

Minutes of the Meeting of Northrepps Parish Council held on 02 August 2022 at 19.00 at Northrepps Village Hall

Present:

Vice Chairman Cllr. L. Fish,
Cllr. V. Callaghan, Cllr. M. Millman, Cllr. E. Redmond, Cllr. M. Renaud,
Cllr. G. Smith

P.C. Mezzetti to item 5 incl

Clerk Mrs J. Warner

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 04 July 2022

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 04 July 2022 be **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. Buxton (work), Cllr. Mackay (family matter)
Cllr. Penlington sent apologies which were received after the meeting.
Apologies were noted from District Cllr. Fitch Tillett and County Cllr. Maxfield.

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 Speed of Emergency Vehicles

P.C. Mezzetti was welcomed to the meeting and members explained that there had been some concerns raised re the speed of emergency vehicles travelling through the village. P.C. Mezzetti explained that when attending a Grade A emergency, vehicles can travel faster than the speed limit, through red lights etc. but it has to be safe and appropriate for that piece of road. All vehicle movements are recorded on a black box within the car and people can call in to report any inappropriate driving. The sergeants often look at the data and if necessary will advise officers accordingly.

P.C. Mezzetti was asked whether a speed check could be carried out on the quiet lanes as there have been several near misses. P.C. Mezzetti advised that it is very difficult to enforce on the quiet lanes but evidence from dashcams can be useful.

It was noted that the police have been carrying out patrols near the school to address parking and speeding issues and apparently matters have improved.

5.3 **Other police matters**

There were no other matters to report.

P.C. Mezzetti was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

6. **District Council and County Council**

6.1 **County and District Councillor Reports.**

Refer attached report.

Bin collections - It was noted that the bin collection rounds are to change in September. All households will be notified.

Mobile Library consultation – It was noted that Cllr. Fish is making an individual response following consultation with residents. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will also make a formal response to object to the proposed cuts. Members were asked to forward their comments to the Clerk for inclusion in a letter.

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

There were no other matters to report.

7. **Planning**

7.1 **Planning Applications and decisions**

Planning applications for consideration

PF/22/1681 – The old Foundry, Church Street
No objections

RV/22/1689 – Leybourne, Norwich Road
No objections

PF/22/1708 – Shrublands Farm Camping Site, Craft Lane
Fully Support

Planning applications considered under planning protocol

There were none.

7.2 **Updates on live planning applications**

Broadgate Close Exception Housing Scheme – It was noted that planning consent has been granted and construction works have gone out to tender.

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

There were no other matters to report.

8. **Highways & Transportation**

8.1 **Traffic Regulation Orders**

Any traffic orders had been circulated to members.

8.2 **Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24**

Members were in receipt of a letter from NCC which was noted and no schemes were put forward for consideration.

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

There were no other highway matters to report.

9. **Finance & Regulatory Matters**

9.1 **Payments and Receipts & Financial Statement**

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

9.2 **Actuals Against Budget to date**

These were circulated and noted.

9.3 **Grounds Maintenance and Street Lighting contracts 2023-2026**

Members were in receipt of the tender documents from 2020-23 and it was **AGREED** to invite tenders for the next contract using the same documents

9.4 **Any other financial and regulatory matters** (for information only)

There were no other financial or regulatory matters to report.

10. **Playing Field & Allotments**

10.1 **Grounds Maintenance, Repairs & RoSPA Inspection**

Repairs & play bark - It was noted that with the assistance of lots of volunteers and Jeremy Youngman, the bark has been topped up. The Clerk has asked members if anyone is able to arrange for the metalwork on the springers to be painted. The reported loose bolt could not be found. CYFC have been advised that the rusted areas of the goalposts need to be rubbed down and painted.

Barrier to playing field – It was noted that some of the wooden posts have rotten through. An update is awaited from the Chairman who was contacting a local tradesman.

Overgrown area near village sign – The grounds maintenance contractor has been asked to cut this back to improve visibility.

Bus Shelters – Members were reminded that these need to be swept.

10.2 **New Play Equipment**

Cllr. Millman provided an update and a formal proposal to set up a charity will be brought to the September meeting.

10.3 **Maintenance of Parish Council owned garden areas**

It was noted that several volunteers have come forward to look after the gardens and barrel planters. It was **AGREED** that the risk assessment will be circulated to the volunteers, hi vis vests will be provided and the Clerk will check that the Parish Council insurance will cover them.

10.4 **Phone Kiosk / Heritage point**

It was noted that NVT are holding a public meeting.

10.5 **Cromer Youth Football Club**

It was noted that the hire agreement has been signed. Fixture and training dates are awaited.

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

Armed Forces Day 2023 – It was noted that Northrepps Royal British Legion have booked the playing field for 24 June 2023 and it was **AGREED** to waive the booking fee.

11. **Correspondence and other matters**

11.1 **Sally Bean's Bench**

It was **AGREED** to remove this from the agenda until such a time that an update is forthcoming.

11.2 **Defibrillator Training**

It was **AGREED** to ask Jason for a date in the autumn and to ask that he liaises with John Redmond who is happy to help.

11.3 **Correspondence received since 07 June 2022** (circulated)

Norfolk ALC

Newsletters

NNDC

Fire Safety Advice

Introduction from Community Connector

County Councillor Report August 2022

I know many Parish Councils don't meet in August but quite a few things have come up that are worth reporting to you. Hopefully the information is useful to you even if you are not meeting to discuss it.

Fire Safety

Norfolk's Fire Service has been criticised in an official report for its work on fire prevention. (<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/local-council/norfolk-fire-service-inadequate-prevention-inspector-report-9170828>). I know there have been a number of field fires locally and I was contacted by a concerned resident in Overstrand about the fire risk presented by scrub on neighbouring land. The landowner took action and cut back the scrub to create a fire-break but I also contacted the Fire Service to ask about their powers to force action if it was needed elsewhere. The Fire Service has only limited powers and those only apply to buildings, not to crops or haystacks etc. The Service is looking at ways they can involve the community in spotting and tackling fire risk and I will stay in touch with them (and you) on the issue. The challenge is only likely to get bigger in coming years. It is important to pay tribute to the work that the Fire Service did in response to the recent heatwave. You can read the incident reports I received from the County Council on my website <https://edmaxfield.org.uk/2022/07/27/heatwave-emergency-response-reports/>. Further reports will come to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee.

Cuts to the mobile library service

Norfolk County Council is consulting on cuts that would halve the budget of the mobile library service. This is an extract from their press release, with a link to the consultation: *Norfolk County Council has launched a consultation about changes to the rural mobile library service, as part of proposals to save £13 million.*

The six mobile libraries operated by Norfolk County Council stop outside a variety of places within local communities. There are currently 1,304 stops and time spent at each stop ranges from 10 minutes to an hour. The Council is asking for views, to help shape how the reduced funding should be used for the future delivery of the mobile library service and what should be considered when potentially reducing the number of routes.

Our consultation will explore:

What is important to people currently using or wanting to use the service

How we should prioritise where and for how long a mobile service happens

Whether we could introduce and make better use of digital services

Which partners or other services could work with us to improve the rural and mobile library service

Whether there are local needs and other factors that will help shape delivery

Initial proposals to save £13 million as part of a £60 million target for next year were considered by Cabinet on 4th July, and one of the proposed savings is to reduce the budget for the mobile library service by £200,000 - this is nearly half of the existing budget of £422,000.

The consultation opened on 22nd July and runs until 14th September. You can take part here: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/mobilelibraries>. The results of the public consultation will be presented to the County Council's cabinet in November 2022, and final decisions on the council's budget will be made in February 2023.

Trunch Post Office

Trunch Post Office is sadly closing at the end of August. Post Office Ltd is now consulting on how to replace the service. For more information, and a chance to give your views, follow this link: <https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/trunch-nr28-0pl-215136/>

20mph limits

As you will know from previous reports, I was disappointed that the Council's Community Road Safety Fund doesn't allow new 20mph limits to be funded. And you might remember from past reports that I have been pressing the Council to update its policy on speed limits for some time. The head of the Highways department has now confirmed to me that he is reviewing the Council's policy on 20mph limits and has promised to update me soon. I hope I will have something positive to report in the autumn.

Budget

At the last meeting of the County Council's Scrutiny Committee we started the job of looking at the administration's budget proposals. I compared years of cuts to boiling a frog in a pan of cold water; I asked whether we are really taking a joined-up strategic approach to what we do as a council; and I asked what are we doing to measure the long term impact of cuts on people in the county. I don't think I got particularly convincing answers to any of my questions but they are ones I will keep asking. You can watch my questions and the answer online here from one hour, four minutes in (I'm surprised that the chair let me take so long to ask the question but I am grateful that he did because I was trying to get at some big issues). If you want to watch the whole discussion it starts 12 minutes into the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vK21vYXYBA>

Special Educational Needs and Disability

At the same committee meeting, Daniel Elmer, the deputy Cabinet Member in charge of Children's Services, answered questions. Daniel is intelligent and thoughtful and his replies about delays to processing Education and Healthcare Plans (EHCPs) are the closest I have heard anyone from County Hall come to admitting that things are not working well. The council is improving its performance and their approach is now focused on measures to reduce the need for support through childhood by giving the right support as early as possible. I hope they succeed. You can watch Daniel's comments on the same video link as above – they start one hour and 32 minutes in.

Time and Tide Museum

Finally, something lighter. I am a member of the Museums Committee at County Hall. At the last meeting, the exhibition of retro computer games currently happening at Great Yarmouth's Time and Tide Museum was highlighted. It sounds great but I was particularly amused that it includes recreations of bedrooms since the 1970s. I'm looking forward to visiting to see if one of the exhibits reminds me of my own teenage bedroom, complete with ZX Spectrum, Airfix models and posters from Shoot! Magazine. 😊
<https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/time-tide/whats-on/retro-games>

Wishing you all a great summer!

Ed Maxfield

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Financial Matters:

Payments to be approved at August meeting

102382	Secret Gardens – Maintenance (July)	£ 185.00 tbc
102383	J Warner – Salary & Expenses (July)	£ 246.84
102384	Norfolk Pension Fund (July)	£ 86.18

Direct debit payments:

12/07/22	I.C.O. – Data protection registration	£ 35.00
20/07/22	NPower Street Light Electricity	£ 51.99

Receipts since last meeting:

Financial Statement:

Reconciled balances as at 24/07/2022	
Community Account	£26470.61
Business Premium Account	£ 6322.16
Business Premium Account	<u>£ 4780.84</u>
	£37573.61

Signed
Chairman *Responsible Financial Officer*

Dated

