

Minutes of the Meeting of Northrepps Parish Council held on 03 March 2020 at 7.30 pm at Northrepps Village Hall

Present:

Chairman Cllr. A Mackay, Vice Chairman Cllr. L. Fish,
Cllr. H. Claxton, Cllr. L. Holloway, Cllr. S. Penlington, Cllr. J. Youngman

Clerk Mrs J. Warner PSLCC AICCM
Dist. Cllr Fitch-Tillett (to item 7 incl)
County Cllr. E. Maxfield

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 04 February 2020

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 04 February 2020 be **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Callaghan and Smith.

3. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr. Penlington declared an interest in proposed BT Poles at Foundry Close.

4. Casual Vacancy

It was **AGREED** that the applicants would be invited for interview from 8.30pm onwards on 07 April 2020 after the Parish Council meeting. If the meeting has not finished it will be closed for the interviews to take place and then reopened to complete the business on the agenda.

5. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6. Police matters

6.1 Police Newsletter – Noted

6.2 Other Police Matters

Meeting with Police Inspector – Cllr. Fish reported on her attendance at a very productive meeting at North Walsham.

7. District Council and County Council

7.1 County and District Councillor Reports.

District Cllr. Fitch Tillett and County Cllr. Maxfield made their reports (refer written copies attached).

7.2 **Any other County and District Council matters** (for information only)

Cllr. Maxfield was asked to find out whether there will be an official report into the recent flooding in the parish.

8. **Planning**

8.1 **Planning Applications and decisions**

Planning applications for consideration

There were no applications for consideration.

8.2 **Pre- Submissions**

There were no pre-submission matters to report.

8.3 **Local Plan**

There was no update.

8.4 **Other Planning Matters** (for information only)

BT Poles – Concern has been raised by residents in respect of a notice which has appeared stating that two new BT poles are to be erected in Foundry Close. The Clerk reported that despite several phone calls and emails to Openreach, NNDC Planning and NCC Highways she has still not been able to find out any further information as to the exact location of where the poles are to be sited. It was **AGREED** to instruct the Clerk to write to the CT Pole Objections Team to ask for further information.

9. **Highways & Transportation**

9.1 **Speeding on Norwich Road & Crossdale Street**

The Clerk advised that no volunteers have come forward for a Community Speedwatch Scheme thus this item will be removed from the agenda.

9.2 **Flooding**

It was noted that NCC Highways have been jetting out the drains at the top of New Road. There was no update re Church Street / Pit Road which has been referred back to NCC Highways to deal.

County Cllr. Maxfield has been asked to find out whether there will be an official flood report.

9.3 **Overgrown Hedges**

It was noted that NCC Highways have inspected the hedges along Craft Lane and do not feel there is currently a real issue. There was no update from Highways re the hedges at Broadgate Close.

9.4 **Signage on Bulls Row**

The Clerk read out an email from NCC Highways who advise that current policy is not to put up signs for bends/junctions/crossroads etc within 30mph speed limits as it raises awareness and drivers then take it faster. Members of the public are asked to take a note of the details of offending vehicles using Madams Lane as a cut through so that the companies concerned can be contacted to remind their drivers not to do it.

9.5 **Potholes**

It was noted that the potholes on New Road have been repaired and the ones on Hungry Hill Have been inspected and logged for repair. The Clerk was asked to report another pothole on Norwich Road

9.6 **Litter at The Avenue**

The Clerk advised that NNDC have asked Kier to litterpick and keep an eye on the area.

9.7 **Modification Application**

An application for the addition of a Restricted Byway and upgrade of footpaths 8 & 9 was noted.

9.8 **Traffic Regulation Orders**

Several traffic orders were circulated and noted.

9.8 **Other Highway Matters** (for information only and inclusion on the next agenda if appropriate)

Nut Lane – A tree is hanging over the edge of the road. The Clerk was asked to report this to the landowner.

10. Finance & Regulatory Matters

10.1 **Payments and Receipts & Financial Statement**

The financial matters were **APPROVED** and the finance sheet signed by the Chairman and the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer (refer attached).

10.2 **Actuals Against Budget to date**

These were circulated and noted.

10.3 **Parish Partnership Funding for Bus Shelter**

There was no update re the funding request. The Clerk advised she has an email from NCC stating that the verge is highways land.

10.4 Pocket Park Funding

It was noted that the grant application was unsuccessful. The Clerk advised that she and the maintenance contractor are looking into various options as to how a new swing can be accommodated without extending the bark area.

10.5 Other Financial and regulatory matters (for information only)

There were no other financial matters to report.

