

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Northrepps Parish Council held on 05 April 2022 at 19.00 at Northrepps Village Hall**

### Present:

Chairman Cllr. A. Mackay, Vice Chairman Cllr. L. Fish,  
Cllr. M. Millman, Cllr. S. Penlington, Cllr. G. Smith

Clerk Mrs J. Warner

County Cllr. Maxfield & District Cllr. Fitch Tillett (to item 7 incl)

### **1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 01 February 2022**

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 01 February 2022 be **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. Buxton (work), Cllr. Callaghan (health) and Cllr. Renaud (long standing commitment)

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

There were none.

### **4. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

### **5. Police matters**

5.1 **Police Newsletters** – Noted

5.2 **Other police matters** – There were none to report.

### **6. District Council and County Council**

#### **6.1 County and District Councillor Reports.**

County Cllr. Maxfield – Members were in receipt of written report for March (attached).

Gallus Close – It was noted that NCC will only adopt roads if utilities are statutory bodies and as Calor are not a statutory body this has caused issues. Cllr. Millman advised that NCC are to adopt the road but not the pavement. A trust fund will be set up to fund any pavement works.

A149 – It was noted that there has been another traffic incident near the Gunton Arms and that there is verge damage just beyond the A140/A149 junction.

District Cllr. Fitch Tillett – Members were in receipt of a written report (attached).

## 6.2 **Community Governance Review**

It has been confirmed that the roads accessed from Hillside will move to Cromer and that the two properties at the end of Stevens Road will move to Northrepps.

## 6.3 **FP08 between Northrepps and Overstrand**

There was no update to report. Thus this item will be removed from future agendas unless any further correspondence is received.

## 6.4 **Street Light on Emery's Close & Dark Skies**

It was noted that the street lights in the parish owned by the Parish Council dim by 50% after midnight and this cannot be altered. The street lights on Emery's Close are the responsibility of NCC. Members stressed the need to keep lights on after midnight for safety reasons.

## 6.5 **Signage on A149**

It was noted that NCC are making improvements to the signage on the A149 Northrepps to Thorpe Market Road.

## 6.6 **Re-wilding**

It was noted that NNDC are undertaking the rewilding of some areas including some of the land at Christopher's Close. Following complaints by some residents, NNDC are currently looking into making slight amendments to the site layout.

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

**Nutrient Neutrality** – It was noted that Natural England have raised concern in respect of the impact of new housing developments on the environment. This has the potential to impact on which land can be developed and the housing land supply. Cllr. Fitch Tillett advised that NNDC wish to open a dialogue with local farmers to prevent the leaching of nitrates into water courses.

# 7. Planning

## 7.1 **Planning Applications and decisions**

### **Planning applications for consideration**

#### **PF/22/0685 – Land at Laurel Farm, Hall Road**

Refurbishment and extension of existing farmhouse, conversion of existing farm buildings to four dwellings and erection of one new dwelling with associated highway, drainage and landscaping works

*Support*

**PF/22/0551 – The Valley, Northrepps Road**

Formation of new vehicle access from land to Northrepps Road and additional parking spaces

*No objections*

**PF/22/0723 - Foundry Arms, Church Street**

Alterations to enclosed storage area to facilitate use as kitchen and alterations to freezer/fridge & cold store

*Support*

Planning applications considered under planning protocol

**PF/22/0165 53 Crossdale Street**

Change of use of part of building from tool hire to single dwelling with associated external alterations; removal of adjacent hard standing and creation of a garden area.

*No comment was made.*

**7.2 Updates on live planning applications**

PF/22/0012 – The Old Foundry – Application Withdrawn

**7.3 Broadland Housing Development at Broadgate Close**

The Chairman was pleased to advise that permission had been granted and that the request for construction access to be off Cromer Road/Nut Lane had been taken into account.

**7.4 BT Poles on The Avenue**

It was noted that no planning consent is required

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

There were no other planning matters to report.

