



Minutes No:  
2021/34

## Necton Parish Council

**Minutes Annual Parish Council Meeting held  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre**

### **Parish Councillors (9) present:**

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

### **Additional attendees:**

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk  
Councillor Nigel Wilkin – Breckland District Councillor

Members of the public- 7

**Date:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Place:** Necton Rural Community Centre

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

Apologies were received from NCC Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris

### **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.*

### **3. To approve minutes of Council meetings of 10<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Minutes for 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were proposed as accepted by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Barrett and agreed unanimously.

Minutes for 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were proposed as accepted by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Barrett and agreed unanimously.

### **4. Adjournment for public participation (10 mins)**

A member of the public requested that agenda item 21 should be considered favourably by the Council, noting she is the daughter of the resident requesting our consideration to lease a small section of the Marlpit that is adjacent to their land, noting they have been living there for almost 30 years and this said piece of land allows them to access the rear of their property.

A member of the public asked what the criteria was to hold a meeting with the public excluded and in particular the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May stating this was a planning decision and should be heard in public. It was confirmed the comments submitted regarding this planning application were discussed in public at a previous meeting and the meeting in questions was pertaining to other matters that arose following this.

## **5. Reports from:**

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

Following the Annual Parish Meeting where we presented the Community Award winners with their award I have received a Thank You card from Leda Hayton thanking the Parish Council for her award.

Following reports to NCC to notify them of reported highways issues I can confirm they are to repair the pothole in Chantry Court and they confirmed that the issues with drains and possible cement having being poured into them in Mill Street are being monitored with no action being taken at present.

Following a successful grant application, I can confirm we have now received the sum of £8424.00 from Groundworks UK. These grant monies are to support the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan. The members of the Neighbourhood Plan sub - committee and the appointed consultant have been made aware and going forward these funds will be used for the sole purpose of the Plan.

Following the extraordinary meeting that was called and held on 20<sup>th</sup> May at which a motion was passed to exclude public and press and thereafter the Parish Councillors considered and discussed the comments submitted to Breckland and the request from the architect to remove or amend these the Clerk received a Freedom of information request. A resident requested to see all relevant information that enabled the Parish Council to make their decision. This information included emails sent to and from the Council via the Clerk to the architect and to Breckland Council along with all correspondence and information provided by the Clerk to the Councillors. All information (redacted for GDPR purposes) has duly been provided.

Following advertising for the caretaker role we have received one applicant. To ensure consistency the same panel that interviewed previously made up of Chair Bass, Councillor Jennings and the Clerk will interview the applicant and will revert to the council accordingly.

### **Mark Kiddle- Morris- NCC (provided ahead of the meeting and read out by the Clerk)**

The Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance has prioritised 16 areas where flooding issues are of greatest concern within Norfolk. The flooding on School Road in Necton is on the list of sites to be investigated with a designated lead agency heading up the investigation. The lead agency will report to the Alliance in 2 months and subsequently every 2 months after that until remedial measures are identified to prevent further occurrences.

The 24/7 telephone hotline to act as a single point of contact to report incidents of serious flooding has been set up, the number is 0344 800 8013. Incidents of flooding

can also be reported online at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding) . The hotline is manned by and paid for by NCC. A leaflet will be delivered to every household in Norfolk which details how flooding incidents should be reported, this includes a convenient pop out and keep card.

I am pleased that the new highway team has made good inroads into the huge backlog of work that was accumulated due to the gap when no highway engineer was in post. There is now a full complement of technicians and inspectors to support the engineer and keep on top of the faults reported to NCC highways

It was decided that as a survey is being done at School Road as part of the Norfolk Flood Alliance, it was agreed that the Clerk would ask Councillors Sisto, Curtis and Turner to be included in any site meetings.

### **Chair - Jean Bass**

Following email correspondence with all Councillors and with their agreement, a letter is going to Vattenfall to raise concerns about their distribution tactics for development compensation as they are seeking approval from a wider area of Norfolk, who are not affected by the development or damage to their infrastructure.

A copy is being sent to George Freeman MP with our own letter, agreed by email with all councillors and incorporating some requested additions. We are reiterating our concerns about the development and requesting continued discussions on an offshore ring main option instead of Necton.

