

North Runcton Parish Council

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Meeting Place

Tuesday 8th October 2019 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R Morrish (Chair), Cllr L Stevens, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr L Gunn, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr K Longhurst, Cllr L Davies

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis - 6 members of the public, Bor. Cllr Peter Gidney, Bor. Cllr Simon Nash

1. Apologies – Cllr B Houchen, Cllr K Fuller

2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda

Cllr J Fuller – Item 8

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters

- Bor. Cllr Peter Gidney reported on the following;
 - The Borough Council is working on various projects including the Kings Lynn High Street – HAZ, (Heritage Action Zone), particularly looking at the spaces above shops. There are 20 houses planned for Chapel Street. Grants obtained through match funding should be considered carefully to ensure best value is achieved. There is concern that with so many projects on going the Borough Council should ensure there are enough staff in place to have the capacity to see them through.
 - Redevelopment plans of Hunstanton are also being looked at, the redevelopment of the library, new public toilets and housing. There will be an application for affordable housing on the seafront car park site, much of the regeneration is being worked on with input from Wayne Hemingway.
 - There is no update on the transport strategy. Feedback from the stakeholders meeting is that the strategy is not ambitious enough.
- Bor. Cllr Simon Nash reported on the following;
 - The Toll House application (corner of New Road and A47) is currently subject to appeal.
 - Land at the Morston Point site continues to be levelled, the contents of the soil should be closely monitored, Bor. Cllr Gidney said he would follow this up with the Environment Agency.
 - There has been recent criminal activity at the Garage Lane industrial estate in West Winch. Cllr Yallop reported several incidents of suspicious vehicles in the village late at night, the police were informed and are aware of a white transit van which has been seen in North Runcton.

4. Public Participation – all members of the public welcome – 10 minute session

- A resident voiced concern about farm vehicles parking on Illington Lane, despite it being a restricted byway. Cllr Stevens said he had passed a message on to the Towlers regarding their farm vehicles.
- The sign on the finger post is nearly falling off, Clerk to report to the Footpath Officer at County Hall failing any action from this the resident said he would put in 2 new screws and fix.
- Upcoming PCC events -
 - Churchyard clear up – Saturday 12th October.
 - Harvest Supper – 23rd October
 - Remembrance Service 10th November at West Winch and service at North Runcton memorial on 11th – Cllr Stevens will lay the wreath at West Winch on 10th November on behalf of the PC.
 - Marham Wives Choir singing in Church – 23rd November

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2019

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

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

- Submission has been made to Norfolk ALC for the LCAS Foundation award – awaiting feedback from the County Officer.
- Councillors considered the options for the Christmas tree to be planted on the Green, the Abies Fraseri was chosen, Cllr Morrish to purchase and arrange planting.

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

- Cllr Stevens reported on data showing the weekly volumes of traffic from August 2017 – September 2019. There have been fluctuations on all routes - Rectory Lane east bound and west bound and New Road south bound and north bound.
- The speed watch group – has carried out its first session, 5 drivers will be receiving letters regarding their speed as being between 36 and 47mph. Cllr Stevens said the rota will be worked out with volunteers so that different sites are monitored at different times of day.

8. To hear an update on arrangements regarding the SDA and School Lane

Resurfacing work for School Lane is planned to take place on 21st and 22nd at the October by Supreme Surfacing. The contractor has been asked to put up a sign informing residents when work will begin and Cllr Longhurst offered to put a note through the doors of School Lane residents.

9. To report on VMP management matters

To review Buttercups Fees

- The Clerk presented an estimate of costs and income for 19/20 which projects a balance to carry forward at the end of the financial year of £2,910. Electricity costs are estimated to decrease with the lower tariff rates (which start in October), but it is not possible at present to calculate how much consumption will drop with the new heating system. With this in mind Cllr Morrish proposed not to increase fees at present, but to review in January for the new financial year, this was seconded by Cllr Stevens and the PC unanimously agreed.
- The following were noted and discussed -
 - The gap between Buttercups fees and other hirers fees is now £2 (being £5.50 and £7.50 respectively).
 - While the PC is sympathetic to the financial situation of the pre-school and the importance of pre-school education in the village, it was noted that only a small proportion of children from the village attend the setting at present, however this could change.
 - The PC is contributing to the running of the VMP, with £1,900 loan repayment per year, no recharge being made for the insurance relating to the Hall, around £300. The capital expenditure for the new heating system has been met by the PC reserves; however this is largely made up of the reclaimed VAT on expenditure on the Hall renovations.
 - The estimated expenditure includes an allocation for pest control. Following damage done by mice at the Hall, a pest control company was called in at a cost of £45 per visit for 3 visits. This appears to have the situation under control. The PC decided not to take up a long term plan for 8 visits over a year to manage traps. This will be monitored and reviewed by the PC.

