

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 12th March 2024 - 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R Morrish – Chaired the meeting, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr L Gunn, Cllr K Williams, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr S Palmer, Cllr J Braybrook

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis and 4 members of the public

The Parish Council noted the sad passing of Margaret Sutcliffe who was an active member of the Art Club and other groups in the village and send condolences to her family.

1. To accept any apologies – Cllr J Braybrook, Cllr B Houchen

2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda - None

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Cllr Moriarty reported that following the recent meetings with Parish Council Chairs the Borough are offering some new services to Parish Councils. There will be a dedicated general enquiry email to contact the Borough with enquiries. Advice will be available on matters such as governance issues, freedom of information, data protection and a complaint handling workshop.

Some changes to planning are imminent in that an Extension of Time will no longer be given on applications; this is a central government initiative to encourage agents to submit applications correctly the first time. Cllr Moriarty will be hosting some planning update sessions in the summer for Councillors and Clerks.

4. Public Participation –

The Parish Council is invited to look at the new hall of worship in New Road. A date is to be arranged.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th February 2024

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 13th February 24 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting

- Clerk has ordered the paint for the telephone kiosk.
- Feedback from visit to Cotessey – Cllrs Gunn, Morrish and Palmer went on the trip, it was interesting to see what goes into the recycling bins and how much of it is unsuitable for recycling. Cllr Morrish will summarise and submit a piece for the next PC newsletter.
- Further to a query raised last September regarding a planning application for storage of scaffolding equipment at Church Farm, the PC have reviewed the details of the easement between NRPC and the Church Farm estate in relation to School Lane. Third party legal advice has been sought. The PC have concluded that at present there will not be benefit from altering the existing legal document, but a letter has been sent to the Church Farm estate to record the current situation and to reiterate the terms of the original agreement.

7. To hear an update on Hopes Charity Land

Anna Gunn a trustee of the Charity explained to the meeting that NORSE wants to buy a small area of land owned by Hopes Charity to incorporate into the West Winch Growth Area to incorporate the new road scheme. The remainder of the land will be used to plant woodland and meadow and NORSE would pay Hopes Charity a rent of £150 per year. However there is an issue with the plans submitted as the trees go on the land owned by the Scouts and restricts access to their hut. Trustees feel that the land is only commercially viable as part of a bigger area and there is concern that the land has been part of the village since 1615 and to sell it feels wrong and it would be better used for the benefit of the community. In principle the PC agreed that if the opportunity to rent the land from Hopes Charity for £150 per year was an

option, Councillors would broadly support this. There could also be benefits from selling off Biodiversity Net Gain.

8. To consider biodiversity and action planning within the Parish

Cllr Gunn has drafted a policy and sent to the working party for their comments. The group will meet to discuss after Easter.

9. To hear any reports from the SAM 2 sign

Cllr Braybrook has fitted the bracket to the new post on Rectory Lane, so this location is now operational again. There have been speeds recorded as high as 65mph on Rectory Lane. 25% of vehicles were travelling over 39mph.

10. To report on VMP management matters

- The PV Panels have been installed and working well.
- Cllr Morrish has found no evidence of mice in the building.

11. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update

A litter pick has been organised for 7th April. Daffodils on the Green will be monitored for deadheading. Cllr Gunn is going to split and spread the clumps of snowdrops on Rectory Lane. Cllr Morrish and Cllr Palmer are looking at getting a survey done of Sheeps Course Wood.

12. Action Planning – to consider PC events/projects for 2024

22nd February talk on Houghton Hall Gardens was successful and well attended.

28th March – Local Heritage Assets, attended by the RRT to provide food afterwards. People attending are encouraged to bring any local artefacts they may have and people will also be asked if they have any local knowledge if they could be interviewed. Cllr Morrish has spoken with an expert who can help with providing a recording device and guidance on the necessary Data Protection paperwork required.

12th April – quiz night, ticket price per person to be £5. This will enable food and drink costs to be covered. A flyer needs to be produced and distributed to advertise these events.

13. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

- There are potholes on the Rectory Lane/New Road junction and on the Twisty Twiney – Cllr Palmer to take some photos and the Clerk to report.
- A resident reported some drainage issues on Cedar Grove in the recent heavy rain.
- The ongoing problem of moss on the pavement on the corner of Cedar Grove was raised again – Clerk to speak to Karl Rands – NCC Highways.

14. Planning

- a) Applications Considered – 24/00236/F - Newlands 23 The Green North Runcton King's Lynn Norfolk PE33 0RB, Erection of single-storey rear extension, front porch, and roof replacement (with raised pitch), installation of front dormer windows / rooflight(s), rendering external walls, and replacing external windows / doors.

Comment to be submitted - North Runcton Parish Council has no objection to the scheme but hope that some hedge, tree or shrub planting will be included in the scheme to soften the appearance. This is especially on the boundaries facing Church Green – the setting for our Grade I listed church.

- b) Comments made to BCKLWN - None

- c) Decisions from the Borough Council –

23/01533/F – Kings Lynn Caravan and Camping Park, New Road, PE33 0RA – Location of 5 Timber Log Cabins of an Accessible and Amenable occupancy – Application Permitted

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

The Local Plan review re-opens on 26th March 24, the PC agreed for Cllr Morrish to speak.

16. Correspondence

Lorraine Gore – Borough Council Chief Executive will retire at the end of August.

17. Finance

a) To agree electricity contract prices

The Clerk had obtained a price from 3 suppliers and the cheapest was a renewal with British Gas. Councillors agreed to go with this deal unless the broker which the Clerk has been dealing with comes back with a cheaper price the next day. A feed in tariff for the PV panels can be agreed with British Gas for 15p per kWh if the PC remains a customer of British Gas for its electricity supply.

Clerks Note: The broker prices were received on Wednesday 13th March, these were higher than the British Gas renewal. So the Clerk fixed a deal with British Gas for 2 years and made application for a Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) with British Gas.

b) Following the Clerks recent appraisal Cllr Gunn proposed that her pay is increased by one increment to Spinal Column Point 15. This was unanimously agreed by Councillors.

c) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st to 29th February 2024

	Opening Balance 01/02/24	Less Exp	Add Income	Closing Balance 29/02/24
NRPC Account	45,092.71	798.92	0.00	44,293.79
VMP Account	16,548.06	9,476.90	104.00	7,175.16
				51,468.95

The following amounts were approved for payment;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice £	VAT element - non recoverable £
VMP				
05/03/24	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – Mar 24	184.73	0.00
05/03/24	R Curtis	Expenses	20.84	0.00
12/02/24	Mr Brights	Cleaning – Feb 24	194.74	0.00
26/02/24	4 Way	PV Panels	8,802.54	0.00
			9,202.85	
NRPC				
05/03/24	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – Mar 24	703.34	0.00
05/03/24	R Curtis	Expenses inc Phone Box Paint	75.13	0.00
09/03/24	R Morrish	Expenses	18.00	0.00
			796.47	

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

- Mr Childs said he had cleared the path of weeds along Old Hall Walk, the PC thanked him for doing this
- It was noted that a road sweeper had not visited the village for some time – Clerk to make a request at the Borough Council.

19. Items for future agenda –

To review a first draft of the biodiversity policy

20. Dates of next meetings - 9th April 2024, 14th May and 21st May Annual Residents Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed 9th April 2024