### **Councillors**

Councillor Curtis commented that the hedge outside Flint Cottage on Chantry Lane was becoming very overgrown and causing visibility issues and further commented that it had been brought to her attention that lights at the junction with Tuns road on the A47 were not working. Councillor Barrett will investigate and take forward.

Councillor Turner is continuing to liaise with Saffron Housing in regards to the ditch at Woodward Avenue and confirmed that the property at the corner of Mill Street with Chantry Lane is still quite overgrown. The Clerk to remind Councillor Kiddle- Morris to continue investigating this as per his previous confirmation to do so.

Councillor Sisto confirmed that new residents have now moved into Church Farm. It was noted their fence which is on the boundary with the playing field is in need of repair and the trees there are quite overgrown. Councillor Curtis to visit them as this property is in the area she looks after. He continued by confirming the top of School Road where it meets Tuns Road is proving to be a blind spot with cars parked so near the junction. The Clerk to look into the possibility of yellow lines to prevent cars parking right at the junction. Also, the grassed area where the village sign is at the entrance to Necton is very overgrown, Councillors Spain and Curtis are to investigate and have volunteered to undertake some work there and report back to the Council.

Councillor Bateman has noted that the Trod at Ramms Lane and Blackdrift is very overgrown, the Clerk to report to NCC in order for them to maintain the walkway.

**6. To approve Bills made, to be made and approve late payments as necessary:  
To receive financial update and monthly reconciliation for consideration.**

Proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously, thereafter duly signed.

**7. To approve the annual governance statement 2020/2021.  
To approve the accounting statement for 2020/21.  
To confirm the process by which electors may exercise their rights of  
Inspection of the Annual Return**

Chair Bass proposed the annual governance statement was approved, seconded by Councillor Bateman and approved unanimously.

Chair Bass proposed the accounting statement approved, seconded by Councillor Bateman and approved unanimously.

Chair Bass proposed the process by which electors may exercise their rights of Inspection of the Annual Return was approved, seconded by Councillor Bateman and approved unanimously.

Councillor Bateman requested that his compliments to the Clerk for the work undertaken for the year be noted in the records.

**8. To consider and approve reviewed and updated policies- Equality & Diversity**

Chair Bass proposed this was approved, seconded by Councillor Barrett and agreed unanimously. Noting this policy covers NRCC also as it employs a cleaner.v

**9. To consider and approve request from resident to support a No Calling Zone in Farm Walk-**

Chair Bass proposed the request was approved, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously. The Clerk to update the resident, noting Chair Bass will act as 'champion' as per the recommendation by Breckland Council.

**10. To update on current position of Telephone Kiosk refurbishment**

Councillor Barrett confirmed work was progressing and that the phone box has been prepared and undercoated. Paint has now been received and this will be completed within the next few weeks along with some carpentry works inside of the box to provide racking. The next meeting an agenda item will be to discuss its use going forward.

**11. To ratify the decision made via email correspondence confirming the  
agreement for Clerk to contact the architect of the proposed development at 7  
Ketts Hill**

Chair Bass proposed, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously.

## **12. To provide update and information gathered pertaining to a proposed tennis court**

Councillor Hicks confirmed she has received one estimate of just over £36,000 plus VAT. Conversations ensued regarding the need for floodlighting, noting these can be added at a later date if there was a need for them. Councillor Hicks confirmed there that there may be grants or match funding available to help with the cost. The Clerk confirmed that there were insufficient funds available in this financial year as it currently stands, noting we are only 3 months into the financial year and caution has to be shown to allocate funds that were not budgeted for this early in the year. Noting that as the year progresses this can be reviewed. The next step will be for the NRCC to decide on where a proposed tennis court could be built. This will be discussed at the upcoming NRCC meeting.

## **13. Planning matters – to note new planning applications and discuss.**

REFERENCE	<b>3PL/2021/0631/O</b>
PROPOSAL	Change of Use from Garden to Single Dwelling Plot
LOCATION	26 Hale Road
APPLICANT	Mrs Mavis Symonds

No objections

REFERENCE	<b>3PL/2021/0587/F</b>
PROPOSAL	Demolition of existing property and the erection of 3 dwellings
AMENDMENT:	Design & Access statement amended to remove reference to the PC adopting the footpath
LOCATION	7 Ketts Hill
APPLICANT	Mr Steven Crook

No objections, however the Parish Council to reiterate its previous point that it had agreed not to adopt the proposed footpath.

