

# North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 7.45pm

**Present:** Cllr Rick Morrish (Chair), Cllr Lee Stevens, Cllr Paul Yallop, Cllr Barry Houchen, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr A Dobbing, Cllr K Fuller, Cllr K Longhurst

In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis

10 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence - Bor Cllr Peter Gidney**

**2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda - Cllr J Fuller – Item 9**

**3. County and Borough Councillors Matters**

Cllr Gidney sent a message to say there is no update on the transport study of the pros and cons of the town centre traffic and no update on the loan for the relief road.

**4. Public Participation – all members of the public welcome – 10 minute session.**

- A resident informed the PC that vehicles were parked on the pavement on Common Lane, some completely blocking the footpath. Work on a property on New Road is still ongoing, but vehicles are parked on the road and are in fact beneficial for slowing down the traffic through the village. It was accepted that there is little the Parish Council can do to stop this problem, but it has been noted.
- Parking on the Green is causing damage to the grass in the wet weather. This will be discussed in Item 10.

**5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January and the EGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

The Council approved both sets of minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

**6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting**

- Ongoing issue with electricity bill from Scottish Power after closing the account in October, back dated bills were sent in December stating the PC owed £2,428.12. Clerk disputed the matter and told the account had been corrected and sent a statement showing a zero balance to confirm. Then 6<sup>th</sup> Feb received a bill for the outstanding amount, Scottish Power claim they made an error and the amount is still outstanding. The matter is currently in dispute, Clerk has contacted the Ombudsman and the Citizens Advice, Extra Help Unit are investigating.
- Local Council Awards Scheme – Clerk has researched this award which can be gained by a PC demonstrating they meet the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The PC agreed for the Clerk to progress this, there will be a fee of £50 for registration.
- VMP Fundraising continues, Quiz Night to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm.

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

There is a fault with the machine which is now with the manufacturer and will be repaired under warranty.

**8. To confirm election date following Councillor resignation**

The Clerk confirmed that the election will be held at the VMP on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Cllr Morrish thanked the two prospective candidates for putting themselves forward for the vacant position and showing commitment to their community. However he noted to the meeting that it was not necessary to call an election every time a Councillor resigned and that the co-option process was a fair, legitimate and democratic process that served most Parish Councils well and avoided the costs (in this case estimated to be around £800) of a formal election. He also noted that this election would bring the total cost of PC expenditure on items requested by parishioners (including an official ballot regarding School Lane, a FOI request and

additional tasks undertaken by the clerk and solicitors) to around £8,000 in the last two years. He said he regarded all of this expenditure as ultimately unnecessary and that he could not see how the community in general was benefitting from this expenditure.

**9. To hear an update on matters relating to the SDA site and School Lane**

Comments on the planning application have been submitted as per discussions at the EGM. An attempt has been made to contact the SDA to arrange a meeting to discuss their future activities and how they will manage the site. Councillors agreed that a delegation from the PC would attend.

**10. To consider quotes for resurfacing the path to the Church across the Green**

There were no quotes to consider as still awaiting feedback from contractors. Cllr J Fuller offered to resurface the path with tarmac planning and roll down for £600. Two other quotes need to be considered. Councillors discussed options for the Green, to try and help parking and cause less damage in wet weather. Putting in an edging, designated parking bays with crushed concrete and matting laid beneath the grass were discussed. It was noted that any changes would have to be agreed by the common rights holders and also require approval from the secretary of state to alter common land.

Councillor Stevens joined the meeting at 8.15pm.

**11. To discuss how the Parish Council might lobby and plan to achieve a better bus service**

Bus services in the County are being cut and North Runcton is being affected, Stagecoach have pulled out and Lynx are trying to fill the gap. Cllr Morrish has contacted the West Norfolk Community Transport organisation for an initial chat, and will follow this up. In the meantime Cllr Morrish will try to speak to one of the Lynx managers who lives in the village. Cllr Stevens will include a piece in the next parish magazine to ask for feedback from people as to the sort of bus service they would use.

