



Minutes No:
2020/26

Necton Parish Council

**Minutes Parish Council Meeting held
Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.30 pm held virtually via Zoom**

Parish Councillors (7) present:

Councillors Jean Bass (Chair), Fraser Bateman, Joe Sisto, Ken Barrett, Alice Spain, Thirza Hicks and Genine Curtis.

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk
Councillor Nigel Wilkin (Breckland)
Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris (Norfolk County Council)
1 member of the public

Date: Monday 9th November 2020

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Meeting held virtually via Zoom

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillor Stopp

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.

No declarations

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting of 12th October 2020- (to be signed retrospectively at first face to face meeting held).

Minutes from the meeting held on 12th October were approved and duly agreed to be signed retrospectively at the next face to face meeting of the Parish Council. (proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously)

4. Public Participation (10 minutes allowed)

No points raised from the public

5. Reports from:

Parish Council Clerk – Justine Luckhurst

The Clerk read her report which is attached to the minutes

Norfolk County Council – Mark Kiddle- Morris

The report from Councillor Kiddle-Morris is attached to these minutes. Councillor Kiddle-Morris did ask about the agenda item number 8, confirming the flood report would not be available until December. The Chair replied that this was in the agenda to agree a procedure so that, if felt necessary, it could be used in between meetings and therefore not need an extra meeting to agree it.

Councillor Kiddle- Morris left to meeting at 19.45 as he had another meeting to attend.

Councillor Nigel Wilkin (Breckland)

Councillor Wilkin confirmed that all Breckland Staff are still working from home. Councillor Wilkin confirmed he had taken forward the points raised recently about the copse at Elizabeth Drive and the new development at what was called Town Farm and will follow up with the appropriate officers and revert with any updates. Councillor Wilkin also reminded everyone that grant packages are still available to businesses and all applications for these monies are being considered.

Chairperson, Jean Bass

The Chair read her report which is attached to the minutes.

Councillors

Councillor Curtis confirmed some residents had recently received letters inviting them to join NextDoor Neighbour via an App that can be downloaded. The Clerk confirmed this is a legitimate platform. Councillor Barrett confirmed he has been a member of this for many years. It was stressed that if anyone has any doubts regarding the security of this they should consider carefully before downloading and joining.

Councillor Bateman confirmed that a virtual meeting was held the previous week of the NRCC Committee and it was agreed to appoint a contractor to undertake repairs needed to the roof of the community centre. This work will commence shortly. He further confirmed a new CCTV camera would be fitted at the entrance to the hall and this will be able to monitor who enters and leaves the hall. The NRCC may qualify for the latest government grant supporting businesses, noting the amount is calculated based on the rateable value. This information is to be shared to the Sports and Social Club to give them the opportunity to make their own application. It was also agreed that the rent due in November from the Sports and Social Club would be waived for November and would be reviewed, based on the current position after that.

Councillor Bateman has also been in discussion with a resident in Brackenwoods in regards to the recent repair of the kerb by Highways, noting the resident believes the wrong part has been repaired and there is still in fact an issue with the kerb. Councillor Bateman will take forward with the Clerk who will contact Highways again.

Councillor Barrett commented that there seemed to have been a large number of roadworks in and around Necton recently. Signs stating 'road closed' seem to have been placed at various entry points in Necton and this has caused unnecessary confusion and diversions as the signs are nowhere near where the road is actually closed. It was also raised that many of the signs, especially those off the A47 are dangerously positioned. Councillor Barrett will contact the Clerk with further details for these points to be raised with Highways and to see whether road closures in the future can be better signposted.

Councillor Sisto attended the Remembrance Day Service in Necton and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. He had also been in contact with Martin Pitt regarding the holes in the car park at the community Centre and the Clerk is to contact Martin again to discuss in further detail. He further commented that he had received correspondence from residents in Larwood Close regarding the recent bonfire at the Marlpit but acknowledged that a letter via email has already been sent to said residents from Necton Area Trust in this regard.

6. 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 Councillor Spain and thereafter approved unanimously. Financial update and monthly reconciliations of accounts for September received for consideration confirming current position and balances held.

7. To update on current position of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Spain confirmed that the meetings going forward would be held the week before the Parish Council so that updates can be provided in a timely manner. The Committee are currently drafting the questionnaire that will be sent out to everyone and they are considering instructing a consultant to assist with this. The questions on the questionnaire need to be given careful consideration as there is only one chance to capture all the information required. Several consultants' names are being considered from those recommended or already known and further updates will be provided on the progress.

8. To discuss and consider next steps in regard to approaching press and media pertaining to the ongoing flooding issues

After some discussion it was agreed that some criteria were to be considered before approaching the press. Although we are awaiting reports it was considered that the best approach would be to have a list of 'triggers' which would determine if this was the next course of action. The Chair agreed this would be sensible and a list of criteria would be drawn up and presented to Council for the next meeting and thereafter a vote to decide whether approaching the press should be considered if these triggers are hit.

9. To commence discussions pertaining to the 2021/2022 budget and precept.

The Clerk confirmed the current position regards funds held, noting that some projects have been delayed in either commencing or completing this year due to the pandemic. Noting these can be carried over into the next financial year along with funds allocated for these in the budget. Discussions were held regarding various projects and grant applications and also increasing the funds held in General Reserves and monies set aside to start building funds for when the playground equipment needs to be replaced- noting these to be very expensive items. The Clerk confirmed that with the precept held at the same level and no increases levied then this would be achievable along with other projects which could be completed or started. The Clerk confirmed the return to Breckland Council requesting precept funds was to be returned in January and so the December meeting would be used to consider and vote on the draft budget and the various individual projects and grant requests.

10. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)

No comments raised

11. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 21.20