

NORTH RUNCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council held at the Cricket Club, New Road

Tuesday 20th October 2015 7.45pm

Present: Cllr Rick Morrish (Chair), Cllr Kerry Fuller (Vice Chair) Cllr Ann Towler, Cllr Paul Yallop, Cllr Jeremy Fuller, Cllr Gill Sergeant, Cllr Barry Houchen, Cllr Amanda Dobbing

61 members of the public were also present

1. Apologies for absence

None

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

Cllr Jeremy Fuller – Common Rights Holder

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters, PCSO's Report

Bor. Cllrs Peter Gidney and Bal Anota could not attend the meeting, however Cllr Anota sent a report read out by the chairman:

DEVOLUTION - The Borough/District Councils in Norfolk and Suffolk are holding talks about how they could benefit from a devolved local government; there will be a further meeting with 16 council leaders and Govt ministers to discuss further proposals.

Cllr Anota was present at the PC meeting held on the 13th October, regarding the easement for access on to the SDA site and he has since been inundated with emails from residents.

He requests that the PC take on board the concerns raised by residents and that the PC aim to resolve this matter as soon as possible. However he agrees with the Chairman that for a fair decision to be made on the easement all parishioners should be consulted. He agrees with the idea of a ballot and requests that the PC try to conclude the matter within the month.

4. Public Participation – all members of the public welcome – 15 minute session

Comments and questions from the public were as follows;

- The point was raised that the Parish Council should declare an interest in matters to do with North Runcton common as it has common rights.
- There are several hedges and trees over hanging in Cedar Grove, Clerk will report to Highways. There is also a high visibility vest hanging over a tree which has been knocked over, a resident said this belonged to her and she had contacted somebody to remove it in the next few days.
- Suggestion that Parishioners have a say and agree the wording to be included on the ballot paper should the Parish Council agree to hold a ballot regarding the signing of the easement.
- Suggestion that Item 10 on the agenda be postponed in light of the situation regarding the easement.
- Report that the Twisty Twiney has been tarred and chipped by NCC, however with the beet lorries using the road frequently at this time of year the surface is already being damaged.
- Comment that there was no balance to the questions on the leaflet distributed by the Parish Council to invite people to the 13th October meeting. Asked what the benefits were of not signing the easement are and what the problems are with signing it. Also asked how can the Parish Council ensure that the ballot does not contain leading questions.
- Asked what is the Council's attitude to private individuals chopping branches off trees in Sheep's Course Wood. A tree has been broken down by a West Winch resident who said he had been given permission by the farmer. It was confirmed by John Fuller that the farmer does not have rights to give this consent.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September 2015

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 14th July and 8th September meeting and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this meeting

- **2014-15 Audit** – Notice was received of the conclusion of the audit and the right to inspect the annual return, this was displayed for 14 days from 8th September 2015. The Clerk received no requests to inspect the accounts.
- **Additional Grit Bin along Common Lane** – Highways stated there are no new grit bins being allocated this year due to their budget cuts.
- **Bin in churchyard being used for dog waste** – Spoke to the church warden who will raise the matter to the PCC.
- **Site Visit with CGM** – Met with Ian Burton on 19th October, have requested an email alert when the grass has been cut and also requested an itemised bill each month. Also gangs will ask the Buttercups staff to move their cars before cutting the green to prevent patches of uncut grass being left.

7. Co-option of New Councillor

Each candidate was invited to present their reasons for filling the Councillor vacancy.

Sally Garrett – Lived in the Parish for 7 years. Runs a children's study centre, prior to this a head teacher. Believes the Parish Council is there to serve its Parishioners and believes she can work on their behalf. Values the community and loves the rural character of the village and wants to keep it that way and to keep the heart of the community as it is.

Stephen Gore – His family has a long history in North Runcton. Career in manufacturing and more recently boat building. Has interest in developments not only in the Village but also locally, namely Morston Point development. Would like to take an active role in enhancing the local economy and standards of life for residents. Would do well to serve the Parish Council and residents.

John Sherry – Resident for 5 years, has a young family. Served for 26 years in the air force, now a lecturer at a university. Has strong skills in senior management, leadership and negotiator. Believes he knows how to get the best out of people bringing his strong skill set to the role of Councillor.

The Council then proceeded to vote on the above candidates. All 3 candidates received a proposer and a seconder. Sally Garrett received one vote, Stephen Gore received one vote and John Sherry received 5 votes. With a majority vote, John Sherry was the successful candidate and declared co-opted to the Council.

