



Minutes No:
2020/17

Necton Parish Council

**Minutes Parish Council Meeting held
Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Necton Rural Community Centre**

Parish Councillors (8) present:

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

Additional attendees:

Nigel Wilkin- Breckland Council
Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk
12 members of the public

Date: Monday 9th March 2020

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Main Hall, Necton Rural Community Centre

1. To receive apologies for absence

No absentees

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 Council meeting of 10th February 2020.

Minutes from the meeting held on 10th February 2020 were approved and duly signed by Chair Bass. (proposed by Councillor Jennings and seconded by Councillor Spain, all agreed)

4. Public Participation (10 minutes allowed)

The following items were raised:

- A member of the public raised concerns regarding a broken drain cover. Chair Bass confirmed this was being covered in the Chairman's report.

5. To vote for a temporary Vice- Chairman

Secret ballot held and votes were as follows Councillor Bateman 4 votes, Councillor Spain 4 votes. Chair's casting vote in favour of Councillor Bateman.

6. Reports from:

Parish Council Clerk – Justine Luckhurst

The Clerk read her report which is attached to the minutes

Norfolk County Council- Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris

Councillor Kiddle- Morris confirmed the Council budget was set at a meeting last month. This included a 2% rise in the dedicated adult social care precept. Noting they are awaiting the Governments first budget this month to ascertain what relief will be given to local government budgets and in particular in respect of adult and children's social care. Highways England have started the consultation process on the proposed route of the dualling of the A47 between Tuddenham and Easton. The consultation runs until 11.59am on 8th April 2020. Timelines currently are start of construction 2022 and open for traffic 2024. The Infrastructure and Development Committee meet on 11th March to address issues regarding potholes and in particular why some are repaired and others are left. An update will be given accordingly.

Breckland Council- Councillor Nigel Wilkin

Councillor Wilkin invited questions and the proposed Vattenfall site for the offshore substation was raised. He confirmed that Breckland are just consultees and the decision regarding the substations lays with the Planning Inspectorate and that Breckland will work with the DCO and the applicant for the best outcome A debate followed as it was felt by the Council and members of the public present that Breckland should represent the views of the village.

Chairperson, Jean Bass

The Chair read her report which is attached to the minutes

Councillors

Councillor Barrett confirmed he is still in weekly contact with Highways England concerning the lighting on the A47 including the bollards and islands which are currently not working. He has been assured these will be repaired.

Councillor Hayton stating the litter along the A47 is still a huge issue. He confirmed that Highways England have said this is the responsibility of Breckland Council and have asked them to take action. Clerk to contact Breckland for an update on action they are taking to address this.

Councillor Bateman stated the Trod on Hale Road is being damaged by the blocked gully's. As NCC are currently working there on the new extension the Clerk to contact to discuss whether they can repair whilst on the site. Cars are still idling outside the school- the Clerk to investigate the possibilities of creating a no idling zone.

7. Community Action Norfolk- Jackie Cushing

Jackie discussed how CAN could support with a Good Neighbour Scheme. These schemes are run by the community for the community and the idea is to create a group of volunteers. Leaflets are to be distributed and notices in the noticeboard.

8. To approve Bills made, to be made and approve late payments as necessary. To receive financial update for consideration.

Councillor Bateman proposed the bills detailed on the published list can be paid. Seconded by Chair Bass. Approved unanimously. Financial update received for consideration confirming current position and balances held. The Clerk requested a proposal for the £3000 allocated within the budget for lighting contingency that has not been utilised to be transferred to the lighting reserve account to build up the lighting reserves for future expenditure. Proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Councillor Hayton and approved unanimously.

9. Planning matters

- **3PL/2020/0169/HOU**- Proposed single storey extension - no comments
- **3PL/2020/0167/HOU** - Demolition of existing side porch & garage and new side extension including a new roof- no comments
- **3PL/2019/1384/D** - Reserved Matters for submission for proposed single dwelling following outline permission 3PL/2018/0730/O – Amended Plans – Reduction- no comments

10. To approve adoption of light on Mill Street (Woodward Avenue development)

Councillor Hayton confirmed the light was originally removed when the Mill Street Houses were built and subsequently replaced but never adopted by the Council. Proposed by Councillor Hayton that this should now be adopted, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

11. To approve the purchase of a further dog bin for Ramms Lane

The Clerk confirmed the second dog bin on Ramms Lane is damaged. The cost to replace is £116.96 (incl VAT). Proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously,

12. To provide an update on the repair to the outside toilet.

Councillor Jennings confirming some parts need to be replaced and he can undertake some of the repairs himself. Other works will require an electrician and will obtain quotes. The Clerk to investigate adding coverage of the area to the CCTV and update to be provided at the next meeting.