**12. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues**

- There has been a lot of standing water on the A47 due to verges being overgrown. Clerk to report to Highways England.

**13. Planning**

Any applications to consider;

18/00186/F – Extension and alterations at 5 Common Lane, PE33 0RD

After consideration the PC in principal does not object to this planning application – but are concerned by the loss of the garage and part of the driveway as this will exacerbate parking problems at this property. Also noted reference on the drawings to ‘matching concrete tiles’ - the cottage has pantiles – and would like to see pantiles retained, in keeping with the age and semi-detached nature of the dwelling.

Cllr Morrish asked Cllrs whether they wished to comment on the proposed Kings Lynn ‘B’ Gas Power Station at Saddlebow (proposed building 40-50m tall, flue stacks 80-90m tall. It is likely to take 3 years to build, employing 600 people and it is claimed it could eventually produce 3.5% of UK electricity. There is an opportunity for local stakeholders to comment now. Councillors agreed not to comment at this stage.

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

Nothing to report.

**15. Correspondence**

A – Letter from resident close to the Esso Garage complaining about the litter along the grass verges outside her house. *Clerk to forward email to Sue Payne at the Borough Council, Neighbourhood Nuisance Team.*

B – RRT UK, a global organisation mainly members of the Plymouth Brethren offering support in the form of litter picks, clearing pathways etc *Clerk to reply to say thank you, but as the PC owns very little land or buildings there is nothing to request to be done at present.*

C – Buttercups outlined their financial position stating it is fragile and proposing the hourly hire charge increase agreed by the PC of 50p is decreased to 25p. Councillors considered this request and agreed that they wished to support the group and do not wish to add to present their financial concerns. Cllr Stevens proposed that the hourly hire charge remain at £5.50 with no increase and is reviewed again in September when the group will have a clearer position about their finances. This was seconded by Cllr Dobbing and all agreed. *Clerk to write to Buttercups to confirm.*

D – An inspection has been carried out on the war memorial by Historic England. Both the PC and PCC have commented to state that ownership of the memorial is not definitive and the maintenance has been shared by both parties over the years.

## 16. Finance

a) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

	<b>Opening Balance 01/01/18</b>	<b>Less Jan Chqs</b>	<b>Less DD's £</b>	<b>Add income £</b>	<b>Closing Balance 31/01/18</b>
	£	£		£	£
NRPC Account	11,014.06	483.75	0.00	70.00	<b>10,600.31</b>
VMP Account	7,178.14	158.86	203.01	3,212.12	<b>10,028.39</b>
					<b>20,628.70</b>

b) The following payments were considered for approval;

<b>Date</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description of Service</b>	<b>Amount on Invoice</b>	<b>VAT element - non recoverable</b>
			£	£
<b><u>From VMP Account</u></b>				
09/01/18	R Curtis	Salary 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 18	90.74	
09/01/18	R Curtis	Expenses – VMP Purchases	13.97	
13/02/18	A Pearce	Paintings for VMP	150.00	
13/02/18	Model Hobby	Framing	200.00	
13/02/18	Steward Safety Supplies	Annual Inspection	43.80	
			<b>498.51</b>	
<b><u>From NRPC Account</u></b>				
28/06/17	Westcotec	SAM 2 Unit and Fixings	4,267.20	0.00
22/01/18	CGM	Slitting the Green	25.02	0.00
13/02/18	R Curtis	Clerk Salary 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 18	428.33	0.00
13/02/18	R Curtis	Expenses – Postage	10.55	0.00
13/02/18	NALC	End of Yr Accounts Training	30.00	0.00
			<b>4,761.10</b>	

The Parish Council agreed to pay the above.

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

- Disappointed with the PC decision on the hire charge for the VMP.
- Money spent on the renovation of the VMP has been worth every penny.
- Pleased that the PC is looking at the bus service, a possible development area.

## 18. Items for next meeting agenda

- Quotes for new season grass cutting contract
- Love Lane road surface – Cllr Morrish to contact Julian Fuller

**Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Future meeting dates – (10<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018)

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed ..... 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018