

Minutes of the Meeting of Northrepps Parish Council held on 07 November 2023 at 19.00 at Northrepps Village Hall

Present:

Vice Chairman Cllr. L. Fish,
Cllr. V. Callaghan, Cllr. W. Hannant, Cllr. M. Millman, Cllr. W. Risebrow,
Cllr. G. Smith

Clerk Mrs J. Warner

District Cllr. A. Fitch Tillett to item 6 incl.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Cllrs. Hannant & Risebrow signed their declaration of acceptance of office forms which were witnessed by the Clerk. They were both welcomed on to the Council.

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 03 October 2023

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 03 October 2023 be **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Mackay and Renaud and were noted from County Cllr. Maxfield.

3. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

4. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5. Police matters

5.1 Police Newsletters

Any newsletters were circulated and noted.

5.2 Update from SNAP meeting

Cllr. Callaghan advised that P.C. Mezzetti will look into the complaints about anti-social behaviour on the playing field and inappropriate parking in the village.

5.3 Other police matters

There were no other police matters to report but thanks were given to the police officers who attended the bonfire night event.

6. District Council and County Council

6.1 County and District Councillor Reports.

Members were in receipt of the written reports (attached).

6.2 Any other County and District Council matters (for information only)

Emails from Cllr. Maxfield re speed reduction between Antingham and Thorpe Market were noted.

Cllr. Fitch Tillett left the meeting.

7. Planning

7.1 Planning Applications and decisions

Planning applications for consideration

PF/23/2265 – The Old Rectory Stables

No objections

Planning applications considered under planning protocol

PO/23/0596 – Land off Overstrand Road, Cromer

As an adjoining parish, this development will have an impact on the highways surrounding Northrepps and also the infrastructure such as medical facilities, dental services and schools all of which are used not only by residents of Cromer but also by the neighbouring parishes. Whilst members of Northrepps Parish Council appreciate the need for elderly care accommodation and housing and are pleased to see that the affordable housing element will be at 45%, they raise the following concerns:

- Impact on the GP surgery where currently patients often have to wait several weeks for an appointment
- impact on dental services. Many people struggle to find an NHS dentist in North Norfolk.
- impact on the schools.
- impact on the care service. People struggle to find carers so will the elderly care accommodation be able to recruit staff?
- impact on utilities - can the current systems cope? In particular the drainage from the site which has been highlighted in other responses.
- loss of biodiversity for wildlife and impact on the boundary with the old railway track which is regularly used by walkers.
- impact on the highways.

Members ask that if this outline application is approved, mitigation is put in place to address these issues and S106 conditions are put in place to pay for such and that the affordable housing element is kept at 45%.

We ask that Northrepps Parish Council will be consulted again as matters progress.

PF/23/2158 – 129 Broadgate Close

Members of Northrepps Parish Council have no objections to this application provided that there are no objections from the neighbours. Members ask that the new garage does not impact on the neighbouring trees and that the garage concession does not have windows inserted on the side which overlooks the neighbouring property.

7.2 Updates on live planning applications

There were no updates to report.

7.3 S106 monies from Broadgate Close Development

It was noted that the funding cannot be claimed from NNDC until works to playground are carried out. There is a time limit of 10 years to claim the funding

7.5 Other Planning Matters (for information only)

A Tree Preservation order for Land at The Valley, Northrepps Road was noted.

8. Highways & Transportation**8.1 Traffic Regulation Orders**

Any traffic orders had been circulated to members and were noted.

8.2 Other Highway Matters (for information only and inclusion on the next agenda if appropriate)

Potholes & White Lining – The Clerk advised that a pothole run of the whole length of New Road is to be carried out by NCC Highways but the white lining at the junctions may take a little longer.

Quiet Line Signage – NCC Highways are not supportive of the suggestion that the signage is removed. They feel that even if only 50% of drivers take care it is better than none at all.

9. Finance & Regulatory Matters**9.1 Payments and Receipts & Financial Statement**

The financial matters were **APPROVED**, and the finance sheet was signed by the Vice Chairman and the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer (refer attached).

9.2 Actuals Against Budget

Members were in receipt of the monthly budget sheets which were noted.

9.3 **Bank Reconciliation to 28 September 2023**

Members were in receipt of the bank reconciliation to 28 September 2023 which was **approved** and signed by the Vice Chairman and Clerk as RFO.

9.4 **Norfolk ALC Conference**

Members were in receipt of a report from the Clerk's attendance at the Norfolk ALC Conference which was noted.

9.5 **Full Council Training**

It was **agreed** to arrange a date for Full Council training in the new year.

9.6 **Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan**

Members were in receipt of a draft statement which was **approved**. It was **agreed** to set up a task and finish group in the new year to progress this.

9.7 **Budget and Precept 2024/25**

Members were in receipt of a draft budget which was **approved**. It was agreed to set the precept at £18,976 for 2024/25.

9.8 **Any other financial and regulatory matters** (for information only)

Members were sad to note the resignation of Erica Redmond. NNDC have produced the Notice of Vacancy which is on the village website and noticeboard.