8. Discussion of a Ballot

The Chairman summarised the background to this item. At the meeting on 13th October the Parish Councils proposal to negotiate an easement with the new owners of Runcton Hall Stables was discussed. To develop and operate the proposed campsite (32 log cabins and clubhouse - which received planning consent in 2014), the new owners (SDA) are expected to require access across land owned by the Parish Council. The PC has been advised to negotiate an easement with SDA. Residents have objected to proposals the SDA have since made for the campsite and oppose the PC plan to grant an easement for access. The PC consider that to prevent access to the site, the PC are likely to need to take legal action and that this could result in significant costs. It was therefore mooted at the meeting on 13/10/2015 that a ballot at which all parishioners could vote on the matter would be the most democratic way for residents to deliver a clear mandate to the Parish Council regarding its policy on the matter. The chairman proposed that the PC should make arrangements to hold such a ballot, seconded Barry Houchen – unanimously supported.

9. Discussion of forming a sub-committee

The Council discussed the formation of a sub-committee to work on the issues surrounding the easement and in the first instance to arrange and coordinate the parish ballot. It was confirmed that the sub-committee will be chaired by a councillor, that the meetings will be held in public, meetings would be minuted by the Parish clerk and any proposals taken back to the full Parish Council meetings for approval. The committee should be made up of 8 members, 4 Councillors and 4 other residents. It was decided the Councillors to be on the sub-committee are Cllr Sergeant, Cllr Yallop, Cllr Kerry Fuller and the newly elected Councillor Mr John Sherry. Cllr Morrish proposed that the sub committee is set up and was seconded by Cllr Yallop, with a unanimous vote in favour from the other Councillors. Residents should decide their 4 members and let the Clerk know by the end of October, the PC will approve anyone wanting to join the sub committee. The first meeting will be held on 17th November 2015, where a chair and vice chair will be elected and the first item to discuss will be what questions to put on the ballot and what supporting information will need to be distributed to parishioners to assist them in making their decision.

10. Resurfacing of School Road

The condition of the surface of school road was raised in the risk assessment carried out at the beginning of the year. There is an issue now though of whether to spend reserves on the road with some uncertainty over future usage, and also the late time of year for the work. It was decided to fill the potholes only as the Council has a responsibility to make the road safe and is aware of health and safety issues. Costs will be investigated to undertake this work.

11. Highways

Nothing to report

12. Planning

15/01582/F – Single storey rear extension at 29 The Green, North Runcton **Supported**

114/01114/OM – Morston Point, Outline Application – the applicant has put in a change of use from employment to mixed-use retail. This was given consent at the last planning committee meeting at the Borough Council, although it is now understood to have been referred to the Secretary of State.

TPO Applications – New Road, North Runcton 15/00067/TPO | 2/TPO/00138: 15/00063/TPO | 2/TPO/00138: T4 Sycamore – to fell a sycamore and ash tree. The Parish Council will request that if the trees are felled replacements should be replanted as this is a normal requirement in cases such as this.

13. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Morrish reported the following - on the 1st and 2nd October he attended the Local Plan examination to speak on behalf of the North Runcton and West Winch Neighbourhood Plan group. Concerns were put forward regarding proposals especially reintroduction of Gravel Hill to the Local Plan, which was not in the original draft Local Plan. ZAL say that this site is critical to the viability of their scheme and delivery of a 'relief road' which has been asked for by residents to relieve traffic on the A10. BCKLWN has already approved the idea of Gravelhill being built on – but it is understood there will be further consultation on the matter. Other concerns were raised regarding delivery of the road, and other infrastructure including green space. It was felt that the Inspector was receptive to the points made. The hearing will end on 19th November and the Borough Council will then need to revise the Local Plan and then put it out for a further 6 week consultation. Therefore a final Local Plan is unlikely to be published until Easter/May 2016. The outcome of this will impact upon the neighbourhood plan which will need some redrafting. The steering group are looking to employ a planner to undertake some of this work and some of this cost (expected to be around £2500) will have to be met by North Runcton Parish Council. There is a £1000 allowance in this year's PC budget – but that would not cover it. Cllr Sergeant asked if a 50/50 split was fair as there were so many more people living in West Winch than North Runcton. Cllr Morrish has applied for a *Locality* grant which, if received, would hopefully cover the additional NP costs.

