



Minutes No:  
2019/12

## **Necton Parish Council**

**Minutes Parish Council Meeting held  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre**

### **Parish Councillors (6) present:**

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

### **Additional attendees:**

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk  
21 members of the public

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Time:** 7.30 pm

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

### **1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Jennings. Councillor Frank Stopp and Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris (NCC)

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Minutes from the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October were approved.

### **4. Ken Barrett allowed to express his interest in becoming a Councillor.**

Ken Barrett spoke within the allocated 5 minutes and outlined his interests in becoming a Councillor and detailed his background and knowledge he would bring to support the Council and the village.

## **5. To vote on the co-option of Ken Barrett onto the Council by signed ballot.**

Signed ballot was completed in accordance with the co-option policy and was carried by a majority vote. Following completion of declaration of acceptance and pecuniary interests Ken was invited to join the Council.

## **6. Public Participation (10 minutes allowed)**

The following items were raised:

- Concerns were raised over the Erne Farm development and the proposal to build 75 new houses. The Chair confirmed that this was an agenda item and would be discussed during the meeting. Further confirming that a site visit had been undertaken since the last meeting by some of the Councillors and this would be discussed. There was concern from the member of the public regarding the impact the new development would have on the school, traffic in the village and at the junction on Tuns Road onto the A47.
- A request was made to contact Highways regarding the street lights on the A47 where the junction is as some are still not working.
- The recent flooding and blocked ditches still remain a cause of concern especially with the apparent lack of action being taken. Councillor Hayton confirming that many ditches are privately owned and therefore the repairing rights are with the local farmers. Councillor Hayton confirming he is liaising with said farmers in regards to the maintenance and repair of these ditches, Chair Bass further confirming we have now received valuable information including a link to Land Registry from Highways Agency. This will be invaluable as we will be able to determine who owns the land the ditch is on and can approach them directly.
- A member of the public expressed concern regarding the traffic turning into Mill Street and the speed of the vehicles on a dangerous corner. It was asked whether some street signs to be erected. The Council confirming that another development would have to be built within the village in order for these to be funded.
- It was asked whether the land adjacent to the school had been given approval to build on. The decision is not yet known however it was noted that the original application for 7 houses was agreed and thereafter an application to increase to 9 was made and objections were raised. The current position is that 8 houses are now being considered and as there were no objections previously to the 7 there is a possibility the new application for 8 could be approved

## **7. Reports from:**

### **Parish Council Clerk – Justine Luckhurst**

The Clerk read her report which is attached to the minutes

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### **Chairperson, Cllr Jean Bass**

Chair read her report which is attached to the minutes

## **Councillors**

Chair Bass read a report sent from Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris confirming that he has made contact with a person at Highways England who has promised action over the state of the ditch to the NE of Dunham Road. Also confirming repairs/ clearance of the drainage system at the junction of St Andrews Lane/ Ketts Hill has been programmed for action.

Also included within his report was the Norfolk County Councillors report November 2019 detailing the following.

Budget: The County Council is consulting on proposals for the 2020-21 budget. The consultation runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> October until 10<sup>th</sup> December. The Councils Budget Book 2019 – 2022 contains the details of the proposed budget and this is available on the NCC website. Consultation responses can be made using an online form which can be viewed at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) or by post using a paper copy of the form from the website. Paper response forms can also be obtained by telephoning 0844 800 8029.

At the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January the Cabinet will review the findings from the public consultation, the outcome of the local government settlement, other risk and impact assessments and agree final proposed budget savings. Cabinet will then recommend a set of budget proposals to Council which meets on the 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue service (NFRS). NFRS are consulting on the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2023. By law every fire service must produce an IRMP which sets out how to achieve goals of improving public safety, reducing the number of emergency incidents and saving lives. The draft IRMP is available to view on the NCC website and responses can be made via an online form. Consultation closes on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Boundary Review. The Boundary Commission (BC) is carrying out an independent review of the County Council Divisions in Norfolk. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure that each Councillor represents, as nearly as possible, the same number of voters. The Boundary Commission is minded to recommend that NCC retains its current number of 84 Councillors. County divisions are tied to district borough and city boundaries, Breckland District currently has 12 County Councillors and the BC have suggested this should be increased to 13 based on the current increase in population of the District and the projected population growth over the next 5 years (approved developments in Thetford and Attleborough). Thus, it is inevitable there will be some change within Breckland to divisional boundaries. The consultation is available to view on the BC website and closes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. There will be a further consultation on the final recommendations between 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the BCs final recommendations will be published on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

OFSTED's Visit to NCC. OFSTED made a focused visit to Children's Services to inspect the Councils handling of child safeguarding calls and referrals the so called "front door" of child welfare and protection. Ofsted said that the service had been transformed

since their last visit in November 2017 and that the quality of decision making was consistently strong.

