

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - 7.45pm

Present: Cllr K Fuller – Chair, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr L Gunn, Cllr J Braybrook, Cllr K Williams, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr B Houchen, Cllr R Morrish, Cllr S Palmer

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis and 4 members of the public

The Parish Council acknowledged the sad passing of Mr Daniels a long standing resident of the village. Also former Parish Councillor, Lucy Davis. The PC offers condolences to both families.

1. **To accept any apologies** – Cllr Jim Moriarty
2. **Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda** - None
3. **County and Borough Councillors Matters** - None

4. **Public Participation** –

A resident reported a tree had come down outside Grange Farm, and there are some branches that look to be unsafe. Also reported a large pot hole near the entrance of School Lane which cars and lorries are avoiding and damaging the grass verge. Cllr Morrish and Cllr Braybrook will look into this.

The water meter inspection cover on the green near the VMP is cracked, Cllr Palmer to take a photograph and send to the Clerk to report to Anglian Water. It is on a bank too close to the road and is likely to get damaged again.

A resident who is a representative of the RRT attended the meeting to offer as a good will gesture to the village a 'red tent event' where the organisation would provide hot meals to residents. This would be by way of one of their marquees being pitched up near the VMP to serve burgers and a hot drink. The PC thanked Mr Rowland for the kind offer and suggested it could be incorporated into a village event.

5. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2023**

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. **Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 12th December 23 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting**

- School Road easement with the Fuller's – the Clerk has contacted 2 surveyors to obtain an indication of price and work involved. One has responded with a quote of £5,000 and Cllr Morrish is awaiting a phone call to speak with another.

7. **To consider biodiversity and action planning within the Parish**

In order to draft an achievable policy the PC agreed to form a working party to bring recommendations to the full parish council. This will be made up of Cllrs Morrish, Palmer and Gunn. It was suggested that the PCC may wish to be involved, Cllr Palmer to contact Ken Matthews. Cllrs will also try and recruit some resident representatives.

8. **To agree the Grants to Local Bodies Policy**

The policy had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Acceptance and adoption of the policy was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Williams and unanimously agreed. This will now enable to PC to consider requests for funding from local groups or community undertakings under the General Power of Competence. The Clerk will amend the financial regulations to this effect to be formally agreed at the next meeting. In the meantime the new policy will be sent to the representative of the Tennis Club to allow the group to make a formal application for consideration at the February Meeting.

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

Cllr Braybrook noted that speeding on New Road has been lower than previously. Councillors feel that the sign is a deterrent and people are slowing down.

10. To report on VMP management matters

The Clerk has bought some more salt for the outside, Cllr Morrish has replaced the light bulb in the front hall. Cllr Palmer is trying to source a remote for the projector. It was noted that the PV panel project will take place the week commencing 19th February, although this is during the half term break Cllr Morrish will confirm with Buttercups that they have no issue with the works.

11. North Runcton and Hardwick Common Volunteers Update

There is a litter pick organised for the 27th January and the RRT have kindly offered provision of refreshments at 12pm. Cllr Gunn requested some assistance with dead-heading the daffodils on the Green later this year, it was agreed that a joint effort is needed, Cllr Williams volunteered to help and this will be discussed again nearer the time.

12. Action Planning – to consider PC events/projects for 2024

- Winter evening talks for the new year confirmed -
25th January – The Norfolk Wildlife Trust
22nd February – Houghton Hall Gardens
28th March – the Wash Management talk has been postponed and Cllr Morrish suggested a possible community event to bring together residents and encourage them to share any village history they have, either in the form of photographs, letters etc or memories in their head! It was agreed that this would be a good event to incorporate the RRT's kind offer of hot food.
- The next quiz night was confirmed for 12th April and the ticket price per person to be £5. This will enable food and drink costs to be covered.
- Bor Cllr Nash is organising a trip to the Costessey recycling plant for 11th March. A maximum of 8 people can go, and there is interest from both West Winch and Middleton PC's too. Details to be confirmed nearer the time.

13. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues - Nothing to report

14. Planning

- a) Applications Considered - None
- b) Comments made to BCKLWN - None
- c) Decisions from the Borough Council – 23/01846/F – Porch extension for 7 West Winch Road – Application Permitted.

Several Councillors attended the Housing Access Road exhibition in West Winch this evening where plans were on display. Details include – a light controlled crossing at Chequers Lane, the cycle path will be on the west side of the road with the flyover at Rectory Lane starting at Illington Lane. It was noted that the road will bring traffic closer to North Runcton and Councillors questioned noise, light and fume pollution and visual impact. There is another stakeholders meeting on 22nd January, questions to be submitted prior to the meeting.

15. To hear any other planning issues relevant to the Neighbourhood plan - Nothing to report

16. Correspondence

A letter from a resident drawing the PC's attention to the community events held at Barton Bendish and making comparison to those held at North Runcton. The resident gave examples of events held in Barton Bendish and asked the PC to discuss the matter at its meeting. Councillors had been given the correspondence prior to the meeting and felt that the PC and other organisations in the village offer a good range of opportunities for socialising and bringing the village together. Events such as the Quiz nights held by both the PC and Cricket Club and Harvest Supper and Flower festival organised by the PCC offer residents the opportunity to socialise together and the newly arranged winter talks at the VMP will offer something new. There are also volunteering opportunities offered by the North Runcton and Hardwick volunteers group, giving people the chance to be more active in a social setting. Clubs are run in the VMP for anyone to join and enjoy. Clerk to respond to the resident.

17. Finance

a) To agree the Precept Setting for 2024/2025

The Clerk presented the income and expenditure actuals to the end of Dec and projections for the last quarter of the financial year. Councillors discussed the finances and the Clerk explained that as the tax base (number of dwellings) had increased, leaving the precept at the same amount would decrease the Band D amount from £62.01 to £61.03. To keep an increase at an acceptable level a 2% increase would mean a Band D would increase by 24p to £62.25p. Cllr Morrish proposed an increase of 2% giving a Parish Precept of £16,988 for 24/25, this was seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed.

The VMP accounts were reviewed and Councillors agreed to review consider in detail next month when the electricity prices are updated, giving an indication of the possible income for the output energy. Hire Charges will also be reviewed.

b) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st December to 31st December 2023

	Opening Balance 01/12/23	Less Exp	Add Income	Closing Balance 31/12/23
NRPC Account	47,023.03	1,389.99	166.61	45,799.65
VMP Account	15,647.45	710.11	30.00	14,967.34
				60,766.99

The following amounts were approved for payment;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice £	VAT element - non recoverable £
<u>VMP Account</u>				
15/12/23	Mr Brights	Cleaning Dec 23	194.74	0.00
05/01/24	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Dec – 5 th Jan 24	184.73	0.00
			379.47	
<u>NRPC</u>				
05/01/24	R Curtis	Clerks Salary 6 th Dec – 5 th Jan 24	703.34	0.00
			703.34	

18. Public Participation – all members of the public welcome – 5 minute session - None

19. Items for future agenda –

Agree amendment in Financial Regs and consider application by the Tennis Club for financial support
To review hire charges of the VMP
To agree the electricity contract

20. Dates of next meetings - 13th February 2024, 12th March 2024

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed 13th February 2024