



Minutes No:  
2020/19

## **Necton Parish Council**

**Minutes Parish Council Meeting held  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30 pm held virtually via Zoom**

**Parish Councillors (7) present:**

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

**Additional attendees:**

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

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Place:** Meeting held virtually via Zoom

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Councillor Sisto

**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 the updated Model Standing orders to support the new empowerment enshrined in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and associated regulations**

The Clerk confirmed the new Standing orders make provision for virtual meetings to be held and the associated regulations. All Councillors confirmed they have received a copy of the revised Standing Orders. Approval proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Councillor Jennings, agreed unanimously.

**4. To approve minutes of Council meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> April- (to be signed retrospectively at first face to face meeting held).**

Minutes from the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April were approved and duly agreed to be signed retrospectively at the next face to face meeting of the Parish Council. (proposed by Councillor Barrett and seconded by Councillor Jennings, agreed unanimously)

**5. To ratify business decisions taken whilst meetings were postponed.**

- **Payments made during April (noting these were agreed via email and will be signed retrospectively)** approval proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Councillor Hayton and agreed unanimously
- **Renewal of the Parish Council annual insurance (noting the quotes were circulated and policy chosen via email responses) noting the renewal policy was higher than budgeted for as the asset register the broker held was out of date.** Approval proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Councillor Hayton and agreed unanimously
- **Amendment of the approved 2020-2021 budget to correctly consider the full cost of the MUGA and the anticipated S106 monies if approved.** Approval proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Councillor Hayton and agreed unanimously

**6. To consider and approve the monthly subscription for Zoom Pro**

The Clerk confirmed the cost per month to be £11.99 plus VAT. Noting this cost would be allocated for budget purposes against hall hire costs. Noting this payment in effect replaces the cost of the hall hire for monthly Parish Council meetings. Approval proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously.

**7. Public Participation (10 minutes allowed)**

The following items were raised:

- A member of the public raised concerns over a spike in crimes. Noting in particular an increase in the theft of dogs. Confirming vans are cruising around and therefore requesting members of the public to remain vigilant and if they notice anything suspicious to call 101 with as much information as possible. It was confirmed that these thefts are not currently local.
- The resident continued by further confirming there has been an increase in agricultural thefts and vandalism as there are less people on farms at present. Again, please be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

**8. 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 had submitted a report which is attached to the minutes.

## **Breckland Council- Councillor Nigel Wilkin**

Councillor Wilkin confirmed Breckland are sending weekly briefing updates via email. These briefings detail new developments and guidelines, details of support being provided to the vulnerable including the homeless and details of grants available and granted. Details can be found on their website. Councillor Wilkin also confirmed the Windmill Pub in the village is still open for a takeaway food service which not only provides a service to the village but, in turn the delivery service and ability to purchase hot meals is supporting a local business in these difficult times. Councillor Barrett confirmed that he was aware that The Windmill has received donations in order to provide a hot meal to anyone in difficulty and to let them know of anyone who may benefit from this

## **Chairperson, Jean Bass**

The Chair confirmed she has received a number of calls from residents in regards to barking dogs, loud music and noisy neighbour complaints. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council does not hold any powers to uphold these complaints. These need to be directed to Breckland Council.

## **Councillors**

Councillor Barrett confirmed he is still monitoring the street lighting and bollard issue on the A47. Confirming that as he has received no responses recently, he has now raised as another incident and so has another incident number. He will continue to follow up with Highways and update at the next meeting.

Councillor Jennings confirmed that he has noticed the weeds around the children's play equipment have become quite prominent, possibly due to the lack of footfall there. He offered to put down weed killer in this area to assist with the issue.

Councillors Spain, Hayton and Hicks discussed the position regarding footpaths in and around Necton. Confirming a map of the Black Drift route had been posted on the local Facebook page. Discussion was held regarding the lack of footpaths that Necton has compared to other places in the county, noting many have been lost over the years. Further discussions were held regarding the drafting of maps in and around Necton of walking routes and permissive footpaths. The Clerk confirmed an email had been received by a resident regarding these issues and it was agreed that the topic of footpaths would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Councillor Hicks continued by stating the traffic passing on Hale Road near the Trod between Ramms Lane and Black Drift seems to be extremely fast. As mentioned already by the Clerk in her report Highways would not consider a speed reduction unless a business case was put forward. The SAM11 could be used to monitor traffic volumes and speeds in this area. Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris stated he would arrange for an engineer to visit the area to investigate a new post for the SAM11 to be positioned on in order to do this,

further confirming he had funds via grant monies to cover the cost of this new post. Chair Bass suggested the footpaths sub-committee could be utilised to take these topics forward. Councillor Hayton continued by stating he had noticed the drainage between Kingfisher Road estate and Black Drift was becoming blocked and this needs attention.

