



Minutes No:
2024/67

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.00 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (8) present:

Councillors Jean Bass, Genine Curtis, Fraser Bateman, Alice Spain Phil Hayton, Sue Catlin, Thirza Hicks and Joe Sisto

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk,
Members of the public – 8 including Councillor Nigel Wilkin

Date: Monday 8th January 2024

Time: 7.00 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.

Councillors Bateman and Spain declared an interest in agenda item 13 and confirmed they would not participate in any voting and Councillor Catlin declared a potential pecuniary interest in agenda item 18 and confirmed she would leave the meeting before discussion were held.

3.To approve minutes of Council meeting of 11th December 2023

Proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously by those present at the December meeting.

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.

A member of the public spoke in favour of agenda item 13. Confirming he had been a necton resident for the last 15 years. Stating that the Windmill pub used to be the heart of the village prior to its closure 12 months ago. He was determined to see it re-open and confirmed that

the results of the recent questionnaire sent to households showed a tremendous amount of support from residents for the re-opening of the pub.

Another resident spoke in favour of agenda item 13 also, he said that one of the reasons for moving to Necton was the fact it had a village pub and prior to its closure would regularly take visiting friends and family there for a drink or a meal. He stated many people would welcome it re-opening and confirmed he was a member of the steering group campaigning for it to re-open and further confirmed that the group had already dedicated a great deal of time and effort into a campaign to get the pub re-opened.

5.Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The Clerks report is attached to the minutes

Mark Kiddle- Morris NCC –

His report is attached to the minutes

Nigel Wilkin Breckland-

Nothing to report

Chair-

Report is attached to the minutes

Councillor Bateman confirmed a resident had pointed out that the street names at the new development at Tower Mill seemed to be positioned in the wrong place and were misleading. The Clerk to take forward with NCC. He also asked which Councillors on the PC would be looking after this area as part of the local division of the village between Councillors. Chair confirmed that this would be herself and Councillor Hicks

Councillor Curtis asked if there were any updates regarding the safety of the bridge between Chantry Court and Chantry Lane. The Clerk confirmed she had emailed Breckland Councillor Wilkin regarding this. At this point Councillor Wilkin was given permission to respond. He confirmed a Breckland surveyor had recently visited and inspected and his recommendation was for a single hand rail to be installed in the centre of the existing railings. Further confirming this has been scheduled for works and he would monitor progress on this. Councillor Curtis also confirmed the re-painting of the road markings at the junction of Mill Street and Hale road have not been completed. The Clerk confirmed NCC stated they would undertake this and so would chase.

Councillor Catlin said the recent works completed around Necton to install dropped kerbs in various locations seemed to be installed incorrectly. Some appear to be unfinished and others have sunken tarmac which has made them a trip hazard. The Clerk to report this to NCC once Councillor provides confirmation of the locations in question. She further confirmed that the trod on Hale Road was being impacted by the blocked gullies running adjacent. The drainage gullies in Hale Road are blocked creating large puddles which traffic splashes onto the trod causing erosion. This has caused significant damage making it all but impassable in some places for pushchairs etc. which are forced to move into the road. This applies to the whole length of the trod – The Clerk to report to NCC.

Councillor Hayton has observed that the use of flail mowers causes chaff to build up in the ditches and thus causes flood issues noting this especially on Watery Lane. This seems to be the hedge cutting undertaken by NCC. The Clerk to update Councillor Mark Kiddle-

Morris regarding this. He has also observed that the run off from the farm fields on the road to Ivy Todd not only caused the road to be flooded but has now left a great deal of residue on the road as the water level has subsided. The Clerk to report this to NCC

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 Councillor Spain, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously.

7.To consider and approve the dates for PC meetings for the financial year commencing April 2024

Proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously

8.To consider and decide on whether the paving slabs near the Necton sign at the A47 /Tuns Road are to be re –instated by Highways

Discussions were held and Councillor Bateman proposed that these paving slabs were not replaced and that the offer to re-seed instead was also declined, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously. The Clerk to inform Highways.

9.To consider the quotes received for the fencing and decide on next steps

Discussions were held in regards to the 3 quotes that were obtained. Thereafter Chair Bass proposed that G & G Fencing were instructed to undertake the works. Seconded by Councillor Spain. A show of hands provided 5 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 1 abstained. Motion carried. Thereafter Councillor Catlin proposed that the fencing itself should be Jacksons fencing (1.2m black bow top fencing), seconded by Councillor Hayton. A show of hands provided 7 in favour and one abstained, motion carried.

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

REFERENCE	3PL/2023/1174/F
PROPOSAL	2 no. detached dwellings
LOCATION	Redundant Grassland adjacent to 20 Mill Street
APPLICANT	Mr R Gidney

The Parish Council supported this application

11.To discuss and decide on a possible migration of email addresses and website to a gov.uk domain

Discussions were held to discuss the merits of this and well as reasons not to proceed. Thereafter Councillor Spain proposed that Necton PC did not take up this offer and remained using current email addresses, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

Councillor Wilkin left the meeting

12.To consider and decide whether to approve an open letter of support for the campaign to Save the Windmill

Councillor Bateman opened discussions by explaining how an open letter helps to support the campaign, it gives reassurance that the Parish Council is behind the campaign and adds credibility. Councillor Spain confirmed that George Freeman MP and NCC Councillor Mark

Kiddle- Morris have offered to provide open letters of support already. Thereafter Chair Bass proposed that the open letter of support was approved, seconded by Councillor Hayton and agreed unanimously.

13.To consider and decide on the grant request from Necton Community Enterprise Ltd (Save the Windmill)

Discussions were held and it was confirmed that this grant request was received from a registered community organisation. It was further noted that following a questionnaire sent to every household in Necton that from the responses received 94% of people agreed or agreed strongly that a village pub was important, also noting 80% of those who responded confirmed they would support by either buying shares in the community pub, provide a donation or help out on a volunteering basis. Further questions were asked about the set up and what the monies were required for. It was confirmed that the grant would be used to enable the steering group to progress to the next stage and Councillors Bateman and Spain confirmed that if the bid to buy the pub was unsuccessful that any unspent grant monies would be returned to the PC. Councillor Bateman confirmed that if the grant was awarded these monies would be restricted in their accounts thus enabling the return of unspent monies if it didn't proceed. The Clerk confirmed the PC did have the funds available but may need to adjust the budget to allow for this. Thereafter Chair Bass proposed the grant request was approved, seconded by Councillor Hayton. Councillors Spain and Bateman did not participate in the vote (as stated in agenda item 2) thereafter a show of hands provided a vote of 5 votes in favour, one vote against – motion carried.

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

Nothing to report as no meeting was held since the last PC meeting

15.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

Nothing raised

16.To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.00pm

17.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)

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

The meeting closed at 20.26pm

Councillor Catlin left the meeting as stated in agenda item 2

18.To consider the recommendations of the personnel committee following interviews for the caretaker role and decide on the successful candidate.

The personnel committee confirmed they interviewed 4 applicants and thereafter recommended Colin Brady be offered the position of caretaker. Councillor Hayton proposed their recommendation be accepted, seconded by Councillor Hicks. All favour except

Councillor Curtis who abstained from the vote. Councillor Curtis asked for it to be noted that the Parish Council thanked David Catlin for stepping in and emptying the bins and other jobs completed whilst there was no caretaker in place.