



Minutes No:
2022/54

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 12th December at 7.30 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (9) present:

Chair Bass, Councillors Genine Curtis, Alice Spain, Fraser Bateman, Mark Jennings, Annie Turner, Sue Catlin, Joe Sisto and Thirza Hicks

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk, Nigel Wilkin, Breckland District Councillor
Members of the public - 0

Date: Monday 12th December 2022

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Necton Rural Community Centre

1.To receive apologies for absence

None received

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 noted

3.To approve minutes of Council meeting of 14th November 2022

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

4.Adjournment for public participation (10 mins)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda before the Council make decisions.

No public present

5.Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The report is attached to the minutes

Councillor Nigel Wilkin – Breckland council

Councillor Wilkin passed on his apologies for not attending the last few meetings – his absence was due to ill health.

Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris-

The report is attached to the minutes

Chair

The Coffee Morning has been running now for a year and numbers are steadily increasing each time. I would like to thank all the Councillors who had helped me, particularly Councillors Curtis, Turner and Catlin. Not only does the event give an opportunity for Necton people to socialise, they also appreciate the Parish Council for providing it. In fact, I have been told that although some have lived in the village for many years, this is the first time they have met a Parish Councillor outside of meetings. This is a positive outcome for both the Parish Council and residents of Necton and I am looking forward to increasing numbers in 2023.

Councillors Curtis, Turner and myself attended a Flood workshop run by Liz Witcher of Watton with 8 other Parish Councillors attending. Councillors Curtis and Tanner will give a brief outline later in the meeting.

Councillor Turner and myself met with Mark Ogden from Norfolk County Council and Chris Wray from Anglia Water. Anglia Water are working in the village and will continue to do so for some time. They are taking active steps to monitor the surface water entering the foul system. They are sealing manhole covers. They have put an underground camera through the pinch points of the system and taken remedial action. They will be liaising with the Clerk to arrange some work in early 2023. Mark Ogden was very supportive of the Parish Councils initiative in delivering Riparian Rights leaflets to some affected households.

Councillors

Councillor Hicks stated some residents had mentioned that due to the cold spell of weather some of the smaller roads and paths were very icy and wondered whether we can grit these. It was confirmed that gritting is not within the remit of the PC and road gritting is undertaken by NCC. There are salt bins in Necton and these are meant for people to get grit and use on the highways (paths and roads) where the gritting lorries do not cover. Our caretaker is not able to grit in Necton as it would be impossible to do every path and if someone were to have a fall and we had taken responsibility of gritting then we could be liable.

Councillor Tuner was concerned about speeding on some of the smaller roads in necton and wanted to discuss more speeding signs or where the SAM II is placed- the Clerk confirmed this can be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Councillor Bateman confirmed that we wrote to Simon Wood at breckland to request an update on the revisions on the design for Vattenfall. We are yet to receive a response and so we will make contact again.

Councillor Spain confirmed a resident had contacted her regarding the Erne farm development as they were keen to get a property there. It was confirmed these are managed by Flagship Housing who manage the allocation of housing and the resident would need to speak to them directly.

Councillor Jennings confirmed the dog fouling in the dog walk area had not improved and suggested more signs were purchased, noting these should be bigger with more detail on them. The Clerk will purchase these and Councillor Jennings offered to install them.

Councillor Sisto mentioned the SAM II appears not to be working, the Clerk will ask the caretaker to take forward. He continued by confirming some residents in St Andrews Lane are finding access difficult due to a lack of pathway and wondered if the parish partnership

scheme could be used to assist with some sort of path or trod. The Chair confirmed she would arrange to visit the area with Councillor Sisto to gain more information.

Councillor Catlin noted there seemed to be a lot of litter in the village. Whilst the caretaker does undertake some litter picking he is limited due to his part time hours. The biggest areas of concerns seem to be around the shop and Chantry Court. The Clerk confirmed litter picking and a possible PC activity to assist with litter picking would be on the February agenda.

Councillor Curtis confirmed the next SNAP meeting would be held on 10th January in Swaffham and the speed awareness training would take place on 17th January. The first meeting of the Coronation working party will take place directly after this training.

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

Proposed by Councillor Bateman, proposed by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously.

7. To consider joining the Mindful Villages scheme following completed training by some Councillors

Councillor Jennings proposed that Necton join this scheme, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously. The Clerk to take forward and update Breckland via their web page.

8. To receive an update on flooding and meetings recently held

Update from Councillor's Curtis and Turner

Councillors Bass, Turner and myself were invited to attend a meeting at Saham Toney on Tuesday, 22nd November. The meeting was hosted by Liz Witcher, Chair of the Watton & Saham Flood Action Group. This group is supported by the Watton Town Council and was also represented by 8 other Parish Councils, including Necton.

The meeting was very productive with all those present agreeing to work together to make the District and County Councils and Anglian Water aware of the problems we still face and how these issues affect us.

Discussions took place on experiences we have had in getting landowners to take responsibility for their ditches/drains etc. under Riparian Rights. One Councillor had been told that the spoil from ditches maybe was classed as controlled and hazardous waste which has specific legislation and was required to be disposed of by a licensed carrier and not just deposited on the field next to the ditch. If this is correct, then it is adding to the costs to farmers, other landowners including householders who are responsible for keeping their ditches clear. This is being looked into.