*Cllr. Maxfield & Fitch Tillett left the meeting*

**8. Highways & Transportation**

**8.1 Traffic Regulation Orders**

Any traffic orders had been circulated to members.

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

SAM2 Sign – It was noted that despite a new battery, the sign is still not working. The Chairman will take it to Westcotec for repair.

## 9. Finance & Regulatory Matters

### 9.1 Payments and Receipts & Financial Statement

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

### 9.2 Actuals Against Budget to date

These were circulated and noted.

### 9.3 Casual Vacancy

It was **AGREED** to invite both applicants to an informal interview prior to the May meeting.

### 9.4 Glassbank

It was **AGREED** that due to the increased cost of the glassbank far exceeding the income from recycling credits the contract will be cancelled and the glass bank removed. The Chairman will contact the bank to cancel the direct debit after the final invoice has been debited. It was noted that the Clerk had obtained an alternative quotation but this was still more expensive than the income.

### 9.5 Community Right to Bid

This will be removed from the agenda.

### 9.6 Crossdale Street Bus Shelters

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman will sweep out the two shelters on a voluntary basis and professional cleans will be arranged as and when required.

### 9.7 Any other financial and regulatory matters (for information only)

There were no other matters to report.

## 10. Playing Field & Allotments

### 10.1 Grounds Maintenance, Repairs & RoSPA Inspection

It was noted that the date for the repairs to the wooden climbing frame and nest swing are still awaited. The Chairman will replace the tape and notices on the wooden climber.

It was noted that the play bark needs to be raked again.

### 10.2 New Play Equipment

It was **AGREED** to hold a public meeting at 7pm on 20 April 2022 to establish the views and expectations of parishioners for refurbishment of the play area.

10.3 **Barrel Planters on Church Street**

Replacement barrels are yet to be sought.

10.4 **Crossdale Street Bus Shelter**

It was noted that the repairs to the roof have been done.

10.5 **Phone Kiosk**

It was noted that the contract has now been signed by BT. NVT are to hold a public meeting to discuss their plans for the kiosk.

10.6 **Other playing field and allotment matters** (for information only)

Annual Inspection – The Clerk advised that the annual inspection of all council owned assets is now due.

**11. Correspondence and other matters**

11.1 **Sally Bean's Bench**

An update from the owner of the bench is still awaited.

11.2 **HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr. Fish has arrangements underway for the beacon event. The Chairman will speak to Jason Bumphrey to ask that the bar in the Village Hall is open.

It was agreed that due to the beacon lighting being too late in the evening for small children, a separate party will be held on Sunday 05 June at the playing field / village hall as part of the national Big Jubilee Lunch. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will fund the cost of the food, squash, teas and coffees and other drinks will be available to purchase from the bar.

The Clerk will establish whether a Temporary Event Notice is required for any part of the event.

This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

11.3 **Defibrillator Training**

Date for training session to be arranged in the Spring / Summer.

11.4 **Community Litter Pick**

Members were in receipt of information in respect of The Great British Spring Clean. It was noted that a team of volunteers already have regular litter picks in place and will advertise for members of the public to attend too.

11.5 **Correspondence received since 01 Feb 2022** (circulated)

Norfolk ALC

Newsletters

NNDC

Review of public conveniences

GLEAM	Consultation on Glover Landscapes Review
Community Action Norfolk	Newsletters
Norfolk NPTS	Training newsletter
Oulton PC	Offshore Transmission Network
NCC	'Experience' survey
Norfolk Coast Partnership	Newsletter
Norfolk Resilience Forum	Cascade alert system – <i>AGREED to be added</i>

Various leaflets, newsletters and brochures

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

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

Armed Forces Day – Cllr. Fish provided an update

**13. To note the date of the next meeting:**

Annual Parish Council meeting at 19:00 17 May 2022

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:20

Signed .....

Dated.....