## **14. To provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Spain confirmed the community consultation will still take place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July at the Community centre and will be held in accordance with Covid guidelines. Further confirming this is an opportunity for residents to have their say on what they like or dislike and also what they would like to see in Necton. These ideas will then be used to formulate phase 2 which is a questionnaire that will be sent to every resident later in the year. Councillor Spain emphasised that it was crucial for people to attend and to give their views. Councillor Spain further confirmed volunteers from within the Council were needed on the 2 days.

Councillor Spain confirmed that a meeting was also being held with AECOM to discuss the Housing Needs Assessment on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

## **15. To receive and consider update from NAT regarding progress and works planned at the Marlpit**

All councillors had received the update report produced by NAT, it was confirmed works to build a boardwalk have already commenced and that the support posts being used are pressure treated and will also undergo further treatment. They are using a forest work guide for best practices to ensure works carried out are undertaken in the best possible way.

**16. To consider and agree whether to support proposed extension to existing 30mph speed limit Traffic Regulation Order received from NCC**

Chair Bass proposed that the proposal was supported, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the comments would state that the PC would be in favour on a further extension of the speed limit, at least to the bridge on Browns Lane.

**17. To consider and approve the new lease for allotment and dog walking area between NPC and Mona Hill Trust. To consider and approve the new lease between NPC and Necton Allotment Association. To discuss flooding issues at the allotment garden and consider quotes provided and approve for works to be carried out. If these works approved a reduction in the grant budget to be agreed.**

Discussions were held regarding responsibilities of the maintenance of the land and who would be responsible for repairs or works carried out.

Chair Bass proposed the meeting was suspended, seconded by Councillor Barrett and agreed unanimously to allow a member of the public to speak at 21.04pm. The member of the public is a commercial property solicitor and provided some professional guidance, confirming that, as landlords to Necton Allotment Association it is our financial responsibility. The meeting then resumed at 21.05pm

Chair Bass proposed the lease agreement between Necton Parish Council and Mona Hill Trust be approved, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

Chair Bass proposed the lease agreement between Necton Parish Council and Necton Allotment Association be approved, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

Thereafter the 3 quotes received were discussed at length and it was agreed that company known as 'L.A' be instructed. Noting that the first stage of their works to be completed in the first instance and thereafter considering their second stage if the first stage does not resolve the flooding issues. Proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed by all Councillors except Councillor Jennings who abstained.

The Clerk confirmed that the grant budget would need to be reduced as advised to £1500, noting this can be revisited later in the year and increased if funds allow. Proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed by all Councillors except councillor Jennings who abstained.

**18. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)**

A member of the public asked what surface the tennis court would likely be, Councillor Hicks confirmed it would be a hard surface.

A member of the public discussed potential compensation payable to the village by Vattenfall, noting Necton would likely only see a very small percentage of this, despite having the actual building within its boundary. He further suggested that the PC send a delegation to the House of Commons to see the Secretary of State to discuss at the highest possible level. The sub-committee will take this forward and discuss.

**19. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**20. To approve a motion to exclude the press and public for the next item as their presence would be prejudicial to public interest due to the confidential nature. In accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2) - Chair**

Proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

**21. To consider and vote on a management decision regarding the Marlpit**

Lengthy conversations were held and the various options were discussed. Councillor Barrett proposed that the small piece of land in question within the Marlpit be leased to the resident, seconded by Chair Bass. Agreed by all Councillors except Councillors Bateman, Spain and Jennings who abstained from voting.

Noting that it was agreed as conditions of the proposal and subsequent voting that all legal costs should be met by the resident and that a fence would need to be erected (minimum 6 feet) by the resident at his cost and the land would be cleared at the commencement and end of the lease. The rent would be a peppercorn rent of £50.00 per annum and a 6-month break clause would be included within the lease for the benefit of both parties.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm