

# North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 7.45pm

**Present:** Cllr R Morrish (Chair), Cllr P Yallop, Cllr K Williams, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr J Braybrook, Cllr B Houchen, Cllr L Gunn,

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis - Bor Cllr Nash, Bor Cllr Gidney

1. **To accept any apologies** – Cllr K Fuller, Cllr S Palmer, County Cllr J Moriarty
2. **Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda** - None
3. **County and Borough Councillors Matters**
  - Cllr Nash reported that at a recent meeting the Borough Council had discussed implementing tourism tax. Possible provision of overnight parking for self-sufficient camper vans on some Council car parks.
  - Menopause in the workplace is being given much consideration.
  - Bor Cllr Gidney reported from the R & D committee that plans are being prepared for the multi user community hub proposed for the old Argos building in the town centre, these include the building being knocked down to its foundations and then rebuilt. BCKLWN have said they will find a ‘suitable use’ for the old library (still unspecified).
  - General concerns have been raised about the level of public consultation relating to some of the Town Deal initiatives – e.g. the Active Travel Programme which details cycle routes.
  - New proposals are being discussed for the Waterfront – including a swimming pool on the Purfleet, a ‘beach’ area and look-out tower. Cllrs have raised concerns about the practicalities.

Bor Cllr Moriarty send a report in his absence –

**Big Norfolk Holiday Fun’ scheme** (Norfolk’s Holiday Activities and Food Programme) Summer 2022 (25<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> September) – 5 to 16 year olds. Free activities and lunch

**DEBATE NOT HATE** - Seven in 10 councillors reported experiencing abuse and intimidation within the last 12 months. The LGA is urging local government leaders, the Government, partners, political parties and social media companies to sign up to [a public statement](#), pledging to come together to develop and implement an action plan to address the issue of abuse of local politicians and their safety. As a result, the LGA is calling for government to prioritise a change in legislation to put it beyond doubt that councillors can proactively withhold their home address from the public register.

**The Norfolk Assistance Scheme** which the public may or may not be aware of. The scheme is available to any Norfolk resident who is experiencing financial difficulties and the team can provide information and guidance to contact support organisations, or provide financial support to assist with the cost of food, energy, water or other essentials including white goods and furniture. NCC has also partnered with AgeUK to provide targeted individuals aged 65 and over as this has been a demographic group we have received the least applications from. If you have any questions about NAS, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne for further information [Suzanne.dunwoody@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.dunwoody@norfolk.gov.uk)

Cllr Morrish suggested NRPC should appoint a Cllr to be in charge of reviewing/promoting these types of initiatives when they are publicised. They may be useful to some residents. Cllr Williams said she would circulate the Holiday Scheme to local schools.

**NCC Budget:** Proposals to save £13 million will be considered next month (July), as the first step towards meeting next year’s £60 million target.

Cabinet will consider proposals to save:

- £6.45 million from adult social services, including use of reserves and more savings from existing programmes
- £3 million from children’s services, including withdrawing from the Professional Development Centre in Woodside

- £2.1 million from community and environmental services, including a review of the mobile library service, Wednesday closures of recycling centres and reduction of weedkilling on highways to one treatment per year
- £200,000 from strategy and transformation, through professional leads
- £50,000 from governance, by increasing income from the registration service
- £1 million from finance and commercial services, through annual income from the council's company, Repton Property Developments Ltd

4. **Public Participation** – there were no members of the public present.

5. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. **Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> June and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting**

- Following on from a comment made last month - Cllr Morrish has put a piece in the Parish News containing Parish Council information.
- Cllr Palmer has posted on the Facebook group about the pathway being accessible now around the new Middleton Aggregates clay pit.
- The Clerk reported that enquiries made with the land registry regarding the 'coffin way' at the side of the church did not provide any useful information. There was some discussion whether the PC should try and obtain responsibility for the land, as by doing so will come financial obligations for maintaining the large trees there. ACTION: Clerk to circulate email to all Councillors which sets out options and costs to undertake this work from Spire solicitors.
- Cllr Morrish has made enquiries to try and obtain a copy of the VMP logbook written by the headmaster of the school at the time.