Councillor Bateman confirmed the village Covid 19 support group has now been set up, Necton Emergency Support Services (NESS) has already helped residents with the collection of prescriptions and food deliveries and currently has 23 volunteers. This support group will continue to assist where required as we progress through the current pandemic.

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

Councillor Barrett 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.

**10. Boreas / Vanguard update- Councillor Spain**

The Boreas examination closes tomorrow, 12<sup>th</sup> May, and the deadline for any responses to those representations made at the final deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> May are due by midnight today. Necton Parish Council, through its sub-committee, made many representations both in writing and in person throughout the examination and attended the accompanied site visit. A final representation was made on 6<sup>th</sup> May concerning mitigation. We are not planning to make any final comments today as Vattenfall didn't make any significant changes to their position. The Planning Inspectorate now have up to three months to make their recommendations to the Secretary of State who then has up to three months to make his decision on whether to grant the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

The Boreas sub-committee consisted of councillors Jean Bass, Phil Hayton and myself.

The documentation in the examination library included 1546 documents when I checked the website this afternoon but more may be submitted before the midnight deadline. Those documents from Vattenfall could be over 200 pages long and had to be read carefully to avoid missing important points buried in the text.

If the DCO is approved, Breckland will be the planning authority deciding on the mitigation requirements for the substation, including screening, noise and traffic management. The sub-committee have spent time trying to secure earth banks around the converter halls which will be 19 metres high or 25 metres high including the aerials. Breckland Council have agreed a Statement of Common Ground with the applicant and we have tried to get our mitigation suggestions included in it. Unfortunately, the Breckland representative dealing with Boreas changed at a late stage in the process causing a hiccup. This is Breckland's final comment to the examination, issued on 28<sup>th</sup> April and I quote: "Breckland Council is aware of the view of Necton Parish Council that it is not representing the views of Necton. It points out

that Necton PC represent residents of Necton. It is the role of Breckland Council to represent the views of the residents of Breckland. BDC will seek to ensure thorough the discharge process that the applicants maximise landscaping, screening and mitigation for the sub- station. It is also important to minimise impact through choice of technology and not ruling any screening/landscaping options out including bunding and possible level changes to minimise the impact of the development.” End of quote.

In summary, the subcommittee have identified landscaping and ground levels that will minimise the visual impact of Boreas and Vanguard, including a lower site option that Vattenfall discarded. These measures were put forward to Vattenfall, Breckland and the Boreas Examination but none were agreed by Vattenfall. In order to make our reasonable requests clearer during the examination, we constructed a 3D model showing ground levels which was brought to a Parish Council meeting last year.

The sub-committee believe we have actively represented the interests of Necton and closely followed the terms of reference given to us. Ultimately, none of our proposed mitigation measures have been enshrine in the DCO which would have forced Vattenfall to do them. Breckland have not ruled out the requests we have made, but have not asked for any of them. We are therefore unlikely to be provided with adequate mitigation, although the noise limits have been set for Dudgeon and no noise creep is being allowed. We have been named along with Holme Hale Parish Council, as consultees on the colour of the buildings.

Latterly, the sub-committee has been approached by Holme Hale Parish Council to join them and Bradenham in sending a joint letter to Breckland Council. They are both concerned that the huge Boreas and Vanguard substations will also be clearly visible from their parishes. They already see the small Dudgeon substation which will be dwarfed by the massive Vanguard and Boreas buildings that are planned to be adjacent.

The sub-committee will continue to keep an eye on the Boreas website in case additional questions are asked (as was the case for Vanguard).

In the half hour before the Necton Parish Council meeting, a letter was posted on the Boreas Planning Inspectorate website resetting the end of the examination to 12 October 2020

## **11. To discuss and approve the amended Co -option Policy**

In order to comply with the Parish Councils Standing Orders and Local Government Act (1972) any voting needs to be by way of a show of hands. The amended Co option Policy reflecting this was proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Hayton and unanimously agreed.

## **12. Planning Matters**

- **3PL/2020/0405/D** - Reserved matters application for one dwelling and garage following outline permission 3PL/2017/1415/O - no objections with the caveat that all conditions regarding the removal of the fencing, the installation of a cesspit and soakaway are adhered to.

### **13. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)**

A member of the public confirmed that farmers who provide permissive footpaths are paid to do so and are reviewed on a regular basis. Confirming the payment can be taken away and so regular reviews are required.

He continued by confirming that if the public walk on or at the side of fields that are not permissive footpaths they are trespassing. They also need to be aware they could cause damage to crops and putting themselves and their dogs at risk if the crop had been recently sprayed.

He also suggested the Council investigate the App called 'What3words' which can assist with the location of walkers in cases of emergencies. The Clerk confirming this will be taken forward.

A member of the public requested to join the footpaths sub- committee to support with footpaths and walking routes in and around Necton.

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

The next meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 21.00