11. Playing Field & Allotments

11.1 Maintenance of Council Owned Assets

It was noted that the links on the nest swing and the matting under the gyro spiral have been replaced. The rest of the works re the fence and gate are on hold until the issue of replacement swings has been resolved

11.2 Visibility at entrance to Village Hall car park

The Chairman is yet to speak to the Village Hall Committee re widening the entrance to the car park by removing some of the hedging.

11.3 Tree Works

It was noted that UKPN had to postpone the works due to the recent storms. The works are now scheduled for 23 March 2020 but will have to be postponed until the autumn if there are any signs of nesting birds.

11.4 Bonfire at Allotment

It was agreed to permit an allotment tenant to burn an old chicken coop on site providing it causes no disturbance to nearby residents.

11.5 Tree works at Craft Lane allotment site

It was noted that the landowner has asked whether the Parish Council will make a financial contribution towards the cost of tree works at the site. It was felt that more information in respect of the costs is required before making a decision. It was suggested that perhaps a local tree surgeon could be asked to do the works in return for the wood.

11.6 Bookings for Playing Field

There were no further bookings to report.

11.7 Other matters (for information only)

There were no other matters to report

12. Other works & projects

VE Day 75 – Cllr. Fish provided a full update in respect of the events to be hosted by the Parish Council on Saturday 09 May. It was **AGREED** to purchase the food for the Children’s Party from Morrisons. A local paramedic will be asked to be present to provide first aid cover during the afternoon. A risk assessment for the event will be sent to the Parish Council’s insurers. Cllr. Fish will work with the school re application forms for the party. It will be stressed that anyone with allergies are welcome to bring their own food. Members of the Council will be present at the events to help. There will be no charge for the events but there will be collection buckets for donations for an appropriate charity. The national events on Friday 08 May will be hosted by Jason Bumphrey at the Foundry PH. Members **AGREED** in principle to make a contribution towards the cost of the band for the Friday evening.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Correspondence received since 04 February 2020 (list circulated)

Norfolk ALC	Newsletters Well being initiative
Boundary Commission	Extension to consultation
Keep Britain Tidy	GB Spring Clean 2020
Priscilla Bacon Hospice	Fundraising Campaign
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service	Fundraising Campaign
Community Action Norfolk	Newsletters
UK Power Networks	Roadshow
NN Town & Parish Forum	Newsletter – <i>Cllr. Fish to represent Northrepps</i>

Various leaflets, newsletters and brochures

All the above correspondence was noted and no comment made unless stated.

14. **To receive items to be included on the next agenda and to consider any other business** (for information only)

There were no other matters to report.

15. **To note the date of the next meeting:** 07 April 2020 at 7.45pm to be preceded by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm

16. RESOLUTION UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960) TO EXCLUDE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

It was **AGREED** that in view of the nature of the matters to be discussed that the public and press be excluded from the meeting

17. Quotations for Noticeboards

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to carry this item forward to the May meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed

Dated.....

Financial Matters:Payments to be approved at March meeting:

102187	Royal Images – photographs	£	177.60
102188	Community Heartbeat Trust – Annual contract	£	162.00
102189	Secret Gardens – ROSPA Works	£	380.00
102190	Secret Gardens – Maintenance (Feb)	£	178.00
102191	E Anderson - Allotment Land	£	50.00
102192	Clerk's Salary & Expenses - Feb	£	244.74
102193	Norfolk Pension Fund – Feb Pension	£	78.21
102194	St. Mary's Church – S137 grant	£	600.00
102195	Norfolk Citizens Advice – S137 grant	£	100.00
102196	Northrepps Royal British Legion – S137 grant	£	100.00
102197	Northrepps Luncheon Club – S137 grant	£	100.00
102198	Northrepps Village Hall – S137 grant	£	100.00
102199	Cromer Group PPG – S137 grant	£	100.00
102200	Cromer Community & Hospital Friends – S137 grant	£	281.50

Direct debit payments:

28/02/2020	URM Glassbank for Jan	£	37.20
11/02/2020	Eon -Street light electricity for Jan	£	42.99

Receipts since last meeting:Financial Statement:

Reconciled balances as at 28 Feb 2020	
Community Account	£23,300.78
Business Premium Account	£ 6,315.94
Business Premium Account	£ 4,776.15
	£34,392.81

District Councillor's Report March 2020

Cabinet Approvals:

Cabinet has approved the cyclical financial reports, approved the purchase of a Casework Programme for the use of members, approved the purchase of two modest properties for temporary accommodation for homeless households and agreed to sell the excess site at Sheringham Splash. Previously, both The Corporate Plan and The Budget were approved.

Coastal Portfolio Issues:

The sand at Bacton and Walcott has held up well during the winter storms. Unlike previous years there has been no sea water incursions onto the road – Landscaping doing its job. We are currently working up the Mundesley scheme which we will action a joint procurement with Cromer 2.