Below is an extract of an email from the Norfolk Records Office

I have been to the King's Lynn library and looked at their facsimiles of the North Runcton log books and can confirm that the Norfolk Records Office does not either of the first two volumes, covering 1863-1896 and 1896-1940. The facsimiles must have been created privately or done in partnership with the library at the time of creation, as they are nicely bound and presented. None of the library staff on hand could remember when they were created or came in. The NRO was not involved in this process and do not have any images, photographic or microfilm, of the first two volumes so cannot recreate them for you. As my colleagues mentioned we do hold the final volume from 1940 to the schools closure in 1983. The volume is under restricted access, as is the facsimile version in the library where you cannot view the parts under 50 years old, however we can photograph the sections under 50 years old. These parts are technically out of restriction so the request for us to photograph them would not have to go through the Information Management Team. This could be done at £54 per hour. If you would like to go ahead we can give you a more exact quote.

I do not know where the originals are held but if you do, as you said you've seen them, then alternatively they could be brought into the NRO and we could photograph them for you. This would create high quality photos from which you could then create your own facsimile or have them saved digitally for your community records. Again, this could be done at £54 per hour of work.

Councillors felt that £54 per hour of work for photocopying was quite expensive and further investigation is needed to know where the original copies are. ACTION: Cllr Morrish and Cllr K Fuller to follow this up.

7. **To hear any reports from the SAM 2 sign**

Cllr Braybrook presented his report as follows.

**RECTORY LANE - 3 MARCH – 31 MARCH 2022**

Total of 14000 vehicles in 28 days - over 50% were speeding

1400 over 40mph - of these 300 vehicles over 50mph

Highest speed recorded 65mph

**NEW ROAD - 28 APRIL – 26 MAY 2022**

Total of 13000 vehicles in 28 days - over 15% were speeding

800 over 40mph - of these 20 vehicles over 50mph.

Highest speed recorded 60mph

The figures suggest that speeding is getting worse, and the Parish Council is keen to restart the speedwatch group. Cllrs Morrish, Palmer and Williams have volunteered and 2 residents have come forward. Ideally 10 would be a good number to have so that duties can be rotated. Cllr Braybrook will post something on the North Runcton social media page on Facebook to ask for more volunteers to come forward, then the Clerk can set up a training session.

#### **8. To report on VMP management matters**

- The window in the lobby is cracked ACTION: Cllr Morrish to get a replacement.
- The heating/AC unit in the front hall was dripping water, AMR to attend tomorrow and look at.
- A new projector has been offered to the PC from the Samways family, this is a newer version LED unit.
- Correspondence from Jo Reed at Buttercups to explain she would like to obtain grant funding to resurface the outside area and requires community support for the project. The PC needs to have some more information on this, ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting at the VMP to discuss.
- Correspondence from Buttercups to ask the PC to consider a fridge with internal freezer compartment when a new one is purchased. The PC agreed the fridge is under 2 years old and there was concern over who would defrost the compartment and how often it would actually be used.
- Cllr Morrish has obtained 3 quotes for PV panels for the VMP, he outlined the cost and number of panels and payback stated from each company. Although the PC wishes to promote as many green initiatives as possible the pros and cons of this project were discussed by Councillors, noting that the hall uses a small amount of electricity per year, there were questions about using batteries within the scheme and the potential weight of the panels on the roof and insurance implications. To proceed any further UK Power networks need to endorse the project, there is a cost of around £150 for this service. The PC agreed to spend this and then discuss further at the next meeting.

#### **9. To discuss VMP hire rates**

At the residents meeting it was suggested that the PC should look at the difference in hire rates charged to Buttercups Pre-School and other hirers. The Clerk suggested that a policy is put in place for the hire of the VMP, to also include when the fees are reviewed and the procedure to undertake if a hirer wishes to hire the hall. ACTION: Clerk to draft a policy for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **10. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update**

The owl box is to be put up of land owned by Tharros.

