

**Minutes of the Meeting of Northrepps Parish Council held on 29 October 2024 at 19.00pm
at Northrepps Village Hall**

Present

Chair Cllr A Mackay, Vice Chair Cllr L Fish

Cllr. V Callaghan, Cllr W Hannant, Cllr W Risebrow, Cllr M Millman, Cllr G Smith

District Cllr A Fitch-Tillet (to item 6.1)

Clerk Mrs L Harper

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 September 2024

It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 September 2024 be approved as a true record.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr O Nieboer. Apologies were noted from County Cllr E Maxfield.

3. Declarations of Interest and 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 Newsletter

There were none.

6. County Council and District Council

6.1 County and District reports and updates

All Members were in receipt of the written report from County Cllr. Maxfield (attached).

Members were in receipt of the written report from District Cllr Fitch-Tillett (attached).

6.2 Any Other County and District Council Matters

There were none

7. Planning

7.1 Planning applications and decisions

PF/24/1683 -Valley Cottage 69 Northrepps Road has been approved.

7.2 Updates on live planning applications

There were none

7.3 Other Planning Matters (for information only)

There were no matters to report

8. Highways, Transportation and Public Rights of Way

8.1 Traffic Regulation Orders

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

8.2 Update re overgrown hedge on Craft Lane

Orbit have been contacted to ask for contact with the Estates Services Team, who appear to be responsible for the cutting of the hedge. Clerk will chase.

8.3 Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/6

No projects submitted at this time.

8.4 Any Other Highway Matters (for information only)

There were none.

9. Finance and Strategy

9.1 Payments and Receipts and Financial Statement

The financial matters were approved and the finance sheet was signed by the Chair and the Clerk as the Responsible Finance Officer.

9.2 Actuals against Budget

Current bank balances were circulated.

9.3 Update on Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan and Pond

Rivers Trust are scheduled to contact Cllr Mackay.

9.4 Land Registry and Playing Field

Will defer to next budget as cost for company to investigate is expensive.

9.5 Casual Vacancy and new cheque signatory

No applications have been received.

Cllr Mackay has completed paperwork for the new cheque signatory. The Clerk will submit the paperwork to the Barclays Branch.

9.6 Update from NCC Highways re verge cutting

No update

9.7 Any Other Financial Matters (for information only)

None received.

10. Playing Field, Maintenance and Allotments

10.1 Hornsea Grant Application – we need to miss the next funding round and will resubmit the application for 4 June 2025.

10.2 Play equipment need footings checked before any work can be carried out.

10.3 A small quantity of bark will be ordered. A final decision on the amount of will be made following the inspection of the play equipment

10.4 Village gardens and Gallus Plough – Cllr Smith will organise a meeting to agree what is happening with the sign, garden planting etc.

10.5 Tree works – No update

10.6 Any Other playing field or allotment matters (for information only)

New Tenancy agreements, featuring the biodiversity policy, have been sent out to all allotment holders.

11. Bonfire Night event

11.1 Cllr Mackay advised that the fireworks have been received. He will ensure the risk assessment and volunteer induction sheets are completed by Friday 1st November 2024.

11.2 Insurers and NNDC have been sent photos of the brazier and its location in

meterage from the village hall.

11.3 Jason Buxton has confirmed he will be in attendance as First Aider.

12. Correspondence and other matters

12.1 Various leaflets and newsletters

12.2 All correspondence had been previously circulated for information.

13. Any Other Business (for information only) and items for the next agenda

13.1 Apologies were received for the next meeting from Cllr M Millman and Cllr Smith

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 7pm Northrepps Village Hall

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT October 2024

Cabinet Approvals:

To monitor and work closely with The Norfolk Ambulance Trust. To monitor and update on the progress and effect of the North Walsham Heritage Action Zone. The Wells Neighbourhood Plan was approved. The Budget monitoring included £300K of borrowing AND the proposal to close owned Public Toilets either, fully of during the winter, was introduced.

Full Council Decisions:

I asked the cabinet member for property if it was their policy to charge for saving lives! This was on behalf of Overstrand Parish Council who had been invoiced for attaching a defibrillator on Council owned railings.

The cabinet decisions above were approved as were some minor updates the Council's Constitution. We – The Conservative Group, protested in respect of the Labour Government's decision to cancel the Winter Fuel Allowance and attained full agreement to write to the Chancellor in this respect. Agreement was also accepted to promote Pension Credit uptake.

Coastal Issues

I was concerned to find out that the Portfolio Holder for Coastal Management (who was absent so I couldn't ask the question) has not only taken his turn as Chairman of CPE but has been appointed as Chairman of The Broads Authority!