Councillor Hayton has attended a meeting of the National Association of Local Councillors and stated provision is being made for a Neighbourhood Plan and for more villages to be more sustainable. This is to be looked at with the support of a professional and Breckland Council which would, hopefully provide more control over the future of Necton. Councillor Hayton also confirming he would like to resurrect the Footpaths Committee as Necton has a distinct lack of registered footpaths. If old footpaths could be re-opened this could provide footpaths to enable people to walk/cycle to say, Swaffham without having to travel on the roads.

Councillor Sisto has looked into the complaint from a member of the public regarding the bin at Chantry Court and confirmed that he is arranging to move this. He is still awaiting written quotes for the repair to the outside toilet and will provide an update at the next meeting.

## **9. Bills to be paid**

It was agreed that the bills detailed on the agenda can be paid.

## **10. Planning matters**

- a) 3PL/2019/1230/HOU, 57 Brackenwoods – no objection
- b) 3PL/2019/1219/VAR land adjacent to 45 Ketts Hill – Comments raised pertaining to visibility and measurements from the junction and it was requested that Highways check these again.
- c) 3PL/2019/1183/F
- d) 3PL/2019/1184/D

In reference to 1183 and 1184 known as Erne Farm grave concerns raised on several issues regarding this development following a site visit by Councillors and a discussion was held regarding this proposal. Noting the issues regarding this included concerns over increased traffic and parking issues, the density of the houses in one small area, impact on local services, drainage concerns and the environmental impact, it was also felt that the application had been misleading. Originally the outline application was for 46 houses and now the reserved matters is for another 29 making a total of 75. The Council felt this should have been a separate application as the difference was considerable. Chair Bass reminded everyone of the list of objections that can be used and it was agreed the application should be objected to on the grounds mentioned. Chair Bass stating that this application may go to Committee and it would be useful to attend and speak on behalf of the village and raise the concerns. The Council thereafter agreeing Councillors Bateman, Bass, Spain and Hayton as full representatives and able to speak on behalf of the Council at the Committee meeting. The Clerk agreed to contact Breckland Council noting the concerns and requesting dates if the application goes to Committee.

## **11. Lighting update**

Cllr Hicks confirming that this is to be put on hold as there is a lack of support in the village for this at present.

## **12. Initial Budget**

The Clerk confirmed a draft budget has been drawn up for consideration and circulated copies to all Councillors. As this is a large and important piece of work it was agreed that this should be covered over the next two to three meetings. The Clerk confirming the precept application needs to be submitted before the end of January 2020 and therefore thought needs to be given on proposed projects and expenditure. Known costs and proposed projects have been included within the budget and provision has also been made for projects that are to be discussed and approved. This is to demonstrate the impact on funds held and whether any nominal increases in precept are required

A vote of thanks was given to the Clerk for the work involved in drawing up a comprehensive and in-depth budget.

## **13. Boreas update**

Councillor Spain confirming this proposal is moving at quite some speed and we need to be more efficient in our dealings with this. Various public meetings are being held and Councillors Spain and Hayton and Chair Bass are attending these. A working group was therefore proposed. The Council thereafter agreeing Councillors Spain, Hayton and Bass as full representatives and agreeing to the Terms of Reference drawn up by Councillor Spain for the working group to be known as Necton Substations working group and able to speak on behalf of the Council at the upcoming meetings as they need to be able to react to the content of the same.

It was also noted for the record that Necton and the Council support Green Energy and the offshore Ring Main is supported by necton Parish Council.

## **14. Marl Pit- update**

Cllr Bateman confirmed the application for S106 monies has been approved and we should receive the funds in due course, thereafter we can proceed with the purchase. An application has been sent to the Charities Commission to set up the Charity but this could take some time as they have large back logs of applications. Therefore, permission may be required from the Council to enter the land to check what work is required. Councillor Sisto asked whether any tests would be carried out on the site and Councillor Hayton confirmed the site would be cleared in an appropriate manner.

