

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 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, Cllr J Fuller

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis, Bor. Cllr Moriarty, Olivia Morris

- 1. To accept any apologies – Bor. Cllrs Gidney and Nash**
- 2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda – None**

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Bor. Cllr Nash sent the following email

One thing that I would like to mention following our most recent Corporate Performance Panel (CPP) meeting is the Council's 'Ask Lily' service. The Council's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which is a scoring system by which Council services can in part be assessed, showed a reduction in the number of enquiries to 'Ask Lily'. 'Ask Lily' is intended to be a support tool as a means to combat loneliness and isolation. The service can be found on the Council's website and most likely needs publicising in order to make people aware. Despite the lockdown being slowly eased, there are still many people who feel isolated and in some cases quite scared and 'Ask Lily' may be of service to them.

At West Winch and Middleton Parish Council meetings, I have also reiterated my willingness to speak to anyone who may just need a chat. As well as offering support and guidance I have had a couple of rants which is okay, if it makes someone feel better then my landline number is available.

The powers above have decided that councillors' questions at full Council will be limited in time. Anyone who watched Cabinet Members questions last week can be forgiven if they found it unfit for purpose. The removal of councillors' ability to ask supplementary questions is a particularly detrimental attack on scrutiny and accountability. Apparently, the situation will be assessed and evaluated at a later date. Naturally, I voted against this move. For those interested, the vote and those voting are recorded on the YouTube broadcast of last Thursday's Full Council Meeting.

4. Public Participation

A query regarding the venue for the Farmers Market which is being held at the Corn Exchange and why is it not being held outdoors at the Saturday Market. Lack of advertising, failed to promote it properly.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2021

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 9th March 2021 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting.

Nothing to report that is not included on the agenda.

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

Traffic numbers are still down due to Covid travel restrictions in force, therefore data is not an accurate assessment of numbers. Two speed watch sessions have been held, a nil return on New Road and 5 vehicles logged as exceeding the limit on Rectory Lane.

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

The SDA site is now in use for selected church members. The agreement for the use of School Lane is still not signed off despite the PC pressing for a resolution for over 2 years. The PC discussed the fact that the site is now in use without some relevant planning variations having consent. Issues included –

resident's use of the leisure facilities, change of use of land to the south of the site, construction and use of the new entrance and should reference now be made that no traffic uses School Lane for access. It was agreed that the planning officer at the Borough Council should be made aware of this.

9. To report on VMP management matters

- The Hall is booked for hire in July for a wedding reception and the party would like a BBQ in the courtyard, Clerk to go back and confirm what sort of BBQ this is and carry out a risk assessment of the area to be used.
- The Clerk confirmed Mr Brights will clean the VMP on the 7th May (Buttercups will not hold a session that day) after use as a polling station on the 6th.
- EDF bill for usage every 6 months, with the first bill due at the beginning of May.

10. North Runcton and Hardwick Conservation Volunteers update

- The group have been relatively inactive due to Covid restrictions. It is hope that a litter pick can take place at the end of April and work will be planned for Sheeps Course Wood.
- It was noted that many owners let their dogs off the lead on the Common and other areas where they should be controlled. After discussion Cllr Morrish said he would obtain a price for some vinyl sticker signage. This should also be backed up with general education of dog owners via the Parish magazine.
- An informal layby has formed near to the clay pit on Setch Road and it is being used to dump rubbish. It was suggested that with Highways permission it should be filled with soil, however it was noted that large lorries use it as a passing place and if filled would probably be damaged and cut out by vehicles again.

11. Action Planning – to consider PC goals for 2020

- The Low Carbon Group have produced their third newsletter with paper copies of the first 2 being delivered, and met with a positive response.
- Both NALC and Giki have asked to use them in their promotion work.
- One resident has questioned the carbon footprint of printing the newsletters, but it is believed to be minimal and the PC wishes to reach the largest number of people possible and it is thought that door to door delivery is the only way to achieve this.
- A resident raised the question of food waste collections as during the pandemic they were suspended by the Borough Council for operative safety reasons. As Bor. Cllr Moriarty was present at the meeting he was asked if he knew the position, and he said they would be re-instated but he did not know when.
- The 4th newsletter will focus on gardening. The Low Carbon Group suggested including a piece to encourage residents to support 'No Mow May', this would mean not cutting lawns to give way to natural habitats for pollinators. It was agreed that if the PC is encouraging residents to do this, then areas which are cut by CGM should also be maintained in the same way. However, it was agreed that some areas of the Green would need to be kept short for parking areas. Cllr Morrish offered to sketch up a plan of cutting area for further consideration.

