

North Runcton Parish Council

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Meeting Place
Tuesday 7th September 2021 7.45pm

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

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

1. Apologies

Cllr K Fuller, Cllr J Fuller

2. To note a Councillor resignation

Cllr Lee Stevens tendered his resignation with effect from 31st August 2021. Cllr Morrish wished to minute sincere thanks to Cllr Stevens for his work over several years and said he had been a very active member of the PC who would be a loss.

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

None

4. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Bor Cllr Gidney reported on the following:

- The Town Deal work is ongoing.
- There have been suggestions discussed for a new hospital location to replace the Queen Elizabeth, one of which is within the Parish.
- The Borough Council is objecting to the Wisbech Incinerator.
- The Borough Council has announced a Climate Emergency with their target date for zero corporate emissions being brought forward from 2050 to 2035.

Bor Cllr Nash gave his views and reported on the work he is doing within the Standards Committee, the planning application at Deerfields regarding demolition of a carrstone wall and the taxi testing contracts.

County Cllr Moriarty reported on the following:

- Norfolk's County Council Cabinet will consider the allocation of the council's £1.5m Flood Reserve Fund to support urgent works and repairs to enable recommendations from flood investigation reports. This funding will be used for work on the 285,864 metres of drainage grips and 31,037 metres of kerb drains on Norfolk's highways, as well as operations to clear some of the county's 145,305 gullies that help drain rain water. A single phone number is to be set up by the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) to give Norfolk residents one point of contact to report flooding. To report flooding anywhere in the county simply call 0344 800 8013.

-Also for discussion is the £1m Road Safety Community Fund which would provide up to £10,000 each for smaller road safety schemes, such as lowering speed limits or making changes to road signs and markings, to help address local issues and concerns including potholes.

-Norfolk County Council will work closely with the Government and partners to ensure that Norfolk accommodates a share of Afghan refugees.

-County councillors consider practical ways to help boost the uptake of carbon-cutting electric vehicles across Norfolk. In April there were already 2,631 electric vehicles registered across Norfolk, however there are big differences between parts of the county with 22% of those in South Norfolk and only 5% in Great Yarmouth. There are also relatively few public chargers, with Norwich home to 44 of the 198 currently across Norfolk as a whole.

The electric vehicle strategy is one part of the work underway by the county council to achieve its ambitious target of net zero carbon by 2030.

-The County Council is one of five local authorities in England taking part in a £2.5m Defra funded pilot project looking at the best ways to increase tree numbers and free tree packs are now available as part of this project. Individuals, community groups, schools and landowners can apply for bundles of 10 or 20 trees ahead of this planting season, selected to suit the area they intend to plant them. Allocated on a first come first served basis by 30th September.

5. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2021

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

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

- Update on the spend of the NR&HC Volunteers, £977 has been spent to date from the initial £1,000 allocated to the group from the donation made by the Lord of the Manor in 2019. Approximately 310 hours of voluntary work have been carried out by the group with the bulk of the tasks being carried out in Sheeps Course Wood, with planting and maintaining over 600 saplings here and also 100 on Hardwick Common. Clearance work on footpaths and the pond area, wild flower seed being sown and an owl box erected. A shed was donated to the group which has been erected to store tools. Expenditure has been for materials, basic catering equipment and food with a single cost of over £500 for work by a tree surgeon.

Work is still ongoing and is for the benefit of the village and beyond, therefore Cllr Morrish proposed that an additional £1,000 is allocated to the group, this was seconded by Cllr Gunn and unanimously agreed. Cllr Morrish also proposed that £375 is spent on a topographical survey of Sheeps Course Wood, (Cllr Moriarty was unable to identify a source of this information for free). This was seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed.

- The PC has been successful in gaining £3750 CIL grant from the Borough Council for flood alleviation work. A meeting is to be arranged with Cllr J Fuller to further discuss suitable works.
- Investigations have taken place as to the status of the pathway leading to the Church as discussed at the last meeting. It appears to be an old 'coffin way', not a public right of way but a permissive path. As such it appears to belong to the church. Cllr Williams to take this forward and investigate further.

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

There were less cars recorded on Rectory Lane in August compared to figures from 2018 (perhaps due to poor weather meaning less queues on the A10?). However the incidence of speeding had increased. Cllr Morrish noted that Cllr Stevens has operated the VAS signs and if we are to continue the record we need a new individual to undertake the training and takeover this job. Thanks were extended to Fiona King who has taken on the roll of organising the speedwatch team.

