

North Runcton Parish Council

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom due to the Coronavirus restrictions in place

Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.45pm

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

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis, Bor Cllr Gidney, Bor Cllr Nash, 1 member of the public

1. To accept any apologies – none received

2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda – Cllr Yallop – Item 13 – Planning application for 1 Cedar Grove.

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Bor. Cllr Gidney reported on the following:

- There will be a new grant available from the Borough Council made up of CIL monies. The type of projects that will be eligible for match funding will be released in February.
- The 2 properties near the Esso garage on the A10 which have planning applications are still awaiting decisions, one has gone to appeal. It is concerning that the Borough Council has an inconsistent approach to permitting development along this stretch of the A10.
- Little information is forthcoming from the NHS regarding where vaccination centres will be set up within the Borough, but lines of communication are open.
- The Borough's bid for the Towns Fund was unsuccessful, reasons as to why this was not successful will be looked at.

Bor. Cllr Nash reported on the following:

- There is a proposal that all Borough Council committees will be closed down temporarily with the exception of planning, audit and full Council. This is not a national directive, but thought to be due to difficulties within democratic services to control and support meetings with a skeleton staff and many working from home. This disruption is only thought to last until the end of March.

4. Public Participation

Nothing raised.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 2020

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 8th December and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting.

- Nothing to report, that will not be raised elsewhere on the agenda.

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

The speedwatch group is unable to meet due to restrictions in place for lockdown #3. There is a 40% decrease in the volume of traffic travelling through the village compared to this time last year. No other data was taken and readings will resume again when lockdown restrictions are eased.

8. To hear an update on issues relating to School Lane

- The hole has still not been filled by Anglian Water along School Lane.
- Cllr Morrish has received correspondence from the SDA to say they wish to work with the PC on future management of the site and hope it can be used for the benefit of the Church and local community. However, it was again noted that allowing residents to use the site will involve a change in the planning conditions. Cllr K Fuller noted that lights were on in the cabins over Christmas, it is thought that this is for security.

9. To report on VMP management matters

- Thanks to Cllr Palmer for looking at the roof lights at the VMP.
- The Buttercups have reported that the heaters are not work efficiently. Cllr Morrish has been to the Hall to check the heating and it appears to be coming on and producing heat. However, when the Buttercups are in session they have a requirement to keep the building well ventilated as part of their Covid guidelines and this may effect the operation of the heaters. The Clerk has contacted AMR and will arrange for the units to be serviced.
- Due to lack of numbers the Buttercups are currently working at reduced times – Mon – Thurs from 8am to 1pm.

10. North Runcton and Hardwick Conservation Volunteers update

- The shed has been put up, this will be useful facility for volunteers with good storage.
- Cllr Morrish and Cllr Stevens hope to make contact with Cllr J Fuller to discuss work to thin out a birch hedge on the common and pond dredging work which is due to be completed next year.
- The volunteers are unable to meet at the moment due to lockdown restrictions.

11. Action Planning – to consider PC goals for 2020

- The Low Carbon Group have met again and text has been drafted for an initial introductory newsletter. Door to door deliveries of the newsletter cannot take place currently due to restrictions, however it will be launched online. The Clerk will create an Instagram page and information will also be put on the website.
Some Councillors attended a NALC webinar which promoted the Cut a tonne in 21 campaign to encourage everyone to look at their carbon footprint to help reduce carbon emissions. King's Lynn Climate Concern are running workshops at the beginning of February, Cllr Stevens to distribute links to Councillors.

12. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

- Fly tipping continues to be a regular problem along the Twisty Twiney, however the Borough Council are quick to collect the rubbish. The Clerk spoke to a reporter from the Lynn News about this with an offer of running a story in the paper to highlight the problem.
- There are many potholes in the village which need to be repaired, Councillors to let Clerk know locations.

13. Planning

Applications to consider –

20/01702/F - Proposed single storey side extension, conversion of existing double garage and construction of detached double carport at Southfork Manor Common Lane North Runcton Norfolk PE33 0RF – Councillors are happy that the revised plan shows the garage has been moved to behind the house and are happy to **support** the application.

20/01969/F - Extensions and alterations to dwelling with detached garage and workshop with landscape works incidental to the development at 1 Cedar Grove North Runcton King's Lynn Norfolk PE33 0QY

Cllr Yallop left the meeting at this point

Councillors discussed whether this was a sustainable extension, but queried whether the planning framework is in place to take into account comments of sustainability. Therefore it was agreed that no comment will be the PC's response. When Cllr Yallop returned to the meeting he confirmed that the heating system will be a heat pump and plans are in place for substantial soakaways to be dug to aid drainage around the property.

Decisions received from BCKLWN – None

Comments made to the BCKLWN – None

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

The Borough Council has arranged a meeting with stakeholders on 27th January 2021.