## **15. MUGA and tennis court update**

Councillor Sisto confirming quotes have been received and the costs for a MUGA would be in the region of £35,000. Noting as this was a large sum of money initially the ends can be changed to allow for nets/ goals at an approximate cost of £13- £15,000.

Councillor Hicks confirming the tennis court proposal is still awaiting further

information and that the MUGA to be the focus initially. Councillor Bateman offered help in completing a S106 application if needed.

#### **16.New NALC Initiative.**

Chair Bass recently attended a presentation by NALC and confirmed they are re-structuring. They are planning to set up meeting council. It was agreed Councillor Spain would be the representative for Necton Parish Council.

#### **17 To discuss pollution outside the school.**

Councillor Bateman read a report pertaining to air pollution and in particular idling car engines outside of the school. Confirming it is an offence to have a car engine idling but this is occurring on a daily basis. A suggestion was made that signs could be put up to remind members of the public not to do this. Discussion was held as to whether permission would be required for this but it was agreed to pursue this after investigating permissions. Councillor Hayton confirming he could look into this and the possible sponsorships of the signs.

This also raised the question as to whether a trod through the school should be revisited.

#### **18. New bins in the village**

Councillor Hicks stated there was no bin on the green area on Elizabeth Drive and there was no dog bin on the outer field on Pickenham Road. There was, however two dog bins on Masons drive so could one of these be moved? Debate was held as to whether the field was private land and thereafter it was agreed to investigate as to whether the Dog Warden would empty the bin if placed on the highway by the field. It was agreed to contact to the Dog Warden in the first instance.

The bin on Ramms Lane is damaged and it was agreed to purchase anew one as a replacement.

#### **19. Discuss footpaths in and around Necton.**

Chair Bass and Councillor Hayton recently attended a footpaths seminar and it was noted 2026 is the cut off date to access historical information to reinstate old footpaths. Councillor Hayton is arranging meetings with keen ramblers and local farmers to discuss reinstating and making provision for footpaths around the village. Councillor Hayton will look to resurrect the footpath sub- committee.

#### **20. Festival 2020- update**

Cllr Bateman confirmed the date of the next festival is to be 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020, confirming volunteers on the day are still required. Approximately £1,000 has been committed in

sponsorship but another £2,000 is required. Two bands have been booked thus far and children's entertainment is currently be looked into.

## **21. Discuss Trod – Ketts Hill**

Councillor Bass recently met with a Highways engineer and has been informed the proposal is more technical than other trods built and needs more engineering works. It was also pointed out the part that is on the corner of Ketts Hill may prove to be unable to be constructed. The cost would be circa £46,000 but this could be split over 3 sections and therefore 3 payments. Councillor Bass will check with Breckland as to whether any grants would be available if the cost was split over the suggested 3 years. The initial first years cost has been included in the draft budget to ascertain impact on financial position and whether viable. It was pointed out that the Corner of Ketts Hill is probably the more important part required and so disappointing if this cannot be constructed. Councillor Sisto pointing out however that currently there is no way from the school towards Ketts Hill without walking on the road.

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## **22. Public Participation (5 minutes allowed)**

A member of the public is attending a meeting of the Norfolk rivers trust and will take notes as feel may be relevant due to the proximity of the North Pickenham bore hole.

A member of the public asked about the footpath from the school and whether the overhanging hedge could be cut. Councillor Hayton confirming this is privately owned and we have already approached the home owner without success. It was also noted cars parked up on the pavement in areas, again making access very difficult. Chair Bass confirmed that when she met with Mr Cotton from the Highways agency in regards to the Trod he offered to write to householders regarding their hedges and so Chair Bass will discuss this with him to take forward.

The hedge at the bottom of Mill Street was also discussed and Councillor Sisto pointed out that some residents be unable to cut their hedge and thereafter offered his help to anyone who would like assistance with this.

It was asked whether there were any developments on a slip way to turn left onto the A47. Chair Bass confirmed we have offered a piece of land to Highways to make a slip way but have had no response as of yet.

## **23. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Meeting**

The next meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.30