There has been no damage to our coastal defences from the winter storms, however, there has been another small cliff slip between Mundesley and Gimingham.

CPE Board met in Lowestoft at the end of January – we are very, very busy both locally and nationally. After our Board meeting, we visited the site of the proposed Lowestoft Flood Protection Scheme which CPE is leading on.

The Coastal Forum will be held on Tuesday 24th March at 10.00, there will be an emphasis on coastal community groups

Planning:

CPE have worked with all LPAs within the Norfolk and Suffolk Coast to provide a Supplementary Planning Document in respect of Planning and Coastal Management to sit within the emerging Local Plans.

Overview and Scrutiny:

I was unable to attend last month's meeting

Norfolk Coast (AONB) Partnership

We held a joint meeting with CPE and The Environment Agency to establish common ground and possibilities for joint working especially in respect of funding bids.

Ward Issues:

Several applications within the ward, and the lack of determination of the Kearns Application at Gimingham Road, Trimmingham has been disappointing to say the least. The Head of Planning and even the MP have become involved so I am optimistic of a decision soon!

Further complaints from an Overstrand resident in respect of aerobatics over the sea. This is a perfectly legal activity and NNDC is not the controlling authority.

Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett
Poppyland Ward

County Councillor's report March 2020

County Council budget

The budget was passed at the council's February meeting. None of the opposition amendments were accepted by the administration so various attempts to increase funding for roads, schools and adults with disabilities did not pass. The council has increased its share of Council Tax by the maximum 3.99%. Overall it was a fairly quiet budget with no dramatic changes to previous years but that still means there is a big gap between the spending cuts they will have to make and what is currently being achieved. As usual they will hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer comes up with some extra cash to plug the gap.

Governance Review

Over the last few months the Council has been undergoing to a Peer Review process where officers and councillors from another authority come in and look in detail at the way the council works. One of the pieces of work which has come out of this is a review of the way we work internally with council committees etc. It's very dry constitutional stuff but if it is done properly it might just make the council more open and responsive. Whatever changes are proposed are likely to come into operation after the next County Council elections in May 2021.

Boundaries

The review of division boundaries – the areas we each represent as councillors – has been delayed again because South Norfolk District Council persuaded the Boundary Commission it had got its figures wrong for the number of people who would be living there by 2025. The deadline for submissions to the Commission is now mid March and they will release their draft proposals at the beginning of June. At that point there will be a consultation period that Parishes and others may wish to contribute to. The new boundaries will not be finalised til the autumn but there are bound to be changes in North Norfolk because the district will go from having 11 county councillors to having ten.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

I have asked the council to explain its approach to enforcement of the rules relating to PROW because they seem to have just given up having decided they don't have the money to do it. I'll report on this further once I get a reply.

Flooding

Back in June last year I wrote to the leader of the council asking for a review of the County Council's plans for flood protection. I have raised the issue again as the review does not seem to have been carried out. Although the Tidal Surge in 2013 showed how well we coped with coastal flooding, the councils plan has not been updated since 2015 and I am worried about potential for increased river flooding. We have had five years of house building and funding cuts, we have left the EU (which used to spend heavily on flood prevention) and we have had five years of technological developments too. I will keep pressing for the council to bring its plans up to date.

Repton Homes

There has been some media coverage recently about the council's house building arm, Repton Homes. It was set up to take advantage of low interest rates and demand for housing by creating a housing development arm for the council. I am worried about the increasing exposure the council has to debt but I have also said that if the council is getting involved in house building it should focus on affordable homes and accommodation for the over 55s.

Norfolk Music Service (NMS)

Deep cuts to NMS were announced recently. I will be meeting the head of the service to discuss the consequences of the changes in the next couple of weeks. It's really important that children have access to music in schools and we need to be sure that the new service isn't just about saving money by making indiscriminate cuts.

Wensum Lodge

I know it is a fair distance from Mundesley division but I am due to take a look round Wensum Lodge in a couple of weeks. It is a fantastic but very old music venue on King Street in Norwich that will benefit from a major and long overdue refurbishment. I hope everyone in Norfolk will benefit from it.

County Lines

There's a growing awareness of problems caused by County Lines drug running where gangs recruit vulnerable kids in rural areas to be the end of the drug supply chain. The government's Drugs Tsar has called on local councils to be given more of a role in tackling the problem. I support this but it needs to come with the resources to ensure we can do the job properly. We also mustn't lose sight of the need to educate those who use recreational drugs away from their use because of the damage they are doing to the lives of some very vulnerable children.

Ed Maxfield
4 March 2020