The new pay scales were noted.

10. **Playing Field & Allotments**

10.1 **Grounds Maintenance, Repairs & RoSPA Inspection**

Repairs and inspections

Rospa inspection to be recirculated to all members.

Springers – Cllr. Hannant to tighten bolts. Cllr. Mackay yet to paint.

See saw rockers – Quotation for new bearing received and noted. Cllrs. Hannant and Risebrow to look to see whether they could replace the bearing.

Nest Swing – Members were concerned that they do not have the training or tools to disassemble this. They will take a look and report back to the next meeting.

David Bracey who inspects play equipment elsewhere will be asked for advice re the nest swing and see saw rocker and whether members could safely carry out these works.

10.2 **Bus Shelters**

It was noted that C P Cleaning Services have carried out a thorough clean of the bus shelters. This has been budgeted to be done once every 6 months. This item will be removed from the agenda.

10.3 **Reduction of height of hedge at Village Hall**

It was agreed to accept a quotation from Secret Gardens to reduce the height and width of the hedge subject to a contribution from the Village Hall committee who have indicated that they may be willing to contribute 50% of the cost.

10.4 **Parish Council Maintained Gardens**

It was noted that the works will be carried out in the spring. This item will be removed from the agenda.

10.5 **Defibrillator**

It was noted that the defibrillator has been delivered and is awaiting installation. Public training sessions will be arranged in the new year. A councillor will be asked to carry out weekly checks of the defibrillator which will be uploaded to webnos.

10.6 **Tree works**

It was noted that the works identified in the inspection have been carried out.

10.7 **Phone box**

It was noted that the Village Trust are struggling to find someone to provide the creative element of the works. They are contacting Cromer Academy and Paston College to see whether any students would be interested. This project may have to be revisited in the spring.

10.8 **Allotment tenancies**

The Clerk advised that vacant plots are being reallocated. It was **agreed** to give consent for the installation of a non-permanent fence and small incinerator on one plot.

10.9 **Use of Playing Field**

It was noted that a very successful meeting had been arranged by Duncan Baker MP. Representatives from the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and Cromer Youth FC attended and a new booking system is being set up which will hopefully prevent any future double bookings.

10.10 **Other playing field and allotment matters** (for information only)

There were no other matters to report.

11. Correspondence and other matters

11.1 Bonfire Night Event

It was noted that the event was very successful and £377 collected in the buckets. It was suggested that the event is expanded to include food and the sale of merchandise next year to increase the takings.

11.2 D Day 80 - 06 June 2024

Cllr. Fish advised that Northrepps Royal British Legion will be discussing the arrangements for the event. She will be talking to Cllr. Mackay about this and will provide an update for the next meeting.

Cllr. Hannant will obtain a quotation for a brazier.

Mary Janes are interested in providing fish and chips for the event.

11.3 North Norfolk Marathon – Sunday 28 April 2024

It was noted that New Road and Church Street will be open throughout and traffic marshalls will be managing the traffic. Hungry Hill and Nut Lane (Cromer Road) will be closed but a full diversion will be put in place.

11.4 Correspondence received since 03 October 2023 (circulated)

Norfolk ALC & Wellbeing

Newsletters

Community Action Norfolk

Newsletters

All the above correspondence was noted and no comment made unless stated.

12. To receive items to be included on the next agenda and to consider any other business (for information only)

Signage – Concern was raised that some of the Forest Park signs are misdirecting people into the centre of the village.

13. To note the date of the next meeting: 19:00 on 05 December 2023

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 20:50.

Signed

Dated.....

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

November 2023

Cabinet Approvals:

As Cabinet is scheduled for after most of Poppyland Parish Councils, I have nothing to report so far.

Full Council Decisions:

There was no Full Council in October

Ward Issues:

As a Coastal Ward Member, I attended the now East Anglian Coast and Estuaries Conference and would be happy to provide a link for this vital event.

I am pleased to confirm that Shucks (Nut) Lane, Northrepps had now been cleared and the pothole filled in.

I received two complaints. One in respect of Forest Park clearing long standing debris from The Valley. I understand that officers have now raised a Tree Preservation Order.

I was also contacted by a member of the public who had to have his car towed off Pauls Lane Car Park just after the last storm. Apparently, we should have displayed a warning sign. Work to cover the currently grassed area with shale should have commenced but I understand that a dialogue between property and Overstrand Parish Council has been established so as not to interfere with the forthcoming Fireworks Event.

I was delighted to attend the official opening of the Poppyland Radio Studios located in the first floor of Northrepps Village Hall.

On Wednesday 8th November I shall be having an operation on both feet which means I shall be unable to drive for about six weeks. I shan't know until after the operation just how mobile I shall be, so I'm afraid I shall be offline for a while. Please therefore address any issues to Cllr Ed Maxfield.

Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett

Poppyland Ward, NNDC

County Councillor's report November 2023

Schools Funding

A cut up in the Department for Education means schools in Norfolk will be getting £5.6 million less next year than has been planned for.

