



Minutes No:
2024/69

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.00 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (8) present:

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

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk,
Members of the public –8 including Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris

Date: Monday 12th February 2024

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Necton Rural Community Centre

1.To receive apologies for absence

Received from Breckland Councillor Nigel Wilkin

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.

Councillor Bateman declared an other interest in agenda item 13, item 1 and confirmed he would not take part in the discussions

3.To approve minutes of Council meeting of 8th January 2024 and 30th January 2024.

8th January proposed as approved by Councillor Hayton, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously.

30th January proposed as approved by Councillor Jennings, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously by those who were present at this 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.

Nothing raised

5.Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The Clerks report is attached to the minutes

Mark Kiddle- Morris NCC –

Councillor Kiddle- Morris confirmed that he will attending NCC budget meetings next week and commented that whilst additional funding has been pledged by the Government to councils he has not yet seen where this fits into the NCC budget at present. He did confirm that it will be inevitable that Council Tax will increase by the maximum amount to support costs and confirmed this will be around 5% which includes funding for social care.

He finished by commenting how much of an improvement the junction improvements had made to both the Tuns Road junction and the Dunham Road junction.

Nigel Wilkin Breckland-

Not present at meeting

Chair-

Two residents from my area contacted me following the recent heavy rainfall. Both had sewage overflow, with one resident having sewage in the bathroom sink with sewage gas as well. One had rung Anglian Water and was told there was a 48-hour wait. I contacted Anglian Water and advised that a 48 hour wait with sewage inside the property was unacceptable. They escalated it for me and one resident later advised me they were told to expect Anglian Water in 4 hours.

This is not the first time this part of my area has experienced sewage flooding. I am asking for council's agreement to request Anglian Water to carry out an in depth survey similar to the recent one at Chantry Lane.as agreed at previous meetings Councillor Curtis and myself will take forward ongoing issues. Elizabeth Drive has severe sewage problems as well and needs to be added.

I am pleased to advise everyone that the coffee morning continues to grow with 20 people attending in February. My thanks to everyone present who helped with clearing up.

Councillors-

Councillor Jennings confirmed he receives regular updates from Breckland in regards to their Mindful Villages initiatives and will be attending some further courses being run.

Councillor Hayton informed the Council that a farmer appears to ploughing right up onto the highway on Chapel Road. This is causing verge spilling onto the carriageway – Councillor Hayton to provide the details and location to the Clerk so this can be escalated and reported to NCC.

Councillor Curtis recently attended a SNAP meeting at which she informed PC Johnson of issues in Necton with drones being used, some youth disturbance issues and a report of a car being hit by a lorry which failed to stop. There have also been some incidents of scamming via letters being posted to residents informing them they are due back payments in benefits. Councillor Curtis has liaised with PC Gilluley and the latter is happy to attend an upcoming coffee morning to give a talk on scamming and what to look out for.

Councillor Spain reminded Council that Vattenfall have sold the Boreas and Vanguard sites to a German company and this sale will complete soon. This is a timely reminder to contact Simon Wood at Breckland to ask further questions pertaining to design reviews etc. this will be added to the agenda for the March meeting

Councillor Hicks confirmed she had received calls from residents in Elizabeth Drive who have experienced flooding and sewage issues again over the weekend.

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 Bateman, seconded by Councillor Hayton and agreed unanimously.

7. To receive confirmation that the quarterly internal financial check has been undertaken for Q3

Received and noted

8.To receive the minutes of the NRCC meeting held on 4th December 2023 and 5th February 2024

Received and noted

9. To approve the following reviewed policies for the forthcoming year

Communications- proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously

Compliments and Complaints - proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously

Lone worker policy - proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously

Grievance procedure - proposed by Councillor Hayton, seconded by Councillor Jennings and agreed unanimously

WIFI policy - proposed by Councillor Spain, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously

10.To consider and decide on dog fouling signs to be put on posts at Masons Drive

Discussions were held and Councillor Hicks proposed six signs to be purchased and installed on lampposts at the alleyway from Hale Road to Masons Drive, Masons Drive near North Pickenham Road junction, Chantry Lane near the post box, Chantry Court at the bridge end, Hale Road between Mill Street and the shops and School Road near the school. Seconded by Councillor Spain, show of hands provided 6 for and 2 against- motion carried.