## County Councillor's report – March 2022

### The Budget

The County Council met and agreed its budget for the coming year on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Some of the highlights:

- The County Council's share of your Council Tax will increase by 2.99%. It could have increased by 3.99% - and the County Treasurer recommended this – but the ruling group (the Conservatives) decided to go with the lower amount because of all the other cost of living pressures people are facing. Interestingly none of the other political parties put forward amendments that would have increased the Council Tax by more.
- Tens of millions of £ still need to be cut from the County Council's budget over the coming three years. There was a fair bit of argument over the Council's decision to spend £6 million on external consultants to overhaul Adult Social Services. I have made the point in committee that many of the 'transformation' proposals that are being made for Adult Social Services sound similar to those introduced by Children's Services over the last five years so maybe the leadership of Adult Services should have just been paying more attention.
- I put forward an amendment that would have made £250,000 available for preparatory work that would have allowed the County Council to make grants available to householders for flood protection work. You can read the full details (and the text of my speech here: <https://edmaxfield.org.uk/2022/02/24/county-council-budget-amendment-action-on-flooding/>) I was told that the money should come from the Environment Agency not the County Council so I withdrew my amendment and said I would be watching to make sure more effort was made to get hold of that funding for Norfolk residents.
- I also asked whether the Council was making extra funds available for bus operators to help them cope with increased fuel and labour costs. I haven't had a reply yet but I will keep chasing – public transport is under real pressure already and we need to make sure that bus operators are able to carry on delivering services across the county.
- Another issue I raised was funding for Special Educational Needs (SEND). This has been underfunded for years and when the budget was being looked at by the Scrutiny Committee a couple of weeks ago the County Treasurer confirmed that the deficit could be £150 million within three years. That would be enough to bankrupt the council if the government doesn't come up with extra funding – but lots of councils around the country are in the same boat so hopefully a solution will be found.
- If you are really keen there is a link to the Council's YouTube channel in the website story above so you can watch the whole debate.

### Levelling Up

Norfolk was one of nine counties named as priority areas for a new Devolution Deal in the Government's Levelling Up White Paper. Norfolk could get lots of new powers if we sign up for having a directly elected mayor or leader for the county. The only problem is because we switched from a Committee system to a Cabinet system at County Hall in 2019 the earliest we can switch again (to a directly elected mayor) would be 2025. The deals have to be agreed with the government by the autumn and my hunch is that Norfolk will do a deal that says we promise to have a directly elected mayor in 2025 in return for getting the new powers. There was no suggestion that the deal would be combined with getting rid of one tier of local government (scrapping the District Councils or the County Council itself) so we will likely end up with the system they have in Cambridgeshire with Parish Councils, District Councils, a County Council AND a directly elected mayor. At least the deal might lead to the Police and Crime Commissioner being scrapped and their powers being given to the elected mayor. Other powers that could be part of the deal: greater role in strategic transport planning; more money for investment in the economy; more powers in relation to infrastructure planning and delivery; more say over public health. Who knows where it will all end up but it should all be clearer by the end of the year.

Ed Maxfield

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## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT April 2022

### **Cabinet Approvals:**

Cabinet approved the following items: To appoint a Ukrainians Support Officer: To form a Youth Council: To give £700K of held 106 monies to Registered Social Housing Providers to provide 4 affordable homes: To open up Hornbeam Road Car Park in North Walsham for free parking whilst car park spaces are lost to the North Walsham HAZ Project: Shared Equity full purchase by the tenant in Wells - available after 5 years part tenancy: Lease proposals to the Art Deco Building, Cromer West Promenade and The Blue Sky Cafe, Runton Road, Cromer.

### **Full Council Decisions:**

There was no Full Council in March

### **Coastal Portfolio News:**

The big news is that DEFRA has awarded us £10m+ to find solutions for adapting communities at risk from coastal erosion. This is will be wholly focused in North Norfolk meaning that we will withdraw from the CPE IRF Programme. The expectation is that we will share our knowledge nationally. East Rising of Yorkshire has been given the same as together, we are the most severely eroding coasts in not just the UK, but the whole of Europe. I am particularly proud to be entrusted with this project which compliments the national lead I give on Adaptation to the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group.