Each year the Department for Education announces schools funding allocations for Local Authority areas in the summer. Most of the money is allocated to schools based on a national formula but part is allocated locally based on priorities agreed with the education sector. The County Council is in the middle of its normal consultation process now.

In October, the DfE issued new (lower) figures after it spotted an error in its own calculations. The DfE has apologised for the error which affects all local authority areas. This error affects the schools block funding only and does not affect the High Needs Block which funds support for children with additional needs.

Schools have not received any removal of current funding, but school budgets are already tight and many will have begun to plan for next year based on the original July figures and will now need to adjust what they plan to spend on staffing and activities.

The County Council has written to the DfE demanding that they stick to the original allocation.

Support for households this winter

The County Council is receiving £13.4m from central government to keep the Household Support Fund running until the end of March 2024. The council is adding an additional £400,000 to make the total programme of support worth £13.8m. It is working with District Councils and charities to decide the best way to support people in need of help.

As part of the Household Support Fund, all 47 of Norfolk's libraries will be offering free winter support items until the end of March 2024 (while stocks last). Including hot water bottles, toiletries and Tricky Period bags:

There are details of the help available from the Household Support Fund at:

<http://norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving>

More cuts planned to council spending

The County Council needs to slice another £46 million off its spending next year. It was interesting, and alarming, to see the Conservative councillor in charge of finances announce in the press that without extra help from the government the council could end up like Birmingham and Northamptonshire and effectively have to declare itself bankrupt. I hope that was a bit of politics done in the week of the Conservative Party conference because if not, services for people in Norfolk will be hit hard.

Pressures facing the council include:

- Price inflation (including wages) of £12.5 million, including £7 million in adult social care and £3.2 million in children's services
- Demographic pressures (increasing demand), including £5.5 million in adult social care and £9.5 million in children's services

So far, £26.5 million of savings have been proposed and the remainder will be developed over the next few months:

- Adult social services, £14.2 million
- Children's services, £4.8 million
- Community and environmental services, £5.5 million

- Strategy, transformation and finance £1.9 million

There will be a public consultation on the budget over the autumn. The current proposals include a Council Tax increase of 4.99 per cent, including the adult social care precept of two per cent.

As always, we wait to hear whether more funding will be provided in the autumn statement in November, or the provisional local government funding settlement in December.

The council makes a final decision on the budget in February.

Flooding and blocked roads

A topsy turvy year of weather has seen the wind and rain of autumn arrive with a blast in the last couple of weeks. There seem to have been a few challenges keeping roads clear both from fallen trees and from localised flooding. I know Parish Clerks are well used to reporting problems and know the people to chase too but anyone can report issues that they find. More information here:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding

[Report a problem - Norfolk County Council](#)

I can help with chasing up responses too of course. I am also always very keen to hear how well the County Council responds to reports. I know it is frustrating how hard it can be to get the County Council to listen when changes need to be made but we will only be able to get things done if we make sure the council hears the complaints.

Fatal road accident at Swafield

The head of Highways at County Hall has suggested there might be money available to make road safety improvements in Swafield following the tragic accident there recently. It's not clear how much money they will spend or what measures they are prepared to take but I am meeting with Duncan Baker MP, the head of Highways and representatives of the Parish Council soon to discuss it. This is an issue that affects more than just Swafield because of the ever-increasing volume of traffic using the road to reach the coast. I've been talking about the need for a joined-up solution for Trunch, Swafield, Knapton, Mundesley and Gimmingham for a long time. Small progress has already been made thanks to the hard work of Parish Councils but more still needs to be done.

Ed Maxfield

www.edmaxfield.org.uk

Financial Matters:**Payments made since the last meeting**

102525	Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib and cabinet	£ 2778.00
102526	Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib annual support	£ 130.50
102527	C J Mason – Tree works	£ 520.00
102528	C Peck – Bus shelter cleaning	£ 240.00
102529	NNDC Election Costs	£ 51.72

Payments for approval at November meeting

102530	T T Jones Electrical – 5 year street light check	£ 504.00
102531	Secret Gardens – Maintenance contract & misc (Oct)	£ 480.00
102532	RBL Poppy Appeal – GPOC donation	£ 20.00
102533	Gavin Plummer Auto Repairs – tyre disposal	£ 174.50
102534	J Warner – Clerks Salary & Expenses (Oct)	£ 263.32
102535	Norfolk Pension Fund (Oct)	£ 91.00

Direct debit payments:

18/10/2023	NPower Street Light Electricity (for Sept)	£ 77.63
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Receipts since last meeting:

Allotment rents	£ 95.00
NNDC Recycle Credit	£ 19.15

Financial Statement:

Reconciled balances as at 27/10/2023

Community Account	£12602.85
Business Premium Account	£26412.18
Business Premium Account	<u>£ 4813.77</u>
	£43828.80

Less cheques issued but not banked

102481	£ 20.00
102419	£ 100.00
102424	£ 30.74
102527	£ 520.00
102529	£ 51.72

Balance	£43106.34
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Signed
Chairman *Responsible Financial Officer*

Dated
