

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 12th July 2016 7.45pm

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

8 members of the public were also present

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Barry Houchen

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

Cllr Sergeant – Item 12, Cllr Towler, Cllr Yallop – Item 14

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

Not present, however sent a report as follows;

Devolution - As of the 8th July the residents of Norfolk and Suffolk were asked for their views on the proposed Devolution Deal, this consultation will last 7 weeks and deadline is the 23rd August 2016,

Key elements of proposed Norfolk/Suffolk deal are:

- £25m funding each year for the next 30 years to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs (this will increase the local economy to £43bn and create 95,000 jobs by 2026)
- £130m investment over five years to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk, Over the lifetime of the deal around 200,000 homes could be delivered
- Control of a £225m guaranteed transport budget for the next four years

About the Combined Authority (CA)

- The CA would be made up of an elected member from all of the councils across Norfolk and Suffolk who have signed the deal.
- The CA would not replace any existing council.
- Councils would continue as they currently do, to provide services for their areas.

About the Mayor

- The Mayor would be elected by residents in the council areas that have voted to approve devolution.
- The Mayor would not be able to make decisions alone and would require the support of a certain number of members on the CA to progress their proposals.
- Existing Mayors across Norfolk and Suffolk would not be affected.
- Locally, the Mayor would be held to account by voters (elections every four years).
- There would also be an Audit Committee and an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review spending and decision making respectively.

I personally feel that the last thing the Country needs is another tier of governance, one thing that is clear and that's there are many un-answered questions and uncertainties but I do feel that Central Government will push Local Authorities into such deals so it's very important to keep our finger on the button.

Felling of Oak Tree

A resident contacted Peter and myself regarding a Felling Oak Tree – this is still ongoing due to awaiting response from the right department at Borough. Will keep the resident and Parish updated as new information becomes available. Peter adds – would the applicant be able to plant a replacement oak tree elsewhere?

Overgrown Verges

There has been a large number of residents contacting the Borough/Councillors regarding the state of the verges around West Norfolk, I believe the Borough is looking into this again, but most of the verges are Highways responsibilities and due to budget cuts they are only being cut once or twice a year instead of a more frequent program.

One resident complained that last year under the old system the hedges/verges took around 30 minutes to cut/trim but was done 3-4 times a year the same patch took around 2-3 hours because of the growth, so clearly this needs to be revisited as I cannot see where the cost savings are.

I was unable to attend due to work commitments, but if any residents have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Peter or myself as we are more than willing to help.

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

- Keith Longhurst said he would draw up a proposed plan of the position of the planters and meet with Cllr Morrish to ascertain the exact positioning in relation to the edge of School Road.
- A resident raised the following issues at Cedar Grove;
 - o Overgrown verges, Clerk to contact the Borough Council to confirm who is responsible for cutting.
 - o Pavement surface is uneven and broken and becoming dangerous, Clerk to report to Highways.
 - o Overgrown hedges at some properties, Clerk to contact Highways.
- The verge on New Road opposite the campsite is overgrown, explanation above in Cllr Anota's report.
- It was felt that the PC should object to some elements of the devolution proposal. Clerk to circulate information to Cllrs and form a response.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th June 2016.

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 14th June 2016 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this meeting

- **FW Properties** – Comments and correspondence thread have been posted on the website.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs** – NCC approved supplier Westcotec have offered to carry out a site visit to advise and assess locations, Clerk to arrange during the summer recess.
- **Buttercups** – The pre-school group have contacted the PC to confirm hall availability as they plan to assess demand of staying open during the school holidays and only close for 2 weeks at Christmas, this is planned to be trialled in February half term. The PC agreed that they would be happy for Buttercups to extend their terms – notwithstanding that Hall maintenance works may exclude use of the hall for some periods. (see also item 7 below).

7. To hear proposals for a grant application for the Village Meeting Place

The PC has the opportunity to apply for grant funding from WREN to repair and renovate the VMP. Areas which have been highlighted for work include the following: Re-roofing the building including the flat roof areas; kitchen and toilet refurbishment; improvements to the heating. In addition, a re-design of the entrance lobby was discussed - considering disabled access, addressing damp problems, and improved storage. A parishioner has offered to draw up some initial plans free of charge. The grant application must be supported by costings. Clerk/Cllr Morrish to obtain quotes for the work and Clerk to liaise with Cllr Dobbing and present the application to the September PC meeting for approval prior to submission. If the grant application was successful the work would most likely take place in summer 2017. The

Chairman closed the meeting to hear thoughts from the public, which were positive and supported the application.

8. To approve work to be carried out on the mains connection to the VMP and replacement lighting

During the process of obtaining quotes for the roof some contractors noted that the electric cables running to the VMP are overhead. These would be required to be shrouded when any work took place on the roof. In order to tidy the cables, UK Power Networks have been contacted who would re-route the cables underground for £1,500. The PC agreed to carry out this work now, with VMP funds.

9. To discuss fundraising ideas for the Church

At the May residents meeting the idea of the PC helping to organise an ‘open garden’ event to raise money for the Church roof was discussed. One resident has offered their garden – there may be others. Another idea might be to have a ‘mass bulb planting’ on verges, front gardens and other spaces (eg Churchyard) this autumn (and perhaps future autumns), and then have a spring/easter fundraising event. A member of the PCC was in the public area and supported the idea. It was agreed that two Cllrs might ask to attend a PCC meeting to discuss further. It was suggested that the Art Club might get involved. Clerk to request free bulbs from the Borough Council and to assess whether more would need to be purchased or donated. It was noted that there are restrictions on a Parish Councils giving direct grants to churches and charities.

10. To hear an update on the Queens Tea Party – 16th July

32 parishioners have responded to the invitation; there will be tea and cakes served, memorabilia on display, children’s games and a cake decorating competition.

11. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

- There have been 2 incidents recently on the A47 and A10 resulting in diversions, with thousands of vehicles including many HGVs coming through the Village. It was decided that little could be done and it wasn’t worth writing a letter to Highways.
- A street sweeper has been hired to sweep the debris from School Lane, due to take place on 14th July, cost to be £80.

12. Planning

- a) Any applications to consider;

16/00030/8TPO – Removal of Yew Tree, Garden House, Rectory Lane

The Parish Council objected to the removal of this tree, however after the meeting it was noted that late on the 12th July the decision to approve this application had been posted on the Borough Council website and it was closed to further comments. Clerk has written to Richard Fisher regarding this decision and others on TPO’s in the village recently.

16/01142/F – Rainydays, 62 West Winch Road, extension with new 2 bay garage

The Parish Council supports this application.

16/01268/F – 6 Timber Cabins at Caravan Site

This application came in after the agenda had been produced, therefore Cllrs had not been made aware of the plans. If Cllrs wish to make comments inform the Clerk and then it will be decided whether a separate meeting is required to discuss this.

- b) Decisions received from BCKLWN

16/00391/F – New dwelling 18/24 Common Lane – Application Permitted

- c) Comments made to BCKLWN

None

13. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The plan is nearly finalised and would ideally be submitted to BCKLWN before September. Policies that were last consulted on have not changed, but the order has. NP Steering Group need to determine whether another local consultation is required before it is submitted (where BCKLWN would begin a 6 week consultation anyway). The other matter holding up submission is that examination of the Local Plan is still ongoing – and it may yet change. Until the examiner concludes if the Gravel Hill site is in or out of the local plan, this will impact upon its inclusion on the NP.

ZAL has asked to talk to the NP team about their impending planning application.

14. The Clerk read out the correspondence list as follows;

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|---|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| A | June 2016 | The PCC | Thanking the Parish Council for money towards churchyard maintenance. |
| B | June 2016 | Norfolk County Council | Norfolk Safeguarding Adults – Speak up if you know someone you know is being abused. |
| C | 4 th July 2016 | Anglian Water | Get in touch with Anglian Water if you think you may have a pumping station on your property. From October 2016, many will transfer to AWA and become their responsibility to run and maintain. Specialist website
www.spotapumpingstation.co.uk

Clerk to respond to AWA, no private pumping stations thought to be in the Parish. |

15. Finance

- a) To approve the purchase of a new laptop
The Clerk presented 3 options for a laptop ranging in price from £350 to £450. The PC agreed that in order to purchase a laptop with a suitable resolution to enable its use with a projector it would add to the £350 already set aside from the transparency fund. Cllr Dobbing will look at options and liaise with Clerk.

- b) To hear an update on Cashbook balances - 1st June – 30th June 2016

	Opening Balance 01/05/16 £	Less April Chqs £	Less DD's £	Add income £	Closing Balance 31/05/16 £
NRPC Account	32,115.02	1,709.23	1.00	73.46	30,478.25
VMP Account	6,878.36	274.59	50.40	1,305.50	7,858.87

- c) The following payments will be considered for approval;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Amount on	VAT element -
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			Invoice	non recoverable
			£	£
<u>From VMP Account</u>				
16/06/16	Mr Brights	Cleaning 23 rd May – 17 th June	124.80	
10/04/16	R Curtis	Salary 15 th June – 12 th July 2016	89.79	
			214.59	
<u>From NRPC Account</u>				
17/05/16	CGM	Grounds Maintenance - April	67.27	0.00
24/05/16	CGM	Grounds Maintenance – May	67.27	0.00
22/06/16	CGM	Grounds Maintenance - June	67.27	0.00
30/06/16	BCKLWN	Printing Tea Party Invites	16.59	0.00
12/07/16	R Curtis	Clerk Salary, 15 th June – 12 th July 2016	424.04	
12/07/16	R Curtis	Expenses	32.37	0.00
			674.81	

The Parish Council agreed to pay the above.

Clerk to contact CGM to find out when the next cut is to take place so that a Cllr can meet with the team.

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

- Parking is still an issue outside the VMP, Clerk and Cllr Morrish awaiting confirmation of wording from the solicitor for a sign. Cllr Morrish will also contact Sharon who runs the Rainbows group to ask her to speak to parents again.
- The bridleways in the village are very overgrown. Clerk to contact Highways and also speak to CGM.
- Speeding along New Road is still an issue, it is hoped the VAS will help.

17. Items for next meeting agenda

- Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)
- WREN Grant

18. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 13th September 2016

(Future meeting dates – 11th October, 8th November)

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed 13th September 2016