



Minutes No:
2023/59

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 15th May 2023 at 8.00 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (8) present:

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

Additional attendees:

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

Date: Monday 15th April 2023

Time: 8.00 pm

Place: Necton Rural Community Centre

Councillors were asked to complete new Acceptance of office forms and confirm Declarations of Pecuniary Interest forms and election expenses returns have been sent to Breckland

1. To receive nominations for the post of Chairman and elect a member to the post.

Councillor Bass proposed herself to be re-elected as Chair, seconded by councillor Spain. No other proposals received. A show of hands confirmed 7 in favour and 1 against – motion carried and Councillor Bass was re-elected as Chair

2. To receive nominations for the post of Vice- Chairman and elect a member to the post.

Chair bass proposed Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Bateman. No other proposals made. Agreed unanimously.

3. To confirm Councillor to undertake quarterly financial checks

Chair Bass proposed Councillor Bateman should continue to undertake the checks, seconded by Councillor Spain. A show of hands confirmed 7 in favour and 1 against – motion carried

4. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Turner (noting that following these apologies Councillor Turner confirmed her resignation as Councillor)

Also received from Mark Kiddle - Morris- NCC Councillor

5.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

6.To confirm members for the NRCC Committee for 2023-2024

Members confirmed were, Councillors Curtis, Bateman, Spain, Catlin, Sisto and Chair Bass- noting the next meeting will be Monday 5th June 2023

7.To remind all councillors of the following policies and where these can be found – Standing orders, Code of Conduct and Financial regulations

Noted

8.To confirm the Council meets the eligibility criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence and to consider this motion. - All Councillors

The Parish Council hereby confirms we meet the eligibility criteria for adoption of the General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. We further resolve to adopt the General Power of Competence. Proposed by Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously. Noting that all Councillors returned as the election held was uncontested.

9.To approve minutes of Council meeting of 17th April 2023

Proposed by Councillor Jennings, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously.

10.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.

11.Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The report is attached to the minutes

Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin

Councillor Wilkin confirmed he has requested a site meeting with representatives of the Parish Council, NCC Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris, George Freeman MP and National Highways in order to discuss the much needed improvements at the A47 with the Tuns Road junction. Noting that whilst there is scheduled works to widen the junction out of Tuns Road this will only improve that junction and the area as a whole need to be reviewed as it is fast becoming an accident hotspot. The Parish Council confirmed they would be in favour

of a meeting- Councillor Wilkin will proceed and arrange convenient dates for everyone involved to attend and visit the area

Councillors

Councillor Curtis informed Council she had received complaints from residents that the grass cutting needs to be undertaken more frequently.

Councillor Hicks stated some residents in Elizabeth Drive area are interested in managing the green area/ wooded space. This land is owned by Breckland and Councillor Wilkin stated he would investigate and confirm who this request should be directed to at Breckland DC.

Councillor Catlin confirmed the bedding plants for the various tubs in the village will be available at the end of May and they will be planted up thereafter.

12.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 Spain, seconded by Chair Bass and agreed unanimously.

13.To receive the report provided by the internal auditor and note the comments

Received and noted by all

To approve the annual governance statement 2022/2023

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

To approve the accounting statement for 2022/2023.

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

To confirm the process by which electors may exercise their rights of inspection of the Annual Return

The Clerk confirmed the process and this was noted by all

14.To consider and approve reviewed and updated policies

- Risk Management –

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

- Standing Orders –

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

- Co - option Policy

Chair Bass proposed that the voting process should be changed from a show of hands to a secret ballot, seconded by Councillor Curtis and thereafter a vote showed 7 for and one against- motion carried.

15.To receive, discuss and consider the results from the public consultation for the tennis court and consider next steps

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting to allow Councillor Hicks some additional time to complete a full proposal regarding the tennis court including support available and funding options. Proposed by Councillor Bateman, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously.

Councillor Jennings gave his apologies and left the meeting at 9.25pm

16. To receive an update on the Coronation celebration event held on 7th May- Councillors Hicks, Curtis and Catlin

Councillor Curtis provided this report:

This day was arranged specifically to get the residents of Necton together to celebrate together. As you know, this event was totally free and the idea was to showcase what a wide range of our residents do such as crafting and baking. Local businesses were also asked if they would like to attend. By bringing everyone together it enabled residents to see what is available in their village that they may not know about. The response and feedback from villagers and visitors was fantastic and, despite being an extremely long day, it was well worth all the hard work and effort that went into it. The weather was brilliant - not too hot, not too cold and no sign of rain!

Our day started in style with a 45-minute peal of bells from Necton Church. 90% of stallholders were from Necton. Green Pastures came from Dereham and the other 5% were from local villages. All said they had a lovely time selling their goods and listening to wonderful music from Heartstrings followed by Ska Bags. Stallholders also wanted to know if and when we are holding the next event as they would like to take part.

Nikki and her line-dancers gave us a wonderful display. Hopefully she will get some new members on the back of this as I saw plenty of toes tapping and bodies swaying.

Scoob, Mandy, Andy and Sarah supplied food all day and I don't think there was much in the way of waste at the end. The Sports and Social Club were run off their feet with a constant flow of people purchasing tea, coffee, soft drinks and alcohol. The only complaint received was that the evening finished too early 'because people wanted to carry on dancing to the band.

Giant Jenga and other games were on the field for the children to enjoy but special thanks has to go to Joe Sisto who spent the whole afternoon hosting a football competition. Thank you Joe.

Thanks also to Nigel and his wife Colleen for judging the cake competition, such a hard task!

The ice cream van was a great hit with young and old. Although traveling from Peterborough to be with us, he stayed right to the end and I believe he is back again for the 2-day football tournament and the Necton Festival.