14. Correspondence

The Clerk read out the correspondence list as follows;

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|---|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| A | 21 st September 2015 | Henry Bellingham | Thanking the Parish Council for copying him into the recent letter to the Highways Agency regarding the speed limit on the A47. |
| B | 2 nd October 2015 | Caroline Jeffery | Response to a letter sent enquiring about trenches being dug in a field at the southern edge of the Parish. Caroline confirmed that this area is not covered in existing planning permission and if this land was to be developed for clay extraction a planning permission would have to be submitted which at present none has been. This land is not included in the Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan. |

C	6 th October 2015	Roger Chenery, Highways England	There are no plans to amend the junction of Hill Road and New Road as records show no injury collisions have occurred between January 2012 and December 2014. It is not intended to pursue a reduction or alteration of the speed limit on the A47 in the area. Realises that Parish Council will be disappointed with this response but be assured that Highways England continue to monitor safety.
D	8 th October 20115	Steve A Thomas, Seventh Day Adventists	Reaffirms the SDA commitment to the original planning permission. All planning requirements including the uses will have to be discharged (making property available for holiday bookings). Not yet spoken to any press, the decision to give a statement will be the role of the new president and his new communications director.
E	8 th October 2015	Caroline Jeffrey	For information that there are silica sand resources underlying the boundaries of North Runcton Parish Council area (East Winch, Bawsey). The consultation of the Silica Sand Review was discussed at the Norfolk County Council's Environment, Transport and Development (EDT) Committee meeting on the 16 th October. Further details on documentation and maps can be found on the Norfolk County Council website.
F	15 th October 2015	Henry Bellingham	Stating he has received Roger Chenery's letter regarding the A47 speed limit, he appreciated it is a disappointing response and if the Parish Council has any further comments to let him know.
G	14 th October 2015	North Runcton Resident	Complaint that leaflets had not been received at the residents address during the recent leafleting by the Parish Council regarding the extra ordinary meeting.
H	15 th – 19 th October	6 North Runcton Residents	Complaints regarding the conduct of the Parish Council at the meeting of 13 th October.
I	19 th October 2015	Lillian Fisher	Asking if the Parish Council wishes a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial for remembrance Sunday. To inform the public that the service will be at the war memorial at 10.45 for approximately 20 minutes.
J	16 th October	John Fuller	Copy of a letter signed by common rights holders and the common reeve stating that they do not approve of any widening of the access road onto North Runcton Green, as to comply with Condition 14 of the original planning approval ref: 13/01103/FM. This letter has been sent to Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council.
K	20 th October 2015	Lynda Fuller	Harvest Supper at the Sports Club on Wednesday 28 th October – 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £10 each, all home cooked food, please bring your own

drinks. Contact Lynda Fuller for tickets.

15. Finance

a) The Council agreed to make the following payments;

Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on Invoice	VAT element - non recoverable	
		£	£	
<u>From VMP Account</u>				
17/09/15	Mr Brights	VMP cleaning – 17 th August – 11 th September 2015	124.80	20.80
			<hr/>	124.80
<u>From NRPC Account</u>				
19/09/15	Country Grounds Maintenance	Grass Cutting for September	67.27	0.00
30/09/15	Norfolk ALC	Transparency Code Training – R Curtis	15.00	0.00
30/09/15	Norfolk ALC	Transparency Code Training – G Sergeant	15.00	0.00
13/10/15	Mrs R Curtis	Clerk Salary, 9 th September – 13 th October 2015	331.22	0.00
13/10/15	Mrs R Curtis	Printer Ink, Stamps	27.82	0.00
			<hr/>	456.31

16. Items for next meeting agenda

- Action Points from Residents Meeting
- Transparency Code
- Clerks re-imburement for additional hours worked

The Chairman asked the Parishioners if they had any questions or comments from tonight’s meeting;

- Did the Parish Council receive an invite to the meeting of the common rights holders to discuss whether common rights holders would give consent for NCC to alter the entrance to School Lane from New Road. John Fuller stated there was no meeting. Other common rights holders have signed a letter to go to Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council, (see above correspondence).
- For clarity it was confirmed that the Parish Council has written to Norfolk County Council to say that without consent from the PC as land owner and similar consent from other commons rights holders there can be no alterations to the Green.
- A Parishioner asked that the Parish Council be clear if they are forming a ‘sub-committee’ or ‘working party’ as they had different rules – Clerk to confirm.

17. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10th November 2015

(Future meeting dates – 8th December 2015, 12th January 2016, 9th February 2016)

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed

10th November 2015