



Minutes No:
2023/62

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 14th August 2023 at 7.00 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (7) present:

Councillors Jean Bass, Genine Curtis, Fraser Bateman, Alice Spain, Mark Jennings, Thirza Hicks and Sue Catlin

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk,
Members of the public – 3

Date: Monday 14th August 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Necton Rural Community Centre

1.To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillor Sisto and 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.

None received

3.To approve minutes of Council meeting of 10th July 2023

Proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Chair Bass 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.

Nothing raised

5.Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The Clerks report is attached to the minutes

Chair

I have been in contact with the site manager at the Erne Farm site. This has now been renamed Tower Mill. The site is finished but they are waiting for the pumping station to be signed off. The estate will not be open until the pavements are finished and these will be extended either side of the development. The site manager has invited me to contact him to arrange a full site visit before opening.

Councillors

Councillor Curtis informed Council she had been informed that a dip in the road was noticeable near number 34 in School Road. She had been informed that the white lines in the road at Hale Road/ Tuns Road near Mill street were faded and that the verges at the kerb side in Chantry Lane were high. The Clerk will report these but did confirm that the verges are cut on a schedule set by NCC and these may not be cut. Outside of their schedule.

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 Curtis, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously

7.To vote on the co-option of a new Councillor onto the Council by a secret ballot.

A secret ballot was held and a majority vote was noted to confirm the co –option of Phil Hayton onto the Council. He thereafter completed the Declaration of Interest and Disclosable Interests and was invited to join the Council

8.To receive the Notice of Conclusion from external auditors PKF Littlejohn

The Clerk confirmed the external audit had been completed and the external auditor had no findings and were satisfied all regulatory requirements were met. The Clerk will post the Notice of Conclusion of Audit to confirm this.

9.To receive an update on the meeting with George Freeman MP in regards to the Tuns Road and A47 junction

A report was circulated to Council and the highlights of this report are as follows.

Work is planned to start at the end September '23 for approximately 14 weeks. A public event in the Village Hall was mentioned to explain the works, road closures etc. However, the Clerk has not yet had a booking request for this and will speak to Alice Granditch (Highways) to confirm if this is happening. The cost for the Junction improvement is approximately £1.5 million

George Freeman requested traffic flow data which Highways were unable to supply. He has therefore requested that Highways put 'something' in place to monitor the traffic and report back to him. He also asked for accident data for the Tuns Road/Dunham Road/A47 Junctions. Again, Highways were unable to supply this information (evidently unless there is a fatality it is not recorded). Councillors Bateman and Curtis felt this was not acceptable given the number of smaller accidents and 'near misses' that have occurred. Councillor Nigel Wilkin agreed and George Freeman asked for any data they have to be sent to his office.

George asked if the speed limit could be reduced on the A47 at the same time. Highways stated it could not be done within this project. It would take at least 3 months for the legal order to change the speed limit and the police would need to be consulted. Furthermore, it would add an extra £15k to the cost of the project which is not in the current budget and therefore could not be considered until 2024 at the earliest. They added they did not think it was necessary, but it was subject to a separate consultation. George disagreed and stated that he was a regular user of this junction and knew how dangerous it was.

This was discussed at great length with Councillors Nigel Wilkin and Mark Kiddle- Morris adding weight to the discussion; the argument being that if Highways have to put up new 50mph signs it would be a waste of money if they were then replaced by 40mph a few months later. The existing temporary 40mph speed limit in place for Vattenfall/National Grid works should allow sufficient time to get the funding and permissions in place. George asked Highways to push for the extra money and to get the limit reduced. The Police may be able to add their support to this – Councillor Curtis to investigate. With the agreement of all Councillors present George Freeman is going to formulate a letter to support this.

Councillor Nigel Wilkin raised the issue of a roundabout. As the housing numbers increase up and down the A47 corridor, and with the new developments in Necton the amount of traffic is most definitely going to increase and put more pressure on the road system. The Necton junction is already a pinch point. Highways replied that this is being looked at but would not happen for at least another 10-15 years. Nigel suggested a 'longabout' i.e. a lozenge shaped roundabout that included all entrances and exits; Dunham Road, Tuns Road and the Costa/Petrol Station. This would mean that you could only turn left out of Tuns Road and the services junction onto the long roundabout. If you wanted to head towards Dereham you would need to go all the way round the 'longabout'.

10.To consider, discuss and decide on an open day and advertising for Community Speedwatch to encourage more volunteers

Councillor Curtis confirmed that the volunteer numbers are now down to 7 as two residents who volunteered have now moved out of the area. The requirement to run the scheme is a minimum of 6 and, in order to carry out effective and regular sessions there is a need for further volunteers. It was suggested an advert be placed in the Link to see if anyone in Necton would be interested in volunteering to join the team. Thereafter Chair Bass proposed an advert be placed in the Link, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously.

11.To receive an update on the project to remove the artwork from the old school site to the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood

Councillor Bateman confirmed the artwork had successfully been removed from the old school site and was now safely stored in readiness to be installed at the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood. He continued by noting thanks to all involved in this project with a special note of thanks to Gabbie Joyce for contacting ProHelp at NCC, Councillor Phil Hayton and to Paul Young @ Westcotec for their help in making this happen and their input on the removal day. A thank you was also noted to Hall Contracts (the contractors working on the site) for the supply of a digger and a man to physically transport to the site and for their offer to supply, free of charge a bricklayer to assist putting in place at its new home.

12.Neighbourhood Plan - to agree the response to the comments, the proposed changes, and to agree that the Plan should be submitted to Breckland

Councillor Spain proposed Council agreed to the response to the comments, the proposed changes and for the Plan to be submitted to Breckland by our consultant. Seconded by councilor bateman and agreed unanimously

13.To consider and decide on the request from Necton Sports and Social Club to allow advertising boards to be erected on the fencing at the bottom of the playing field

It was confirmed that the size of the advertising would be 500mm x 1400mm and the sponsors would be local companies, noting these would be the same companies that sponsor the football strips. It was noted that there would be a maximum of 20 boards and the proposal would be that they would pay an annual fee. Thereafter Councillor Hicks proposed this request was agreed, seconded by Councillor Jennings. A vote by show of hands was 3 in favour and 5 against- request declined. However, it was noted that Council would consider a further request if something that wasn't permanently attached to the fencing (for example, banner style advertising that could be taken down on non-match days) was requested.

14.To consider and decide if the Parish Council wishes to make a bid for the purchase of the Windmill Public House as part of the ACV scheme

The Clerk confirmed details confirming timeframes and next steps were now available on Breckland's website and they had provided posters which would be placed in the noticeboards. Councillor Bateman confirmed that after seeking advice externally and checking all requirements it would appear a PC is not eligible to consider a purchase and therefore, no decision was made as we could not proceed even if we chose to.

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

REFERENCE	3PL/2023/0675/LU
PROPOSAL	Proposed Rear/Side Siting of Garden Building
LOCATION	5 Bells Meadow
APPLICANT	Mr K Wilson

No objections

16.To receive any updates and proposals from action plan working party and decide on next steps

Councillor Spain confirmed she would join the working party. It was thereafter noted that no meeting of the said working party had been held due to a busy month and so nothing to report or consider. This will be reviewed again next month.

17.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

A resident raised a question regarding the building pot/ field at Charnwood and expressed his concern that the field was now very overgrown and the hedge was very overgrown and impacting on access on the road. The Clerk will report the overgrown verge to NCC and will assist the resident with his request to trace the owner of the piece of land in question.

18.To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm