

North Runcton Parish Council

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom due to the Coronavirus restrictions in place

Tuesday 10th November 2020 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R Morrish (Chair), Cllr K Fuller, Cllr L Gunn, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr K Williams, Cllr B Houchen, Cllr S Palmer, Cllr L Stevens

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis , Bor Cllr Gidney, Bor Cllr Nash and Bor Cllr Moriarty (to observe)

1. **To accept any apologies** – Cllr J Fuller – work commitments.
2. **Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda** - None

3. **County and Borough Councillors Matters**

Cllr Nash reported on the following:

At the recent West Winch Development group meeting (which took place via Zoom), there was little to report in terms of progress. Restrictions in place due to the pandemic have contributed to this. Cllr Nash thought it was useful to have County Cllr Kemp at the meeting.

Cllr Nash is concerned at the lack of time given in cabinet meetings for the opposition members to question the majority party. It is proposed to limit all questions to 30 minutes/per mtg and this could prevent proper scrutiny of agenda items. Cllr Gidney feels the reasoning behind this change is to ensure meetings do not go on too long as they are now held via Zoom and questions are not succinct and direct. The Parish Council concluded that time should be made available to properly debate issues, but that Borough Cllrs should work together to ensure that debates can be concluded in a reasonable time frame. The Clerk to write to the leader of the Council to reflect these concerns.

Cllr Gidney reported on the following:

The Borough has submitted its Town Improvement Bid and should hear if it has been successful by Christmas.

4. **Public Participation**

As a member of the public, Cllr Moriarty confirmed that it was important to ensure there was a good level of scrutiny in Borough debates – and that previously opposition Cllrs had submitted questions to Cabinet in advance of meetings and agreed to debate contentious items at the beginning of the meeting.

5. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th October 2020**

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. **Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 10th October and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting**

New Councillor training has been booked for Cllrs Palmer and Williams to take place in January.

7. **To hear reports taken from the SAM2 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs**

Cllr Stevens reported that evidence suggests that by having the SAM2 signs there has been an impact of reducing the speed of vehicles through the village.

8. **To hear an update on issues relating to School Lane**

The SDA has responded to an email sent by Cllr Morrish stating that the development should be completed by 23rd November 2020 and that upon completion of works and before opening members of the Parish Council will be invited to look at the site. They are currently waiting on some Land Registry documents to include in the confirmation agreement of use of School Lane. The SDA would like the opportunity to work together with the PC and residents to enhance the habitat and biodiversity of the local area, they have already dug a pond and planted wild flower seeds in one area.

The hole dug by Anglian Water is still open on School Lane.

9. To report on VMP management matters

The floor has been newly re-sealed during the October half term break. There has been no acknowledgment from Buttercups to the fee increase letter sent after the last meeting, although an offer of a contribution to be made towards the cost of the Broadband connection is being considered. The guttering on the School Lane side of the building is in need of re-attaching – Cllr Morrish will look at. The fixed price contract with British Gas ends on 13th November, the new contract with EDF will start then.

10. North Runcton and Hardwick Conservation Volunteers update

- The base for the shed which has been gifted to the group has been laid.
- The bulb planting session around the village took place with all the bulbs planted in a morning session.
- A work morning was held in Sheep's Course Wood in October.

11. Action Planning – to consider PC goals for 2020

A small discussion group has met consisting of Cllrs Morrish, Gunn, Palmer, Williams and Stevens who discussed ideas for the PC to develop ideas to encourage community involvement and Cllr Morrish proposed that the PC moves forward with the following;

- Carbon footprint education – what do individual households need to do to be ‘carbon neutral’?
- Promoting the reduction of plastic use
- Initiatives to reduce the amount of water used

This was seconded by Cllr Stevens and unanimously agreed.

The working group will meet on 23rd November to draft policies to address these issues.

12. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

None to report

13. Planning

Applications to consider – None

Decisions received from BCKLWN - None

Comments made to the BCKLWN – None

Cllr Morrish confirmed he had submitted the NRPC response to the recent Planning White Paper consultation portal.

14. To hear any other planning issues relevant to the Neighbourhood plan

At the West Winch Development group meeting it was stated that a planning application for the road is now not likely until 2022. However, trial holes have been dug along the proposed new road alignment.

15. Correspondence

Norfolk Association of Local Councils (Norfolk ALC) is becoming a co-operative organisation in order to enable member councils to be more involved and improve its governance. Cllr Morrish volunteered to initially be the representative for the PC, Cllr Gunn and Cllr Stevens said they would be happy to deputise.

16. Finance

a) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st Oct – 31st October 2020

	Opening Balance 01/10/20 £	Less Octt Chqs £	Less DD's £	Add income £	Closing Balance 31/10/20 £
NRPC Account	31,198.57	1,281.40	2.40	0.00	29,914.77
VMP Account	8,994.56	407.18	92.83	676.50	9,171.05
					39,085.82

The following payments were approved for payment.

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice £	VAT element - non recoverable £
<u>From VMP Account</u>				
05/11/20	R Curtis	Salary 6 th Oct – 5 th Nov 2020	152.88	0.00
13/09/20	JR Mann	Skimming front wall in VMP	348.00	0.00
26/10/20	Xtra Clean	Etch and Protect Wooden Floor	1,747.44	0.00
23/10/20	Mr Brights	Cleaning – Oct	194.74	0.00
			2,443.06	
<u>From NRPC Account</u>				
05/11/20	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Oct – 5 th Nov 2020	580.56	0.00
05/11/20	R Morrish	Concrete Supplies (NRHCV Shed base)	62.70	0.00
16/10/20	RBL	Poppy Wreath	25.00	0.00
10/11/20	NR PCC	Churchyard Grass cutting contribution	325.00	0.00
			993.26	

17. Public Participation – all members of the public welcome – 5 minute session

- Cllr Moriarty asked whether he could have a copy of the Green Homes Grant fund summary prepared by Cllr Stevens for the newsletter / website. Agreed.

18. Items for future agenda

19. Date of next meeting – 8th December 2020

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed 8th December 2020