#### **11. To discuss the purchase of additional dog bins for Hardwick common and Illington Lane**

This has been brought to the PC's attention by residents. One bin requested to go on Illington Lane and another to go on the south side of Hardwick Common. The Borough Council dog warden is happy to empty the bins at the proposed locations. However, the bin cannot be placed directly on Hardwick Common as it would possibly be knocked over when the cows are out grazing, a suggested position would need to be agreed by a resident ACTION: Cllr Houchen to speak to the resident. The bin for Illington lane would need to be put on a grass verge close to a residents house ACTION: Cllr Williams to speak to the resident. Further discussion at the next meeting.

#### **12. To consider quotes for changing the VMP website**

This will be discussed at the next meeting when Cllr Palmer has done some more work/research.

#### **13. Action Planning – to consider PC events/projects for 2022**

- It was suggested that a tree could be planted on the green for the Queens jubilee canopy, Cllr J Fuller spoke to two of the common rights holders and they do not wish to give permission to plant any more trees on the green.

#### **14. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues**

- There are potholes near Hedleys house, Clerk to report. There is a drain cover in need of attention, Cllr Williams to take a photo and send to Clerk to report.

- There has been no progress on investigating the idea of automatic opening gates on the common to make it easier for residents with mobility issues. Cllr Braybrook is going to further consider whether the issues raised by NCC Highways can be resolved.

## 15. Planning

- No applications to discuss.
- Decisions received from BCKLWN – none
- Comments - none

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

Cllr Morrish reported that, the last WWGA Stakeholders meeting was attended by Jon Barnard – (newly appointed NCC Project Manager for the ‘Relief Road’ construction). The cost plan for the road was circulated to the PC’s in March, but they only just received the appendices – which include a more detailed plan for the road. Instead of a planning application, BCKLWN now propose to promote the overall WWGA masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Guidance document (SPD). There will be a consultation period on this to be held 5<sup>th</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September with 2 consultation days planned at the William Burt centre on 10<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September. The next stakeholders meeting will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am.

## 17. Correspondence – Update from Alison Shaw on the OTN (energy connections for offshore windfarms proposed across Norfolk)

We have been updated about the campaign for an offshore transmission network for wind farm connections. The group were disappointed to find a long awaited report about a ‘Holistic Network Design’ (HTD) for the UK completely omitted East Anglia, only addressing Scotland the north-east and the west coast. Group representatives (and an all party group of East Anglian MPs) were also not invited to a briefing (to developers) by the department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Cllr Morrish said that after complaints, an additional webinar briefing is proposed for 9:30, 20<sup>th</sup> July. Residents are being asked to lobby their MPs about the matter. It is understood that a Borough Cllr has asked the BCKLWN cabinet why West Norfolk are not supporting the campaign. As far as we know North Runcton Parish Council are the only West Norfolk council to support the campaign as yet.

## 18. Finance

### a) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1<sup>st</sup> June 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

	Opening Balance 01/06/22	£	Less March Chqs	£	Less DD's	£	Add income	£	Closing Balance 31/05/22	£
NRPC Account	49,907.25		836.01		2.40		3.65		<b>49,072.49</b>	
VMP Account	20,642.34		362.87		244.95		0.00		<b>20,034.52</b>	
									<b>69,107.01</b>	

The following amounts were approved for payment;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice	VAT element - non recoverable
			£	£
<b><u>From VMP Account</u></b>				
05/07/22	R Curtis	Salary 6 <sup>th</sup> June – 5 <sup>th</sup> July 22	158.73	0.00
01/07/22	Mr Brights	Cleaning 12 <sup>th</sup> May – 8 <sup>th</sup> June 22	194.74	0.00
26/06/22	Middleton Parish	Advertising for the VMP	50.00	0.00

News

**403.47**

**From NRPC Account**

05/07/22	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 <sup>th</sup> June – 5 <sup>th</sup> July 22	608.01	0.00
19/06/22	R Curtis	Expenses	5.44	0.00
30/06/22	CGM	Cutting – June 22	67.86	0.00
30/06/22	M A Sutcliffe	Paint expenses for fete games	11.40	0.00
			<b>692.71</b>	

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

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**20. Items for future agenda –**

Website quote – Cllr Palmer, Dog Bins, PV Panels for the VMP, Hire policy for VMP

**21. Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> September 22**

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed ..... 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022