

North Runcton Parish Council

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Meeting Place, in the courtyard area with social distancing measures in place

Tuesday 8th June 2021 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R Morrish (Chair), Cllr K Fuller , Cllr J Fuller, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr B Houchen, Cllr L Stevens

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis - 19 members of the public and County Cllr Moriarty, Bor Cllr Gidney and Bor Cllr Nash

1. To confirm that all persons present at the meeting are happy with the arrangements in place to minimise their exposure to COVID-19

All those present confirmed they were happy with the procedures in place.

2. Apologies

Cllr S Palmer, Cllr K Stevens, Cllr L Gunn

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

None

4. County and Borough Councillors Matters

- County Cllr Moriarty introduced himself as being new elected and reported on the following:

The Rangers will re-commence their work in Parishes in August

The Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance are preparing a new flood strategy for the County and there may be funding available for flood mitigation works. Parishes should note.

NCC have reduced their grass verge cutting and are ‘maintaining a balance for biodiversity and road safety’.

A motion has been passed at County to help with the campaign to rebuild the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

An EGM was held at County for tender for the Western Relief Road.

If a member of the public collects litter, they can collect 3 bags of waste to take to the tip, cans and glass should be separated for recycling. You are meant to notify them first.

21st June is the date when food waste will be collected again.

Cllr Morrish thanked Cllr Moriarty for attending the meeting and reporting on County matters and hoped that this would be a regular contribution.

- Bor Cllr Peter Gidney reported on the following;

There was a change of leadership at the Borough, and new portfolio holders.

The Borough Council has been awarded a towns fund grant of £25 million.

There is a holding objection on the Hopkins Homes site due to the drainage strategy.

- Bor Cllr Simon Nash reported on the following;

Still awaiting a date to visit the recycling centre at Norwich.

A change in planning legislation means that if a garden is in disrepair, a section 215 notice can be invoked to clear it up.

5. Public Participation

- A resident asked what the PC mowing strategy was on Church Green and along Rectory Lane. Cllr Morrish noted the bulb planting edge areas of some 6 years are not mown until the bulbs have died down, and this year due to the late spring they have been left for longer. It was established that these areas were not the concern. He explained that at the April meeting the PC agreed to try out ‘No-Mow May’, a nationwide initiative to support pollinating insects and contribute to a low-carbon approach to management. Parking areas, paths and edges had been cut but other areas were left for 10 days before a third party had cut them without the knowledge of the PC. Several members of the public present, said they were unhappy with the look of the Green as it seemed untidy and not well kept. There was some discussion as to whether there could be a compromise but the overwhelming public feeling of those present at the meeting was that they wanted the grass kept short. To be discussed in item 12.

- A resident asked if the ‘TROD’ could be reinstated along Rectory Lane. This is an informal path beside the road – one had been present about 30 years ago. Cllr Moriarty said that there could be some funding available from the Members Fund if the job required more attention than just cutting back Funding was normally 50:50 with the Parish. Cllrs agreed to look into it – although it was recognised that the road appears to have been widened in the intervening period and there would simply not be room to fit a TROD in some sections.
- 6. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th May 2021**
The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.
- 7. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 4th May and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month’s meeting**
The Clerk had nothing to report that wasn’t already mentioned on the agenda.
- 8. To hear reports taken from the SAM2 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs**
Cllr Stevens presented his monthly report. Three years of data has now been recorded with the percentage of motorists speeding has decreased. Four speedwatch sessions have been held since May and the general trend is that speeds are coming down. Cllr J Fuller said that the machine registered a speed in excess of his vehicle speedometer recently. Cllr Stevens will contact Westcotec to get the unit recalibrated.
- 9. To hear an update on arrangements regarding the SDA and School Lane**
- The hole on School Lane left by Anglian Water has been refilled.
 - The SDA and PC solicitor are close to finalising the agreement ensuring no access to the SDA site along School Lane, however there will be a right of access to 39 The Green.
 - Although the SDA have begun operating on the site, it is understood that variations to the planning application will be submitted soon.
- 10. To report on VMP management matters**
- The Buttercups have asked if the Art Group intend to come back to use the Hall in their Wednesday and Thursday afternoon sessions as they would ideally like to extend their session times. It was confirmed that the Club still intend to return when COVID restrictions allow. Councillors agreed that the Hall is a community facility for everyone to use and that the Art Club slots should be held for them.
- 11. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update**
- A session was held to tidy saplings previously planted in Sheep’s Course Wood. A more detailed survey of the wood has been commenced. Anyone interested in coming along should make contact through the PC.
 - Thanks was given to Mr Clare for making the owl box.
- 12. Action Planning – to consider PC events/projects for 2021**
- **Planning for the Social Event on 3rd July**
As it looks unlikely restrictions will be completely lifted on 21st June, the event for 3rd July will be confirmed closer to the time.
 - **Proposed Bench**
There has been mixed views on the type, position and placement of the bench on the Green – which is part of North Runcton Common. Cllr J Fuller said the rules are not clear about placing a bench on grazing common. There are four rights holders (one being the Parish Council), and two of them have indicated they were not in favour. As the Common Reeve and other rights holder, Cllr J Fuller felt he should support the majority. It was therefore agreed not to proceed with this idea.
 - **‘Ebb and Flow’ Art Project**
A piece of art will be produced by the artist Miranda Creswell as part of the ‘Ebb and Flow’ project and will be donated to North Runcton. The project celebrates local history in relation to rivers and wetlands. The project has been hampered by Covid – but the artwork has been produced. It was hoped that it could be unveiled on the 3rd July, but this may have to be re thought.