12. To discuss a post lockdown Village social event

Councillors thought this was a good idea and a potential date of 3rd July was agreed.

13. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

New entrance to the Clay Pit on Setch road has been constructed.

14. Planning

Applications to consider –

21/00347/F - In fill front elevation recess and project with a single storey flat roof porch and cloak room at Fairholme 54 Common Lane North Runcton King's Lynn Norfolk PE33 ORF

The Parish Council have some concerns about the design of this extension on the prominent southern frontage. Agreed to send the following comment;

It is not clear on the drawings, but the bungalow has a large eave. Would it not be possible to fit the whole structure under the eave (and therefore under the existing roof) and avoid the need for the protruding flat roof extension? It would be a simpler and neater construction.

Decisions received from BCKLWN – None

Comments made to the BCKLWN – None

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

Nothing to report

16. Correspondence

- Food waste query – dealt with in item 11.
- Considerable damage to the grass areas opposite the first two cul-de-sacs along Chequers Lane, appear to have been done by refuse collection trucks and are so deep that they will not "self repair". Question if the PC will ask for compensation. A Councillor who lives in this area reported that the refuse lorry has very little room to manoeuvre and even if the area was repaired it would soon be damaged again.
- Suggestion from a resident that signage could be used to try and stop vehicles parking on pavements. It was noted that this may soon become an offence and signage would have little impact on drivers decisions on where to park. Clerk to ask the resident if there is a specific area where the issue is particularly problematic.

17. Finance

a) To hear an update of income and expenditure to 31st March 2021

- The NRPC accounts show a surplus of £4,412.57 for the year. It had been discussed in the past to purchase a bench for the green which would be situated against the churchyard wall, to the right of the gate. This was proposed by Cllr Morrish and seconded by Cllr K Fuller and all agreed. Details of a suggested bench will be circulated for Councillors to approve. Cost is thought to be around £1,000.
- The balance in the account for the VMP is £16,376.35, the PC has benefitted from several Covid grants this year which has increased the amount remaining for the end of the year.

b) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st March – 31st March 2021

| | Opening Balance | | Less Mar Chqs | Less DD's | Add income | Closing Balance | |
|--------------|-----------------|---|---------------|-----------|------------|------------------|---|
| | 01/03/21 | £ | £ | £ | £ | 31/03/21 | £ |
| NRPC Account | 26,867.76 | | 1,284.22 | 2.40 | 250.67 | 25,831.81 | |
| VMP Account | 16,146.87 | | 350.24 | 2,033.13 | 2,096.00 | 15,859.50 | |
| | | | | | | 41,691.31 | |

The following payments were approved for payment.

| Date | Supplier | Description of Service | Amount on Invoice | VAT element - non recoverable |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>From VMP Account</i> | | | | |
| 05/04/21 | R Curtis | Salary 6 th Mar – 5 th April 2021 | 152.88 | 0.00 |
| 05/03/21 | Mr Brights | Cleaning | 194.74 | 0.00 |
| | | | 347.62 | |

From NRPC Account

| | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|--|-----------------|------|
| 05/04/21 | R Curtis | Clerks Salary 6 th Mar – 5 th April 2021 | 586.56 | 0.00 |
| 31/03/21 | NALC | Annual Subscription | 187.47 | 0.00 |
| 23/02/21 | Supreme Surfacing | School Lane Pot Holes | 600.00 | 0.00 |
| 13/04/21 | BHIB | Insurance Policy – 1/06/21 – 31/05/22 | 694.94 | 0.00 |
| | | | 2,068.97 | |

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

- The Buttercups requested that the PC agree to them holding an end of term event on the Green, the PC agreed this in principle but would need some more information.

- After being approached by several Hardwick residents, Cllr Houchen put forward the idea of another dog bin at the Hardwick Common as the present one is getting filled up quickly. It is unclear if positioning of another bin at the south end would be agreed by the Borough Council, Cllr J Fuller also said if cattle are grazed on there they could damage the bin. It was then suggested that a larger bin could be purchased to replace the original bin near Beveridge Way. Despite discussion, no agreement was reached on the matter. Clerk to confirm a potential new position with the Borough Council, it was noted that cost per empty per bin is £1.51 per week.

- Cllr Palmer mentioned the large oak tree which has been felled at the campsite, a resident has contacted him regarding this. Cllr Yallop confirmed that it will be replaced with a similar type tree.

20. Items for future agenda

None raised at the meeting

21. Date of next meeting – 4th May 2021 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council), 8th June 2021

Review Annual Residents Meeting subject to coronavirus restrictions.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed 4th May 2021