Two councils, Necton being one, had posted flyers through doors informing residents, politely, of their responsibilities. Suggestions were also made of asking government to change the way conveyancing is done when purchasing a property - suggestion is that Riparian Rights are automatically addressed and on property deeds. New builds must inform residents of their legal responsibilities or, maintain the responsibility for clearing any ditches etc.

It was agreed by everyone present that George Freeman be asked to make the contents of a letter, written by Liz Witcher on everyone's behalf, aware to MP's Therese Coffey and Rebecca Pow (Dept. of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) of our concerns that initiatives already in place with Boris Johnson (when PM), will not be addressed as urgent now in light

of the current financial position. There is an urgent need to keep flooding high on the agenda for their department? It is also hoped that Mr Sunak, following his recent return from the Cop27 meeting will be aware of how important it is to carry on this work.

Other discussion took place on the East Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC minutes of July 2022. Discussions were being led by Defra on proposing to implement 'Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act' which would see the automatic right to connect to the sewer ended for developers and Local Authorities to become responsible for the approval, adoption and maintenance of SuDS on major developments (statutory requirement).

One of the big concerns were Planning Matters when it comes to Housing Development. Watton Councillor representing Watton Town Council said it did not matter how small or large the development was, it had been long standing that any planning application put in was reviewed remotely using aerial views and assessed from there. Thus making decisions quick and less expensive on the whole.

Whereas years ago, a planning person would go to site and assess the planning application and go through things thoroughly. Nowadays most of the planning applications are assessed remotely to save on costs, it does not necessarily see the bigger picture or problems that could lay ahead with any housing development and flooding issues. Watton Town Councillor said, this was now being looked into because of issues that had been reported over the years.

What defines a large development? In rural villages how many would this be - 20 say? who knows and how will this affect the existing infrastructure? The minutes also said that a consultation was expected to be launched by Defra in the Autumn. Will this still go ahead? And, if it is, will flooded communities be able to stop this still going ahead and/or have input?

We spoke about the flyers on Riparian Rights we were distributing to various homeowners in Necton, making them aware of their responsibilities as Riparian Rights owners. All other Parish Councillors thought this a very good idea and would follow suit on this in their own Parish. The Watton and Saham Flood Action Group have agreed to meet again next year to follow up on these discussions.

9. To consider creating a working party in advance of the opening of the Marlpit and noting those who wish to join

It was agreed a working party should be formed and those volunteering to join were Chair Bass, Councillors Bateman, Spain, Curtis and Jennings. First meeting will be 5th January 2023 @ 7.00 venue to Councillor Spain's house.

10. To consider amending the starting times of Parish Council meetings to 7.00pm

Proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Councillor Catlin and agreed unanimously.

11. To receive an update on current position regarding the switching off of street lighting during the night and to consider next steps and if Necton are to proceed with this

Councillor Catlin confirmed leaflets were distributed to every household as an insert in The Link. There is a box at the shop where residents can return their completed form. This has been there since the 18th November. Councillor Catlin will leave there until the end of the month and then collect and analyse all responses and an update on the findings will be an agenda item at the next meeting. Councillor Catlin thereafter suggested at the January meeting a final decision is made regarding switching off the lights as there would be no further investigations required.

12. Planning matters – to note new planning applications and discuss.

REFERENCE PROPOSAL	3OB/2022/0061/OB 3PL/2019/1184/D - Section 106 agreement schedule 1 pt.2 - Amend the affordable housing mix to 53 social rent and 20 No shared ownership
LOCATION APPLICANT	Land at Erne Farm, North Pickenham Road Flagship Group

No comments

REFERENCE PROPOSAL	3OB/2022/0062/OB Modify the planning obligation on 3PL/2019/1183/F Section 106 Agreement, affordable housing mix, Schedule 1, Part 2 to amend the affordable housing mix
LOCATION APPLICANT	Land at Erne Farm, North Pickenham Road Flagship Group

No comments

REFERENCE PROPOSAL	3PL/2022/1293/F Proposed access road, utility corridor, drainage corridor, land grading, boundary treatments comprising post and rail fencing, and areas for temporary topsoil storage during construction.
LOCATION APPLICANT	New Access Road from A47 Junction Norfolk Vanguard Limited

No objections

REFERENCE PROPOSAL	3PL/2022/1316/HOU Proposed loft conversion, single storey rear extension with balcony and various internal alterations
LOCATION APPLICANT	31 Chantry Lane S Bunting

The Parish Council anticipate overlooking of the rear gardens in Brackenwoods and are concerned roof terraces are not a natural setting in this area and could set a precedence for the area.

13. To continue discussions and consider the precept and budget for 2023-2024

Discussions continued regarding the precept and the draft budget, noting the need to increase the precept to cover our increasing costs and to allow projects planned to continue. It was agreed to amend the budget allowance for the Marlpit and the street lighting adaptations (if approved at the next meeting) and increase these to the expected costs. Thereafter Councillor Jennings proposed the draft budget was accepted and the precept increased to £79,000 for the next financial year. Seconded by Councillor Bateman. A vote by a show of hands provided a vote of 8 for and one against- motion carried.

14. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)

This provides the opportunity for the public to raise awareness of an issue for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting

No public present

15. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed 9.10 pm