

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 12th December 2023 - 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R Morrish – Chaired the meeting, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr L Gunn, Cllr K Fuller, Cllr J Braybrook, Cllr K Williams, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr B Houchen

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis, Cllr Jim Moriarty, and 3 members of the public

The Parish Council acknowledged the sad passing of Mr Clare who had been chairman of the Parish Council in the 90's and continued to be a part of many voluntary activities in the village until he became ill last year. Many parish councillors attended his funeral and he will be sadly missed.

1. To accept any apologies – Cllr S Palmer

2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda - None

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Cllr Moriarty reported that County councillors have voted to accept a county deal devolution agreement with the Government. This will enable the transfer of significant funding and powers to Norfolk. The first election for a new leader will then follow in May 2025.

Housing Access Road – The next information session will be at West Winch on 9th January, residents are encouraged to ask officers about the mitigation for lighting and noise pollution. The next stakeholder meeting will be 22nd January, questions to be submitted prior to the meeting as this worked well last time. Discussions will take place regarding the potential bridge over the A10 and where this will be located on the North Runcton side. Cllr Moriarty has also had a meeting with Hopkins Homes to discuss the matter of Biodiversity Net Gain and it does not apply to this application as it was submitted over 10 years ago.

Cllr Williams asked about the potential railway station and line to Hunstanton. This is at the moment a sound idea, but much work is to be done on this and progress will take time.

4. Public Participation –

A resident asked if the PC knew when the work on the Hardwick to Middleton stretch of the A47 will be finished. The PC has not had an update but will try and find out from Highways.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th November 2023

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 14th November 23 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting

- In answer to the query about the easement on School Road with the Fuller's - Spire solicitors recommend to use a Surveyor for any work to be done. One surveyor has been contacted to ask their thoughts and a price for completing the work. Awaiting another name from Spire solicitor to enable 2 quotes to be sought.

7. To consider biodiversity and action planning within the Parish

Cllr Morrish reviewed the guidance given on this by NALC. Looking at each step, North Runcton Parish Council have already met some of the criteria by doing the following:

- Setting up the conservation volunteers group
- Making bird boxes
- Including biodiversity in the neighbourhood plan
- Carrying out bulb planting in the village

Further steps being planned:

- A talk by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust open to the public at the VMP on 25th January
- Liaise with the Borough Council

- Liaise with other groups
- Carry out a biodiversity audit, some surveys have already been completed
- Eco Church Initiative – this is underway with the PCC
- Address biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications

It was suggested that a working party is set up to draft an achievable policy to be agreed by the PC in the middle of next year. This was agreed by all Councillors.

8. To Review the Wording of the Policy regarding PC donations

Cllr Gunn produced a draft policy taking guidance from government documents. Councillors discussed the following points;

- At what time of year the grants could be considered
- Queried whether money could be given to individuals
- How much would be available from the precept, this could be calculate by taking the S137 amount multiplied by the number of electors giving a value which would be of a third of the precept, this is thought to be too high

It was agreed to finalise the wording in January and ask the Tennis Club to submit their application again based on the criteria agreed.

9. To hear any reports from the SAM 2 sign

There was no SAM Sign update, but Cllr Braybrook noted that the new sign had been put up on Rectory Lane, however there was no bracket. Clerk to follow this up and ask Westcotec to put one on that post and also to turn the bracket on the post near the Caravan Park to face the opposite direction.

10. To report on VMP management matters

To hear an update on the PV Panel project

The Buttercups had some queries on the PV panel project which will take place in February, these queries have been answered by Cllr Morrish. Some small repair jobs have been completed and the Clerk will get some more salt.

Cllr K Fuller informed the PC of the sad passing of Mr Van Dyke, former headteacher of the Village Meeting Place School. His family wished that his school diaries be kept in the custody of the Parish Council and be available for the village to access. It was agreed that these historic documents need to be in a fire proof safe at the VMP and the Clerk will look into buying one for the Hall.

11. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update

There was no update from the volunteers group for this meeting.

12. Action Planning – to consider PC events/projects for 2023/24

- Cllr Morrish has arranged some winter evening talks for the new year-
25th January – The Norfolk Wildlife Trust
22nd February – Houghton Hall Gardens
28th March – Wash Management
Further information would be forthcoming.

13. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

Nothing to report

14. Planning

- Applications Considered - None
- Comments made to BCKLWN - None
- Decisions from the Borough Council - None

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

Nothing to report

16. Correspondence

None received

17. Finance

a) To look at Apr – Nov accounts for the PC and VMP in preparation for the precept setting in January 2024

The Clerk presented the accounts to the end of November. For the VMP income is £8,491.50 against expenditure of £11,351.51. Although the balance at the bank is £15,078, this will decrease sharply when the PV panel project is paid for cost £12,070. Consideration will need to be given to the hire charges in January.

The PC accounts for 23/24 show income of £17,076 against expenditure of £11,887. The balance in the bank is healthy, but consideration needs to be given to the increasing costs at the VMP and any other large items of expenditure thought to be upcoming.

b) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st October to 30th November 2023

	Opening Balance 01/10/23	Less Exp	Add Income	Closing Balance 31/11/23
NRPC Account	47,367.19	1,318.56	974.40	47,023.03
VMP Account	13,789.84	969.89	2,827.50	15,647.45
				62,670.48

The following amounts were approved for payment;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice £	VAT element - non recoverable £
<u>VMP Account</u>				
17/11/23	Mr Brights	Cleaning Nov 23	194.74	0.00
13/11/23	AMR	Attend fault with heater	273.60	0.00
05/12/23	R Curtis	Back Pay	104.00	0.00
05/12/23	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Nov – 5 th Dec 23	184.73	0.00
			757.07	
<u>NRPC</u>				
05/12/23	R Curtis	Back Pay	381.33	0.00
05/12/23	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Nov – 5 th Dec 23	703.34	0.00
30/10/23	BCKLWN	Uncontested Election – May 23	109.20	0.00
15/11/23	Westcotec	Replacement Post – Rectory Lane	234.00	0.00
30/09/23	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit – 22/23	252.00	0.00
			1,679.87	

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

It was reported that 3 houses have been broken into recently and people were warned to be vigilant. Clerk to contact local PCSO.

19. Items for future agenda –

Precept 24/25

Another quiz to be booked for Apr, May or June – discuss ticket price

20. Dates of next meetings - 9th January 2024, 13th February 2024

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed 9th January 2024