

Necton Parish Council

Minutes No: 2019/11

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 12 August 2019 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural Community Cen.



Date: Monday 12 August 2019

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Main Hall, Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (7) present:

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

Additional attendees:

Cllrs Mark Kiddle-Morris and Nigel Wilkin

24 members of the public

Date: Monday 12th August

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Main Hall, Necton Rural Community Centre

The Chair expressed her thanks to the Clerk and Parish Assistant who have both moved on since the last meeting.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

None received

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.

None declared.

3. To approve minutes of the Council meeting of 8th July 2019

Minutes from the meeting on 8th July were approved, with the proviso that the approval of minutes from the meeting on 17th June be added.

4. To allow Gabbie Joyce to express her interest in becoming a Councillor (5 mins allowed)

Gabbie Joyce described her reasons for wanting to become a Councillor.

5. To allow Mark Jennings to express his interest in becoming a Councillor (5 mins allowed)

Mark Jennings described his reasons for wanting to become a Councillor.

6. To vote on the co-option of Gabbie Joyce onto the Council by signed ballot

Gabbie Joyce's co-option was rejected by majority vote.

7. To vote on the co-option of Mark Jennings onto the Council by signed ballot

Mark Jennings' co-option was agreed by majority vote.

8. Public Participation (15 minutes allowed)

The following items were raised:

Is the village social media aligned to the Parish Council
Acquisition of the marl pit
Pot holes should be filled in before tarmacking the roads
Co-ordination of road closures by different contractors
Insufficient line of vision for disabled vehicles on pavements
Erne farm development extent
Trods, ditches and drains progress
Illegal dumping of rubbish
Notice board contents

9. Reports from

Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris

Stop & Go boards are usual for tar & chip operations and he will find out why the road was closed. The Leader of Council report for 2018/19 is available on the Breckland website. The local government grant for broadband was summarised.

Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin

The new pay & display car parking system in Swaffham was summarized. Garden bin figured were summarized.

Chairperson, Cllr Jean Bass

Continuing progress on Erne Farm, the trod, illegal burning of rubbish, youth club and homewatch were given, Ditches and drains will be covered by the chair in the village hall on Sunday if anyone interested would like to come along. Police connect and dates of future council meeting will be put on the notice boards. A letter has been received from a parishioner asking for some improvements, appropriate action will be taken.

Councillors

A summary of the potential development on the Charnwood site was given. Speeding issues and the possibility of calming measures were discussed. The SAM has been moved and the latest speed data was summarized. A very successful film night was organized on Thursday and the money raised is to be used for a screen in the hall. It was noted that repairs to the fence by the playing field have not been done.

10. To receive minutes of the recent NRCC meeting

The minutes were received.

11. Necton Festival - to receive an update from Cllr Bateman

The Necton Festival was incredibly successful. £5042.50 was raised for charity. This will be split equally between EACH, Merle and the NRCC. 556 tickets were sold, each allowing free entry to two children so there were up to 1000 people at the festival during the day and evening events. Social media results were very positive. The Chair thanked Cllr Bateman for organizing such a successful event for the village.

12. To decide on whether the PC will support the 2020 festival with a grant again

It was proposed that the grant be increased to £3000 and £500 for marketing.

Proposer: Cllr Phil Hayton

Seconder: Cllr Joe Sisto

Motion carried unanimously

13. Planning matters - to note new planning applications and discuss

Reference: 3pl/2019/0814/VAR

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 on 3PL/2018/0859/F revised design Plot 1

Location: Damson Cottage, Necton Road

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Adam Rose

No objections were raised. The change is the addition of a garden room.

14. To note payments made for July 2019

These were issued prior to the meeting and agreed by e-mail with the clerk. They will be formally included with the minutes.

15. To consider the turning off of street lights from midnight to save energy

The meeting was suspended for a member of the public who reported that Larwood close lighting belongs to Norfolk County Council and is already turned off at midnight. Cllr Mark Kiddke Morris reported an example of a set of 19 street lights that are turned off at midnight and save £44 per month in the winter. Details will be provided to the Chair. The Necton street lights are in the process of being upgraded to LED and it would be more cost-effective if the controls to turn off at midnight are put in as part of the upgrade. The cost of the controls versus the potential saving to be identified for a decision next month.

16. To decide whether the Council wishes to change the previous decision in March not to buy the marl pit (decision to invoke standing order 7a agreed in camera)

Cllr Phil Hayton gave a brief presentation covering the history of the marl pit, previous use by the village, the advantages of acquiring the land, the risks associated with it and the possibilities for grants to develop it as a recreational centre. The original proposal was for an auction purchase but a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has been identified as a better route. This could be a free transfer but with Breckland's out-of-pocket costs to be paid.

It was proposed that the Parish Council apply to Breckland for consideration of a CAT of the marl pit.

Proposer: Cllr Phil Hayton

Seconder: Cllr Frank Stopp

Motion carried unanimously with 3 abstentions.

The response from Breckland will be considered at the following Council meeting and should be accompanied by a report on possible contamination.

17. To receive updates from individual Council Members and items for inclusion on the next agenda

Both items had already been covered in previous sections.

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

The next meeting will be on 8th September 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 21.10

IN CAMERA

19. To discuss a job specification and number of hours per week for a new village caretaker

The following were suggested for inclusion in the job specification:

- Emptying bins
- Looking after the centre itself
- Play park inspections
- Litter-picking

Any additional items for inclusion in the job spec to be sent to Cllr Jean Bass. It was suggested that 9 or 10 hours would be worked per week. Cllr Jean Bass and Cllr Mark Jennings will put together a proposal for the September meeting to approve.

20. To discuss help for the Chair while waiting for a new Clerk to be appointed

It was agreed that NALC be approached for a locum clerk & RFO.

21. To discuss Clerk training costs

It was agreed the clerk should be asked to provide proof that he completed the course.

The meeting closed at 21.40 pm.