There is some current routine maintenance work to Overstrand, MacKinnons have got as far as they can as further works are being held up for a License from the MMO. This delay in Licences is a national problem and has been taken up nationally through the SIG.

On our wider CPE frontage under Rob Goodliffe as Coastal Manger Norfolk, Hemsby has hit the headlines recently for all the wrong reasons. A sad example of the effects of sea level rise, the same is happening at Winterton just next door.

The Norfolk (AONB) Partnership has taken down a revised management plan from the Website as it was not approved by the Core Management Group. A properly revised and approved plan is expected in the early autumn. The Visitor Management Group has begun to meet with an emphasis on wildlife protection and water safety. There is a proposal to join the NCP with the Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership officer support which, in my mind, makes perfect sense as they are both under the Norfolk County Council Environment Directorate. The partnership has entered into the DEFRA 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' scheme and we met with them at Burnham Deepdale to view the progress made there. The Partnership is keen to hear from Farmers in our section of the AONB that would be interested in taking part as there is funding available.

### **Ward Issues:**

I was disappointed in the actions of some residents of Christophers Close, Northrepps that prevented an area of the open green area from being rewilded. I still have files open in respect of planning enforcement - and the Leader of The Council is now getting involved in trying to resolve neighbours expectations. Overstrand Garden Centre is working hard to obtain their planning permission. It

05 April 2022

410

would be a great shame for many of us if this was not allowed - thereby putting the business at risk.

I shall be taking two weeks off from Council Responsibilities from Monday 11th April - the main purpose is to beat my garden into submission in time for the spring / summer. Cllr Ed Maxfield is happy to take up any queries in my absence.

**Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett**  
**Poppyland Ward, NNDC**

**Financial Matters:****Payments to be approved at April meeting:**

## Paid in Feb/March

102343	Grant to St Mary's Church	£ 1250.00
102344	Grant to Norfolk Citizens Advice	£ 150.00
102345	Grant to Northrepps Royal British Legion	£ 100.00
102346	Grant to Cromer Group Practice PPG	£ 100.00
102347	Grant to Cromer Community & Hospital Friends	£ 181.00
102348	Grant to Northrepps Village Trust	£ 150.00
102349	Grant to Priscilla Bacon Lodge	£ 100.00
102350	Secret Gardens – Maintenance (Feb)	£ 185.00
102351	Westcotec (SAM2 battery)	£ 96.00
102352	J Warner – Clerks salary & expenses (Feb)	£ 257.84
102353	D Whincop – Bus shelter cleaning	£ 57.45
102354	Norfolk Pension Fund (Feb)	£ 83.21

## To be paid in April:

102355	Norfolk ALC membership	£ 259.79
102356	Community Action Norfolk Membership	£ 20.00
102357	Secret Gardens – Maintenance (Mar)	£ 185.00
102358	J Warner – Clerk's Salary & Expenses (Mar)	£ 290.10
102359	Norfolk Pension Fun (Mar)	£ 101.28
102360	HMRC – Paye Jan/Feb/Mar	£ 186.80

**Direct debit payments:**

28/02/2022	URM Group for Jan	£ 37.20
28/03/2022	URM Group for Feb	£ 33.60
	Npower street light Elec to be debited in April	

**Receipts since last meeting:**

14/3/2022	NCC Recycle Credits	£ 140.89
28/03/2022	Bank Interest	£ 0.12
28/03/2022	Bank Interest	£ 0.16

**Financial Statement:**

## Reconciled balances as at 31/03/2022

Community Account		£ 25532.82
Business Premium Account		£ 4780.48
Business Premium Account		<u>£ 6321.68</u>
		£ 36634.98
Less uncleared cheques	102241	£ 1.00
	102271	£ 100.00
	102344	<u>£ 150.00</u>
		£ 36383.98

Signed .....  
*Chairman*

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*Responsible Financial Officer*

Dated .....

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