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

The deed has now been signed by both parties.

10. To report on VMP management matters

- The Saturday morning Art Club will not be returning due to the enhanced cleaning required by hirers.
- The Wednesday and Thursday Art Group have started sessions again.
- The Buttercups have returned after the summer break.
- The photography club will use the hall two evenings a month.

11. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update

- There is some more work to be done to finish and organise the shed.
- Another work day at Sheeps Course Wood is required.
- It is still proposed to clear rubbish from a ditch on Blackborough End / Setch road – but Cllr Morrish suggests a machine and skip will be required and he will look into obtaining assistance.
- It was noted that a replacement for Cllr Stevens needs to be found to co-ordinate the workgroup.

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

· Low Carbon Group Update

- More newsletters to be produced.
- It was agreed to spend up to £200 on bulbs to be planted in the village again this year.

13. Risk Management Team to review PC assets

The majority of the assets have been reviewed with action points as follows –

- Bus Shelter on The Green - the book shelves which were installed by volunteers have no ends on them and therefore the books are vulnerable to falling off. Clerk to contact one of the volunteers to ask if ends can be put on.
- The tree near the bus shelter on The Green – is likely to incur damage through soil compaction if the neighbour continues to park under it. The tree would benefit from mulching.
- The A10 bus shelter is in need of some work, a contractor has been appointed to carry this out at a cost of under £500.
- Some minor works were also agreed to point and repair external walls at the VMP and fit a large gutter hopper.

14. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues – nothing to discuss

15. Planning

- Any applications to consider – none
- Decisions received from BCKLWN – 21/00970/F Southfork Manor, 60 Common Lane – extension – application permitted
- c) Comments made to the BCKLWN - None

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

- Comments to be submitted to the Local Plan review by the end of September.
- The next meeting called by the Borough Council to update on the West Winch Growth Area is 1st November. Cllr Stevens was part of this group, so in need of a replacement – Cllr Williams volunteered.
- Hopkins Homes – surveys have been undertaken on land along the proposed relief road.

17. Correspondence

- NALC notified NRPC asking if they were interested in being included in a scheme to provide ‘pandemic commemorative medallions’. NRPC suggested that there might be more positive ways of creating a memorial – such as a commemorative woodland. No further correspondence received.
- Offshore wind: Ofgem Consultation Letter - The PC confirmed it was happy to join the existing group of Norfolk PCs promoting the OTN and to co-sign the letter. This is requesting the Government to take the lead on coordinating infrastructure for power from offshore wind farms.

18. Finance

a) **To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st July 2021 – 31st August 2021**

	Opening Balance		Less Dec		Less DD's		Add income		Closing Balance	
	01/06/21	£	Chqs	£		£		£	30/06/21	£
NRPC Account	44,918.31		1,495.84		4.80		0.00		43,417.67	
VMP Account	25,304.54		1,896.98		124.33		1,452.50		24,735.73	
									68,153.40	

The following payments were considered for approval;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount	VAT element -
			on Invoice	non recoverable
			£	£
<i>From VMP Account</i>				
05/08/21	R Curtis	Salary 6 th July – 5 th Aug 21	152.88	0.00
05/09/21	R Curtis	Salary 6 th Aug – 5 th Sept 21	152.88	0.00
12/03/21	Mr Brights	Hall Cleaning Feb/Mar 21	194.74	0.00

29/08/21	Mr Brights	Hall Cleaning July/Aug 21	194.74	0.00
27/08/21	Mr Brights	Hall Cleaning Aug/Sept 21	194.74	0.00
29/06/21	Parish News	Annual Advertising	50.00	0.00
07/09/21	EDF	July/Aug	293.89	0.00
			1,233.87	

From NRPC Account

05/08/21	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th July 21– 5 th Aug 21	586.56	0.00
05/09/21	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Aug 21 – 5 th Sept 21	586.56	0.00
31/05/21	CGM	Cut 5 th May 21	31.56	0.00
31/06/21	CGM	Cut 20 th May, 8 th & 25 th June 21	94.68	0.00
31/08/21	CGM	Cut 14 th & 26 th July 21	63.12	0.00
31/08/21	Spire Solicitors	Legal Fees for Deed for School Lane	1,020.00	0.00
			2,382.48	

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

No members of the public were present.

20. Items for future agenda

21. Date of Next Meeting

12th October 2021

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed 12th October 2021