

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 13th July 2021 7.45pm

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

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 K Williams

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

Cllr J Fuller – Item 9

4. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Cllr Nash gave some updates on matters which he is bringing to the corporate performance panel.

There is to be further discussion at the Borough as to how the £25 million awarded for the Town Deal will be spent.

The KLIC is now purely used as offices and no longer offers the facilities of an innovation centre.

Cllr Moriarty will be attending a meeting at County Council regarding ‘Greenways to Greenspaces: Green Travel and Green Networks along our Highways Corridors’. Aiming to improve green networks for travel and the environment. Policies on verge management will be discussed to encourage wildflower habitats by reducing the frequency of verge cutting.

Cllr Moriarty also presented a report on flood incidents in North Runcton, with the recommendation that property owners should protect their buildings through flood protection measures and NCC will advise on grants which may be available.

5. Public Participation

- There has been a bonfire on Perrys farm smouldering for 2 weeks. It has been reported to the Borough Council – Clerk to also report.
- It is believed the domestic dwelling on the SDA site may no longer be used as a residence for a site manager and could become a holiday let. (See item 9)
- A resident asked for clarification as to why an area of land outside 4 Common Lane was not cut by the contractor employed by the PC. There has not previously been such an arrangement. Cllrs were not clear why. The PC do not own this part of the common. Cllr Morrish said he would speak to Peter Lemon (who is the owner).

6. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th June 2021

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

7. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 8th June 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. The data shows there has been a drop in the traffic count from this time last year, but this could be an anomaly. The speedwatch group recorded 8 vehicles speeding at a recent session on New Road.

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

A deed has been negotiated between solicitors working for North Runcton Parish Council (NRPC) and the Seventh-Day Adventist Association Limited (SDA) respectively, regarding future use of School Lane for access to the SDA land holding. The SDA will release any existing right of access that they may have formally had to their land over the section of School Lane owned by NRPC. NRPC will grant access to the existing dwelling for domestic use only. The deed will last for 99 years.

The effect of the deed is to limit any future traffic that might wish to access the SDA site from School Lane and to ensure that the new southern access from the Setch/Blackborough End Road is used for the new camp site and facilities. The Council voted to accept the deed as drafted/agreed by the solicitors, subject to the NRPC solicitor confirming the situation regarding two queries that were raised in regards to the SDA total land ownership (as shown on a map in the deed) and in the case that the domestic dwelling was not in future used for normal domestic use.

Once the deed has been registered by the Land Registry it will become a public document that anyone can access.

10. To report on VMP management matters

- The Wednesday/Thursday afternoon Art Group are due to return at the beginning of August. And the Saturday morning Art Club would like to return on 31st July. With the return of more groups to the Hall, the PC discussed the additional conditions of hire in terms of more thorough cleaning by groups at the end of their sessions. It was agreed that these additional measures should remain in place for the foreseeable future.
- The monthly direct debit payments for the electricity for the VMP have all been refunded and a bill sent for £1,391.68, this is for usage from November 2020 to mid-June 2021. Clerk to investigate and also analyse the usage and costs to compare to previous years. However, it is accepted that with COVID regulations dictating adequate ventilation in public buildings, the heating has been on while windows and doors have been open during this recent winter period.

11. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update

- The owl box will be put up soon.
- Obtaining some topographical survey information for Sheeps Course Wood was discussed which would be the basis for a more detailed habitat survey. An indicative quote of £375 for a days surveying had been obtained (although a whole day may not be required). The PC agreed for this to be paid for from money gifted from the Lord of the Manor. Cllr Moriarty offered to check that BCKLWN couldn't offer the service for free.
- Cllr K Fuller asked how much money is left from that given by the Lord of the Manor, Clerk to produce some figures and circulate.

12. Action Planning – to consider PC events/projects for 2021

- **Planning for the Social Event on 31st July**
It was agreed to postpone this event until further notice, as it is unclear how people will feel about socialising so soon after restrictions are lifted on 19th July. A further date to be confirmed later in the year.
- **Low Carbon Group Update**
More newsletters will be produced over the summer.

13. Risk Management Team to review PC assets

- The bus shelter on the A10 is in need of some work and general repair and repaint.
- Clerk to organise a Zoom meeting to discuss assessments to be completed – 20th July date to be confirmed.

14. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

- There is a pathway off new Road leading to All Saints Church and the ownership is unknown. Cllr Moriarty offered to follow this up with the paths officer at NCC.

15. Planning

- a) Any applications to consider – none
- b) Decisions received from BCKLWN – 21/00659/F | Replacement porch and alterations to front elevation | Willow Bank 20 Common Lane – application permitted
- c) c) Comments made to the BCKLWN - None

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

- West Winch PC have written letters to the Borough Council and Highways England noting the Highways England Planning Response on the Hopkins Homes application now offers no objection. It reiterated that WWPC continues to object to the planning application and in particular Key Phase One which is unacceptable. Clerk to circulate the letters to NR Councillors for their review and decide if the PC wants to write a similar letter.
- The IDB have requested that the outline application should include details of drainage to the Puny Drain – but have said if surface water is allowed to go to existing Anglia Water infrastructure they will accept that. It is not clear whether this is acceptable to Anglia Water.
- The Borough Council has formed a task group to look at the method of consultation for the Local Plan Review (consultation period to be July to September) to try and make it easier for the public to leave comments online.

17. Correspondence

A resident asked about tree/hedge planting on byway N6 – *this land is owned by Tharros who have previously declined to carry out any planting here.* Also asked if the verges in the village could be planted with wildflower seeds, *verges within the village are not owned by the Parish Council and therefore the Highways Authority and their contractors would have to consent to both the planting and future management arrangements of such a scheme.*

18. Finance

- a) To review the PC spend against budget for the first quarter of the year. Councillors reviewed the reports and had no questions.
- b) **To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st June – 30th June 2021**

	Opening Balance	Less Dec	Less DD's	Add income	Closing Balance
	01/06/21	Chqs			30/06/21
	£	£	£	£	£
NRPC Account	45,934.43	1,014.61	2.40	0.89	44,918.31
VMP Account	23,454.84	542.36	132.94	2,525.00	25,304.54
					70,222.85

The following payments were considered for approval;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice	VAT element - non recoverable
			£	£

From VMP Account

05/07/21	R Curtis	Salary 6 th June – 5 th July 21	152.88	0.00
07/07/21	R Curtis	Expenses	4.80	0.00
02/07/21	Mr Brights	Hall Cleaning 10/06-07/07	194.74	0.00
			352.42	

From NRPC Account

05/07/21	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th June 20 – 5 th July 21	586.56	0.00
08/06/21	R Curtis	Expenses	47.96	0.00
12/08/21	Spire Solicitors	Charges for draft deed work	1,818.00	0.00
01/02/21	KL Signs	Dogs on leads signs	40.20	0.00
29/06/21	BCKLWN	Newsletter printing	108.00	0.00
11/06/21	CPRE	Annual Membership	36.00	0.00
31/07/21	CGM	Mowing	31.56	0.00
13/07/21	R Morrish	Expenses (VMP etc)	85.00	0.00
			2,753.28	

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

- It was asked if anonymous correspondence has to be considered at a meeting. Clerk to review NALC protocol. It was suggested this could be adopted in NRPC Standing Orders at the next review.

19. Items for future agenda

Nothing at present.

20. Date of next meeting – No meeting held in August, 7th September

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed 7th September 2021