I'm concerned that our coast is slipping down (pardon the pun) in priorities.

Ward Issues:

I'm sure the whole ward is mourning the loss of Chris Gurney – the owner and instigator of Northrepps Aerodrome, in August. The huge send-off was totally fitting.

Other than the defibrillator issue and the car park resurfacing issue in Overstrand (still in my pending tray for next Full Council) I have had complaints in respect of Japanese knot weed on the cliffs. Coastal Engineers advise that this is the responsibility of the property owners above with a thought that any growth on the cliffs helps with stability.

Sidestrand are working closely with Sidestrand Hall School in respect of their renovation plans and I was pleased to see that their planning application for a composing toilet at the church has been approved.

Trimingham Coastwise team really are the stars of the show. They have fortnightly update Zoom Meetings with Mott MacDonald who are studying ground water in relation to cliff slips. I must thank Ali Cargill for providing me with the rainfall data to pass on to Motts. Another Coastwise Café is scheduled for November. Also thank you from my elderly terrier who won a second in the veteran's class at the Trimingham Dog Show.

**Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett
Poppyland Ward, NNDC**

County Councillor's Report

November 2024

Subsidised trees available to order

The One Million Trees for Norfolk subsidised tree scheme is now open for individuals, parish councils, community groups, businesses, schools, and landowners to apply for tree packs (and tree protection) at up to 50% off the original price.

As well as the usual range of tree packs available, this year, for the first time there are a limited number of single Norfolk Oak trees, grown at Gressenhall Community tree nursery, making it possible for more people to take part and be 'one in a million'.

Those interested can apply for subsidised tree packs by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/subsidisedtreepacks

Latest round of funding open for innovators in agri-tech, agri-biotech, food tech and aquaculture

The following programmes have application deadlines of 6th November which is not far away but I am including it in case anyone knows a business that might be working in this area and able to benefit. The following is from the County Council press release:

Norfolk County Council is working in partnership with Innovate UK and regional partners Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Suffolk County Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on the Launchpad with up to £7.5m to grow innovation in Eastern England's agri-tech and food technology cluster, which also includes agri-biotech and aquaculture.

Innovate UK has opened two grant funding competitions to offer innovative businesses the opportunity to win a share of up to £2.5 million.

- In the '[Minimum Financial Assistance](#)' (MFA) competition, micro, small and medium sized businesses can apply for grant funding between £25,000 and £100,000. The grant is to cover up to 100% of the project costs.
- The [Collaborative Research and Development \(CR&D\)](#) competition offers grant funding of £150,000 to £300,000 for business-led collaborative innovation projects lasting between 6 and 18 months. Project consortia must include an SME and be comprised of organisations such as businesses, universities, research institutes, charities and the public sector.

In both competitions, innovative businesses can seek funding for projects developing and applying technologies in themes that include the following:

- enhancing the productivity of primary crops, livestock, aquaculture or ornamental crops
- biotechnologies related to agriculture, aquaculture, food processing and nutrition
- food that promotes safe, lower carbon or more sustainable healthy and nutritious diets
- resource efficient production and processing methods for low emission foods

Help shape road safety for 2025: Norfolk County Council calls for older drivers to share their experiences

The following is from a County Council press release. What wasn't included was any indication of how people can take part in the survey. So I have written to them to ask.

Norfolk County Council in collaboration with Road Safety Partners wants to launch a new Road Safety Driving Campaign in 2025 to support older drivers.

In order to do this the council wants to hear directly from Norfolk drivers over 60 and is asking them to take part in a short survey. Via the survey they can share their driving experiences, attitudes and thoughts on staying safe as they age. This feedback will play a crucial part in shaping future safety campaigns and tailoring support to meet the needs of older drivers in Norfolk.

RAAC Concrete in schools

Initial safety inspections of ceilings at 60 Norfolk schools have now been completed, with no further school or class closures needed. A small number of schools require follow-up checks where specialist equipment is needed to reach inaccessible areas.

Norfolk County Council commissioned the inspections at the start of the new academic year, following the partial collapse of a lath and plaster ceiling at an academy led by Synergy Education Trust.

Bacton and Ludham are among the 15 schools that will need repair work but will not require closure.

Scrutiny Committee

I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee at County Hall which examines issues in depth. I am very frustrated that they have moved this month's meeting (to allow councillors to attend a conference) to a date I cannot make. Frustrating because the three issues on the agenda are: the council's budget; the charging regime for waste disposal; and the way the 'Street Works' team deals with road closures. These are all issues that matter a lot to local residents. Although I cannot attend, I will watch the meeting online and will email in my questions. I'll report back on the outcome!

Ed Maxfield

www.edmaxfield.org.uk