



Minutes No:
2021/29

Necton Parish Council

**Minutes Parish Council Meeting held
Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.30 pm held virtually via Zoom**

Parish Councillors (8) present:

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

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk
Mark Kiddle-Morris- Norfolk County Councillor
Nigel Wilkin- Breckland District Councillor
Members of the public- one

Date: Monday 11th January 2021

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Meeting held virtually via Zoom

1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillors Genine Curtis and Mark Jennings gave their apologies

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 received

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting of 11th January 2021 (to be signed retrospectively at first face to face meeting held).

Minutes from the meeting held on 14th December 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 Hicks and agreed unanimously)

4. Public Participation (10 minutes allowed)

The attending member of the public confirmed that, following reports to NCC regarding the ditch and bridge at Chantry Court/ Chantry Lane they have visited the same and are currently investigating.

5. Reports from:

Parish Council Clerk – Justine Luckhurst

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

Mark Kiddle- Morris- NCC

Councillor Kiddle-Morris' report is attached to the minutes.

Chairperson, Jean Bass

Following a meeting last Wednesday with the Allotment Group, I have authorised the Clerk to spend £3 on a land registry search to discover ownership of land bordering the allotment site. The full details of this meeting will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Following flooding issues last Friday, I contacted Anglian Water and Necton Management. Anglian Water has sent two tankers to clear out the North Pickenham pump. I would like to record my thanks to Necton Management, who arranged for the ditch behind Elizabeth Drive to be cleared out the same day. They have further advised me that they will continue to monitor the ditch and as soon as the weather improves, will go back and further clear it.

Councillors

Councillor Sisto confirmed he and his neighbours had suffered with flooding recently and subsequently checked the local ditches personally. The ditches in the Woodward Avenue area were inspected and confirmed these seemed to be clear and not causing the flooding issues in School Road.

Councillor Sisto gave his thanks on behalf of himself and his family for the memorial bench that has been placed at the Sports and Social Club in memory of his son, Ed.

Councillor Barrett confirmed he was aware that a number of residents in Woodward Avenue regularly inspect and clear the ditches there to prevent flooding issues arising. He asked who was looking after any queries raised from the streets previously monitored by Frank Stopp and Chair Bass confirmed any calls have been re-directed to herself or the Clerk.

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 Barrett and thereafter approved unanimously. Financial update and monthly reconciliations of accounts for December received for consideration confirming current position and balances held.

7. To consider and approve recommendation from Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee to appoint Consultant and approve their fee for the Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Spain confirmed 4 separate meetings were held by the sub-committee to hear the presentations from prospective consultants. After careful consideration it was

decided to recommend Ian Poole as the preferred choice. This was based on his experience, competence, capacity as well as his estimated costs of £12,100. Councillor Spain continued by confirming a Neighbourhood Plan would likely take around 2 years to finalise and that the Plan needs to be very evidence based and have as much community involvement as possible which will commence once Covid restrictions start to be lifted. Councillor Spain reminded everyone of the various grants that are available and there is a possibility that, whilst monies have been set aside within the budget to fund the project it may well be funded by said grants and be cost neutral. Chair Bass proposed the recommendation to instruct Ian Poole, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

8. To update on current position of Telephone Kiosk refurbishment

The Clerk read the correspondence received from Councillor Jennings as he was unable to attend the meeting.

“ the Phone Kiosk is still on my list but at the moment due to home-schooling my daughter, COVID regs and only seeing my wife at weekends due to RAF commitments this will be a bit behind. Hopefully during the half term, I will be able to progress the kiosk as part of my daily exercise”.

9. To consider and approve the dates for Parish Council meetings for year 2021-2022

The Clerk reminded everyone that the current legislation which allows remote meetings is due to expire on May 7th and currently the Government have stated they have no plans to extend this. If face to face meetings commence after this date the Community Centre has all social distancing measures in place. The dates were agreed unanimously.

10. To consider repair and filling of holes in main car park at Community Centre.

Following the repair of the car park in front of the Community Centre Martin Pitt has stated he would be willing to fill the holes in the main car park for the sum of £100. The Clerk confirmed funds held are sufficient and thereafter Chair Bass proposed his quote was accepted, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously.

11. To update on ‘Meet George’ Zoom meeting and Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership

Chair Bass confirmed The Parish Council organised a Zoom meeting with MP George Freeman and the Chair, Vice Chair, Councillor Barrett, Councillor Curtis and Councillor Hicks and members of the public on 22 January 2021. The Chair opened the meeting by giving the history of the flooding. Each of the Councillors present had areas of the village suffering from sewage flooding and made detailed representations to the meeting. Councillor Bateman discussed the part of the flood report covering Necton. We then had some members of the public speak and made George aware of their personal issues. George Freeman was very concerned about the problems in Necton and said he would be hosting a Mid Norfolk Partnership meeting in the near future and would make Necton a priority. Thereafter Councillor Bateman updated the Council on the meeting held by George Freeman under his Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership banner

Councillor Bateman confirmed this meeting was attended by George Freeman, District and County Councillors, representatives from Parish Councils, Anglian Water, NCC and other groups. Discussions followed and the summarised points that were to be submitted to Lord Dannatt's Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance Group were:

1. A dedicated 'Helpline' for those affected by flooding.
2. A leaflet campaign to inform residents and businesses about who is responsible for each part of their local drainage systems, and who they can call for help.
3. Culvert maintenance and enforcement action
4. Highways maintenance (including much high standards of street cleaning) and enforcement action
5. Greater work with farmers and landowners
6. Expansion of the remit of Norfolk Internal Drainage Board
7. Improvement on the current, failing system – with responsibilities split across multiple bodies
8. Remedial works on pipes and drainage infrastructure
9. Attenuation ponds
10. Planning – those with flooding responsibilities must comment on applications when they have concerns about flooding and drainage
11. Government legislation – reforms to the National Planning system and the Flood and Water Management Act
12. Compensation

Councillor Bateman confirmed further meetings were going to be held and clearly the issues are now being considered and escalated higher. George Freeman MP is completely committed to getting these ongoing issues resolved. The Watton and Saham Flood Action Group have also offered their support if we require some advice or guidance.

12. To consider and approve the following policies requiring review. Email & Social Media, Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Policy

Email and Social Media approval proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Barrett and agreed unanimously.

Disciplinary Procedure approval proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Bateman and approved unanimously.

Grievance Policy approval proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously.

13. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)

The attending resident confirmed he attended the first meeting with George Freeman and wanted to confirm he was very happy with the progress the PC was making with regards to the flooding issues.

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

The next meeting will be on Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 20.40