Winners of competitions and free prize draw numbers are being published by Francesca in the next edition of The Link along with photos and our thanks to Francesca and Julie for their support in this.

Also, our thanks must go to those who lent items for us to use on the day such as gazebos, signage etc. These people know who they are so again our sincere thanks. Thank you to everyone who stayed until the end to help clear away said gazebos, signage and help put

away tables, chairs and collect litter and another big thank you to our wonderful volunteers, Jean, Linda and Terry, who helped on the day

After a late night some of us were back at the hall again at 10.30am on the bank Holiday Monday to finish storing items and to support Councillor Hicks and her daughter Amara, along with Necton brownies in the new King's initiative of litter picking.

17.To discuss and consider the proposal for Necton Area Trust to continue to maintain and manage the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood and to set aside funds within the allocated budget to cover the cost of their consumables (noting this to be reviewed annually). And to further consider the proposal that any individual projects at this site are considered on an individual basis by the Parish Council. To also receive the minutes of the recent QEMW working party.

Councillor Curtis proposed that NAT should continue to maintain and develop the area, noting consumables to be paid from the budget set aside by the PC and noting the caretaker would undertake litter picks, bin emptying and visual checks. Further proposing this is reviewed on an annual basis. Seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously.

18.To consider the proposal of Necton VA School and their public consultation and to consider the response from the Parish Council

The public consultation was overviewed and Councillor Bateman proposed the Council should respond via the Clerk to confirm the PC are in favour of supporting Necton VA School in changing their age range from 4-11 to 3-11. Seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously.

19.To consider next steps with regards to Statkraft's potential application to build the Greener Grid Park at the National Grid substation-

Councillor's Spain and Bateman and Chair Bass provided this report:

The Statkraft proposal (presented to the Parish Council and then to the public at their consultation in the village hall) was for a Greener Grid Park which included lithium Ion battery storage (BESS) to be placed on a green field site close to Necton. On 11 May 2023, Statkraft released an update to their proposal that removes batteries from the design and provides two synchronous compensators alone. It is a good result for the village since the revised proposal removes the lithium ion fire risk from the project. However, there is a concerning vacant green area to the right of the site in the 3D montage of the layout. A subsequent planning application could add batteries to this vacant area. Although the revised proposal is a significant improvement, it is still important for NPC to be prepared both for whatever is proposed in the planning application when it is submitted and any possible future developments.

During the community consultation, many people asked for the site of the project to be moved further away from the village, onto the infrastructure area of the Vanguard and Boreas substations (which was one of the original proposed sites for the Greener Grid Park). The new proposal has not changed the location and the infrastructure is still too close to Necton village. The proposal states that the infrastructure must be sited close to the NG substations. We are not experts on the technical aspects of grid stabilisation or whether the equipment could be placed further away from the NG substations.

When Breckland grant planning permission, they could attach conditions that would be of benefit to Necton. These could include:

- BESSs will not be permitted at this site or in the vicinity in the future,

- Designation of the remaining portion of the field where the site is located as a “Greenfield site” ie a Green Belt that would prevent any further infrastructure or development of any kind encroaching nearer to Necton.
- A footpath/trod along the southern perimeter of the field must be provided by Statkraft. This would help provide a safe walking route along St Andrews Lane between Tuns Road and The Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood.

NPC have the opportunity to ask for these conditions that would add to the village amenity but we would need specialist help to achieve them.

We have learned through the DCO process for Vanguard / Boreas and the Judicial Review of Vanguard that to get the best outcomes you need specialist representation backed up by expert knowledge. When a planning application is made to Breckland, there is a limited time for NPC to provide a response. This means that for something that requires specialist advice, a plan / budget must have been agreed in advance so it can be actioned without waiting for a meeting. The use of an expert that specialises in planning and in particular energy planning applications may be required. Richard Buxton solicitors has been recommended by the Suffolk group that are opposing East Anglia Green. The planning application, when submitted by Statkraft, may contain nothing NPC wishes to add or comment on. However, a budget of £2k is recommended to be approved to allow speedy access to professional advice if this is considered necessary by the substation working party.

Thereafter Chair Bass proposed a budget of £2000 be set aside to instruct an expert if needed, seconded by Councillor Bateman and a show of hands confirmed 5 for and 2 against this proposal- motion carried

20.To discuss the recent reports of late night cars speeding in the village

Councillor Curtis requested that any members of the public and Councillors to note any incidents of late night speeding through the village. Location, time and car registration and any others details would be extremely helpful. This can then be shared at the SNAP meetings she attends and brought to their attention so they can take forward. Currently she attends these meetings without anything to report as no information is provided to her.

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

REFERENCE **3PL/2023/0409/HOU**
 PROPOSAL Proposed rear extension
 LOCATION 52 Hale Road
 APPLICANT Mr B Tucker

No Objections

REFERENCE **3PL/2023/0301/HOU**
 PROPOSAL Proposed 2 storey rear extension
 LOCATION Bees Pit Cottage, 33 Mill Street- **amended plans**
 APPLICANT Mr & Mrs D Plunkett

No objections

REFERENCE **3PL/2023/0333/LU**
 PROPOSAL Erection of a rear two storey extension and other alterations to The building including replacement doors and windows, new

openings, repositioning of openings, installation of solar panels and ASHP system

Certificate of Lawfulness - Proposed Use Proposed 2 storey rear extension

LOCATION Redgates Access Road to Corbetts Lane

APPLICANT Mr Carl Dawson

AMENDMENT: Revised plans submitted, omitting the two storey rear extension, and new gable roof to centre of existing extension now proposed, along with other alterations as previously proposed.

No objections

22.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

23.To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 12th June 2023 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 10.05pm