13. To discuss Keep Britain Tidy Initiative

Chair Bass confirmed the dates of this initiative are between 20th March and 13th April. It was considered a good idea to register our interest and arrange accordingly. A date will be agreed to undertake.

14. To provide update from meeting in Westminster regarding Vattenfall-

Councillor Spain confirmed that herself and Chair Bass visited Westminster last week and met with the 3 MP's whose constituencies are affected by the Vattenfall proposal.

The main discussion was regarding off shore ring mains. George Freeman MP is keen to explore this option further as it would mean Norfolk and Suffolk would not have to be dug up for cabling. He confirmed he is continuing to put pressure on the Secretary of State to explore this further. Although this may not influence the current projects, he will endeavour to influence if possible. He will also be an advocate regarding the request to position the proposed site on the lower ground. Councillor Spain further confirming that if Breckland Council's statement of common ground supported our request for the lower ground positioning it would have been helpful. A further Planning Inspectorate meeting is being held on 17th March and George Freeman MP will speak and promote the lower ground positioning proposal.

15. To approve policies reviewed as part of ongoing exercise.

Co- option policy- Councillor Hayton proposed the version stating the public address to be voluntary to be adopted, seconded by Councillor Jennings. Voted and motion carried. Councillor Spain wanting it noted that the default option should be to speak.

Internal Controls- proposed Chair Bass, seconded Councillor Sisto- agreed unanimously.

Financial regulations- proposed Councillor Bateman, seconded Councillor Barrett- agreed unanimously.

Grant Awarding- proposed Chair Bass, seconded Councillor Hicks, agreed unanimously.

Communications - proposed Councillor Bateman, seconded Councillor Hayton- agreed unanimously.

Compliments and Complaints- proposed Councillor Barrett, seconded Councillor Jennings- agreed unanimously.

Dignity at Work - proposed Councillor Barrett, seconded Councillor Batemen- agreed unanimously.

Email and Social Media - proposed Chair Bass, seconded Councillor Bateman- agreed unanimously.

16. To update on the painting of the barrier at the car park

Councillor Jennings confirming no work has been undertaken due to the adverse weather. He will liaise with the caretaker and provide an update at the next meeting.

17. Consider and approve a Green competition

Councillor Spain confirming she will draw up a proposal along with the other Green subcommittee members for a Green idea's competition. Suggested members of the public and the school to be involved. Councillor Hicks offered to co-ordinate the children's competition with the school. Councillor Spain to update at the next meeting.

18. Discuss Neighbourhood Plan

Chair Bass confirming that as this is a long-term project consideration to commence should be looked at now as there is a large amount of work involved. Councillors to consider whether they wish to support with being a coordinator of projects or whether to be a 'worker'. Members of the public can become involved in the project and Councillor Sisto suggesting an insert in the Link. The Clerk to add a request for volunteers in the next Parish article to be printed in the Link. Councillor Spain suggesting a launch evening to explain what is involved. To be covered at next monthly meeting

19. To approve the updated Asset Register.

The Clerk confirmed this has been updated and is required for the upcoming insurance renewal. All Councillors confirming they had received a copy. Proposed to approve by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Chair Bass, agreed unanimously.

20. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)

A member of the public has requested a meeting to be arranged with Breckland, Flagship, the Parish Council and members of the public to discuss the issues regarding blocked ditches, overgrown trees and hedges and other matters. As these are all owned by multiple parties a joined-up meeting is required to resolve the ongoing issues, Chair Bass confirming she would be happy to arrange.

A member of the public voiced his concern that Necton is becoming too overcrowded with new housing developments. Councillor Wilkin confirming the need for housing is enormous but recognises these new building works do put pressure on local services. However, he further added that the pressure may result in the services being reviewed and improved.

21. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Meeting

The next meeting will be on 6th April 2020 at 7.30pm.

22. Parish Assistant probationary period and approve pay rise accordingly.

Chair Bass sought permission to enter this part of the meeting in camera.

Following Wayne Griffiths appraisal, it was confirmed he has successfully passed his 6 months probationary period. Discussion was held regarding a pay rise to reflect this. An increment of 2 Spinal Column Points was agreed. The Clerk to draft and send a letter confirming that he is now a permanent member of staff of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 22.00