11.To consider and decide on whether the bench located at the shops needs to be re-located

Councillor Hayton proposed the dog bin to be moved a maximum of 2-3 meters away from the bench and thereafter the bench re- positioned on the concrete pad already in situ to allow the street name sign to be seen, confirming he would undertake the work needs. Seconded by Councillor Hicks and agreed unanimously.

12.To consider and decide on a replacement bank signatory

Councillor Hicks is happy to undertake this and therefore proposed herself as the additional signatory, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

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

REFERENCE **3PL/2024/0012/HOU**

PROPOSAL Demolish existing garaging and erection of side extension and alterations to dwelling and front detached garage

LOCATION 21 Tuns Road

APPLICANT Charlwood

It appears that the garage would be over the existing building line and that Breckland should consider this when assessing the application

REFERENCE **3PL/2023/1154/HOU- Amended plans and design and access statement**

PROPOSAL Erection of a detached three bay garage with home office over and the erection of a garden room extension to the dwelling hou

LOCATION Nutts Barn Ivy Todd Road

APPLICANT Mr and Mrs Tomkins

The Council agreed these amended plans were an improvement on the original plans and supports this application

14.To consider and decide on a response to Breckland District Council in regards to their Local Plan following attendance at their recent workshop by representatives of Necton Parish Council.

The following response was proposed by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Jennings and agreed unanimously.

‘We are concerned about some of their proposals and are requesting that the Parish Council register these with Breckland.

1. The removal of settlement boundaries and replacing it with criteria based decisions on new building.

The removal of boundaries takes away any ability to influence building in line with the Breckland local plan and gives the decision to Breckland entirely to build thereby extending the Necton boundary into the surrounding countryside, as has already occurred in Necton at Erne Farm. Building outside the settlement boundary creates a precedent for any future building request.

The rationale for this decision is to accommodate affordable housing. However, many affordable houses are built, there would be no Section 106 funds to enhance the infrastructure. In Necton we have a good provision for affordable housing already built. The current demography of Necton is primarily a retired population with sufficient space for the few families with children with sympathetic infill in the existing area. The latest Housing Needs Assessment quoted in AECOM in 2022 shows the figures for affordable rented and affordable ownership required mix of housing needed in Necton does not take in to account the current mix existing.

So our answer to number 1 is absolutely to retain the settlement boundary and remove the criteria list option.

2.The urban/split for building.

We were given 6 options.

Option A proposed Swaffham builds 573 and Necton 0

Option B proposed Swaffham builds 0 and Necton 334

Option C proposed Swaffham builds 165 and Necton 0

Option D proposed Swaffham builds 0 and Necton 135

Option E proposed Swaffham builds 0 and Necton 216

Option F proposed Swaffham builds 0 and Necton 73

None of these options are acceptable.

Why compare Swaffham town and Necton village? The reason is because we are the nearest service village.

Our answer to number 2 is that it is not appropriate to equate building in a town [with all the extra funding and services with a parish environment having an inherent reduced infrastructure.

3.The criteria for the call for sites.

Our request is that the first question [and therefore the most important] should be 'are the existing services sufficient'

Any current call for sites using the current criteria - without service information- would have a detrimental effect on existing village services for residents."

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

Discussions were held regarding the draft questionnaire and the cost for printing and to set up a survey monkey facility for online responses. It was noted the cost for these should be around £300 and this will be allocated from the community expenditure funds that have already been budgeted and approved as part of the overall budget approval. Thereafter these and the draft questionnaire were proposed as approved by Chair Bass, seconded by Councillor Spain and show of hands provided a vote of 7 for and one against. The Clerk confirmed that as the community expenditure for the year has already been agreed a separate vote is not required for the cost to produce these, further noting the action plan with a questionnaire listed as an action to undertake has also already been agreed by Council.

16.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 asked if the Council would consider an agenda item to discuss the fencing erected around the new development on the old school site to be discussed as this may not be within the agreed planning permission. The Clerk to add to the March agenda

17.To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.08pm