at the next meeting.

Meeting closed 9.20pm.

DRAFT