15. Correspondence

- 1) Further to correspondence in December from a resident of School Lane saying that farm vehicles are travelling at speed through the village causing damage. *The PC agreed to prepare a letter to send to local farmers and contractors, a copy of which is shown here.*

Farm Access Vehicles: Request for more consideration when travelling through North Runcton

North Runcton Parish Council regularly receives complaints from parishioners regarding the speed at which large farm vehicles are passing through the village. In the past 2 years we have received reports of 'near misses' involving pedestrians, horse riders and resident motorists.

We have recently received complaints relating to large tractors with trailers carting muck along New Road, along School Lane and then south along Restricted Byway 6 to Setch Road. Residents have reported reckless speed, especially in traversing the corner adjacent the Village Meeting Place (VMP), and on at least one occasion vehicles cutting across Church Green. This is not acceptable!

The VMP is used 5 days a week by a nursery school and small children and their guardians are frequently crossing the Green. The route is used every day by residents walking, riding and cycling – and adjacent dwellings access directly onto the road. The Parish Council own and maintain the road in this section and have requested a 10mph maximum speed (marked on the road). No vehicles should exceed this speed.

Residents understand that farm land and farm buildings must be accessed at different times of year and that North Runcton is a rural village. But farm vehicles are now generally very large – and our tracks and lanes are narrow. The official speed limit within the village is 30mph – but we would request a maximum speed of 20mph for large farm vehicles when passing through the village or along our local narrow lanes. We feel this is both appropriate and considerate.

Lastly, please be reminded that it is an offence under the Highways Act to deposit mud, muck or any material that could obstruct safe access along a highway. Dirt from tyres or trailers, or overrunning verges and spreading mud in the road is therefore an offence. Residents would be entitled to report vehicles seen doing this.

We apologise if this letter is not relevant to you or your contractors – but it is not always easy to identify where vehicles have come from or where they are going to! Therefore, we are sending a general request to all our local landowners / contractors.

We thank you in advance for your future co-operation on this matter.

- 2) Further to correspondence last month from a resident regarding visibility at the junction of Hill Road onto the A47. The Clerk replied and then a further email was sent to the Clerk which was considered by the PC. *As similar points were raised again, it wasn't considered necessary for a further letter to be sent.*
- 3) An open letter from NALC which was distributed to all Councillors.

16. Finance

a) To review the budget and set the precept for 21/22

- Councillors reviewed and discussed the budget and present financial circumstances relating to the pandemic. It was proposed by Cllr Morrish to keep the precept at the same amount as 20/21 - £16,328. As the tax base for this year has increased to 270.1, the amount payable by a Band D property will decrease slightly to £60.45. This was seconded by Cllr K Fuller and unanimously agreed.
- Cllr Williams said there may be another grant the PC could apply for to assist the VMP finances, Clerk to investigate.
- The £70 amount for hire of grazing rights was noted, the PC agreed they are keen to work with the Common Reeve to create biodiversity on the Common.

b) To agree an increase in the Clerks Working from Home allowance as per HMRC, from £20 to £26 as from April 2020

At the Clerks appraisal in December this was discussed and both Cllr Morrish and Cllr Gunn recommended the PC to approve, unanimously agreed to increase this payment from April 2020.

c) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st Dec – 31st Dec 2020

	Opening Balance 01/12/20 £	Less Dec Chqs £	Less DD's £	Add income £	Closing Balance 31/12/20 £
NRPC Account	28,919.11	710.16	2.40	0.74	28,207.29
VMP Account	7,336.55	364.58	311.18	0.00	6,660.79
					34,868.08

The following payments were approved for payment.

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice £	VAT element - non recoverable £
<u>From VMP Account</u>				
05/01/21	R Curtis	Salary 6 th Dec – 5 th Jan 2021	152.88	0.00
18/12/20	Mr Brights	Cleaning – Dec	194.74	0.00
			347.62	
<u>From NRPC Account</u>				
05/01/21	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Dec – 5 th Jan 2021	580.56	0.00
12/01/21	R Curtis	Expenses	47.49	0.00
30/10/20	CGM	Grass Cutting - Oct	60.12	0.00
			688.17	

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

- A resident raised the issue of drainage around the common, there is evidence that there are some blockages as water is not free draining and in the recent wet weather there has been flooding. Agreed a review of opportunities to improve drainage and direct away from properties is required. There may be potential for CIL funded grant assistance.

- Bookswap in the bus shelter – it was noted that the books are now overflowing and management of the amount of books is required. Clerk to contact the coordinator.

18. Items for future agenda – Low Carbon Group progress.

- Flood relief

19. Date of next meeting – 9th February 2021

The meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed 9th February 2021