- **Low Carbon Group Update**

- There has been a mixed reaction to the production and distribution of paper copies of the newsletters. Some residents like them and others are concerned that printing is not very 'low carbon'. Cllr Morrish said that they cost 15p each to print and confirmed they are on recyclable paper. They are the NRPC response to the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) initiative, and NALC have asked to use them for wider circulation across the County. The working group are preparing further issues.

Review mowing regimes

Cllr Morrish noted that 'No-Mow May' had been unanimously proposed by the PC as an experiment and that it was always the intention to cut the Green in June as Buttercups had requested to use it for a 'sports day'. However, given the comments from some residents, Cllr J Fuller proposed the PC return to regular cutting and leaving no areas for wildflowers. This was seconded by Cllr Yallop. This was supported 4:2 by the Cllrs present. As in previous years, the bulb planted margins will be cut back as the bulbs die down. The PC contractors will be instructed.

13. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

- The Clerk to report a large pothole at the junction of New Road and Cedar Grove.

14. Planning

- a) Any applications to consider –

21/00659/F | Replacement porch and alterations to front elevation | Willow Bank 20 Common Lane – no comment

21/00979/F - Extension and Loft Conversion - Cassiobury 31 The Green North Runcton King's Lynn Norfolk PE33 0RB – no comment

21/00967/F - Proposed installation of 2 No. Jet Wash bays including 2.7m high solid screens, 2 No. Jet Wash cabinets and concrete base slab - details to be circulated to Councillors – comment to be confirmed

21/00970/F - REMOVAL OR VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF PLANNING PERMISSION

20/01702/F: Proposed single storey side extension, conversion of existing double garage and construction of detached double carport Southfork Manor 60 Common Lane – details to be circulated to Councillors - comment to be confirmed

- b) Decisions received from BCKLWN – none
 c) Comments made to the BCKLWN - None

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

The Borough Council are holding briefing sessions on the next stage of the Local Plan.

16. Correspondence

Two items of correspondence were received regarding mowing of the Green and placement of the bench. Councillors had seen a copy of one and the other was read out by the Clerk. These matters have been discussed in public participation.

17. Finance

- a) To agree responses to Section 1 of the annual external audit form
 The Clerk read out the statements and the responses were all 'yes'
- b) To approve the accounting statements in Section 2 of the annual external audit form
 These were agreed and the carried forward balance as at 31st March 2021 is £41,691.
- c) **To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st May – 31st May 2021**

	Opening Balance		Less Dec		Less DD's	Add income	Closing Balance	
	29/04/21	£	Chqs	£	£	£	31/01/20	£
NRPC Account	40,090.44		586.56		2.40	6,432.95		45,934.43
VMP Account	23,716.77		278.88		133.05	150.00		23,454.84
								69,389.27

The following payments were considered for approval;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice £	VAT element - non recoverable £
<i>From VMP Account</i>				
05/06/21	R Curtis	Salary 6 th May – 5 th June 21	152.88	0.00
07/05/21	Mr Brights	Hall Cleaning Apr/May	194.74	0.00
07/06/21	Mr Brights	Hall Cleaning June	194.74	0.00
			542.36	
<i>From NRPC Account</i>				
05/06/21	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th May 20 – 5 th June 21	586.56	0.00
08/06/21	R Curtis	Expenses	66.96	0.00
10/05/21	CGM	Mowing – Apr 21	60.12	0.00
01/02/21	A Clare	Materials for Owl Box	145.05	0.00
23/05/21	W Border	Internal Audit Work	60.00	0.00
			918.69	

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

- One resident expressed the view that it was disappointing that parishioners did not support the PC's new grass cutting scheme.
- Cllr Morrish congratulated Lilian Fisher on her fundraising, she said she hoped to raise at least £700.
- The Church warden reported that after a structural survey on the Church tower the spire has been taken down for safety reasons. The new toilet project continues with £7,700 being awarded from a charitable trust, work to possibly start in the autumn.

19. Items for future agenda

Nothing at present.

20. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 13th July, no meeting held in August

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

Signed 13th July 2021