To confirm a date for the next fundraising event

- This has been suggested for 10th January, however, waiting to hear back from the previous quiz master to confirm a date.
- Cllr Morrish suggested holding winter talks in the VMP which everyone thought was a good idea, suggestions for topics included ornithology and garden wildlife.
- AMR will install speed controllers to the fans in the Hall on 21st October.

10. To hear an update on the Wildlife in Common project

- The event on 28th September was successful, sycamore was cleared from Sheeps Course Wood. It has been suggested to put some signage up to inform people of the work being done, Cllr Stevens to look into this. Cllr Morrish is obtaining quotes to remove some trees. The next work day will be 19th October.
- Cllr Morrish has spoken to Julian Fuller regarding the pot holes along Love Lane, there is no evidence of rubble being dumped in the holes now. He will give further consideration to hedge planting. The pigs will be on the adjoining field until Christmas.
- Clay Pit Update – all clay has now been removed and the area is now being remediated.
- The PC will hold their annual bulb planting event on 26th October.

11. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

- The junction at the end of Rectory Lane has been repainted.
- Clerk has reported the potholes at the junction of Cedar Grove and outside number 20 New Road.

12. Planning

- a) Any applications to consider
None
- b) Decisions received from BCKLWN
None
- c) Comments made to the BCKLWN
None

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

- The Borough Council have reviewed housing need targets for West Norfolk in line with new government guidance. They calculate a need for 555 dwellings a year (ie 11,100 new homes in the period 2016-2036). They calculate they already have enough committed development (permission/allocated land etc) to meet this target. North Runcton residents should note that the Borough plans assume completion of 2,920 new houses in the West Winch growth area by 2036 (790 by 2025/26). Borough officers presently consider that even if 700 new dwellings proposed a Knights Hill are delayed – they still have sufficient supply to meet the government requirements in this planning period.
- Transport Strategy – the PC is disappointed in policy for cycle and pedestrians and has concerns on how potential projects can be funded and resourced, draft comments to be circulated to all Councillors for submission.

14. Correspondence

- Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – areas of interest to North Runcton, the quarry on the A47 will be extended and the landfill site at Blackborough End will reopen. Sand and Gravel extraction at Tottenhill, Shouldham, South Runcton, Stow Bardolph and Bawsey may have implications for traffic but they often use conveyors. Should monitor – but PC decided not to make any comments now.
- A resident has emailed to ask if there are any areas of land where he can carry out metal detecting, Clerk to respond and say that the PC does not own much land in the village, and the rights holders would need to be consulted about the commons.

15. Finance**a) To hear an update on income and expenditure to 30th September 2019 (half year)**

The Clerk reported that against a full year expenditure budget of £16,022, £7,738 has been spent therefore under 50% and no concerns.

b) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st Aug – 30th Sept 2019

	Opening Balance 01/08/19 £	Less Aug/ Sept Chqs £	Less DD's £	Add income £	Closing Balance 31/09/19 £
NRPC Account	39,505.93	9,986.14	0.00	5,056.55	34,576.34
VMP Account	1,652.70	6,921.56	2,824.16	8,721.56	628.54
					35,204.88

c) The following payments were considered for approval;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice	VAT element - non recoverable
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			£	£
<u>From VMP Account</u>				
05/10/19	R Curtis	Salary 6 th Sept – 5 th Oct 2019	143.00	0.00
05/10/19	R Curtis	Hall Cleaning – 10/09, 18/09, 25/09, 02/10	88.00	0.00
05/10/19	R Curtis	VMP Expenses	22.57	0.00
			253.57	
<u>From NRPC Account</u>				
25/09/19	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit Fee	360.00	0.00
27/09/19	NALC	LCAS Foundation Level Fee	50.00	0.00
05/10/19	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Sept – 5 th Oct 19	544.33	0.00
07/10/19	Royal BL	Poppy Wreath	25.00	0.00
08/10/19	R Morrish	Bulbs	80.72	0.00
			1,060.05	

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

17. Items for future agenda

January – Review Buttercups fees

18. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 12th November

Future meeting dates – 10th December, 14th January 2020

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed 12th November 2019