

Minutes of the Meeting of Northrepps Parish Council held on 06 February 2024 at 19.00 at Northrepps Village Hall

Present:

Chairman Cllr. A. Mackay, Vice Chairman Cllr. L. Fish,
Cllr. W. Hannant, Cllr. M. Millman, Cllr. M. Renaud, Cllr. W. Risebrow.
Clerk Mrs J. Warner

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 05 December 2023

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 07 November 2023 be **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Callaghan and were noted from County Cllr. Maxfield and District Cllr. Fitch Tillett.

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 Other police matters

There were no other police matters to report.

6. District Council and County Council

6.1 County and District Councillor reports and updates

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

Historic Pathways – It was noted that Cllr. Smith and the Clerk attended a remote meeting with Cllr. Maxfield, Duncan Baker M.P. and representatives from other parishes. Mr. Baker will be raising questions for consideration at Parliament in respect of the need for changes in legislation to allow for local opinion to be considered when requests are submitted for changes to pathways.

Co-ordination of road works – an email explaining how road works are co-ordinated was circulated and noted.

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

There were no other matters to report.

7. Planning

7.1 **Planning Applications and decisions**

Planning applications for consideration

There were none.

Planning applications considered under planning protocol

RV/24/0019 – The Old Foundry, Church Street
No objections

7.2 **Updates on live planning applications**

There were no updates to report.

7.3 **NNDC Planning Training Sessions**

Details of forthcoming training sessions were circulated and noted.

7.4 **Other Planning Matters** (for information only)

There were no other matters to report

8. Highways & Transportation

8.1 **Traffic Regulation Orders**

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

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

Potholes – The pothole on New Road has reopened again.

9. Finance & Regulatory Matters

9.1 **Payments and Receipts & Financial Statement**

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

9.2 **Actuals Against Budget**

The sheets are yet to be circulated.

9.3 **Internal Audit**

A quotation from Diana Dann for the Internal Audit was accepted.

9.4 **Grant Awards**

The grant awards under GPOC were agreed as follows:

St Mary's Church (for upkeep of churchyard)	£1250
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£20
Royal British Legion Northrepps Branch	£100
Cromer Group Practice PPG	£100
Northrepps Village Trist (towards website)	£100
Northrepps Historical (towards website)	£100
Play Northrepps	£380

Note: Grant to Northrepps Historical to be paid via Northrepps Village Trust.

Note: the payment to the poppy appeal has already been paid for the poppy wreath.

The cheques will be raised for signing at the next meeting.

It was further agreed to draft a grant policy and application form to be used for future grants.

9.5 **Councillor Vacancy**

It was agreed to invite the applicant for an informal meeting just prior to the March meeting.

9.6 **Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan**

It was agreed to arrange a meeting for the working group to meet to progress a policy and action plan.

9.7 **Full Council Training**

It was agreed to accept a quotation from Norfolk ALC to hold an evening training session. This will be arranged after the vacancy has been filled.

9.8 **Website and email addresses**

It was agreed to accept the quotation from Norfolk ALC to set up a .gov domain name and email addresses for all councillors and the clerk.

9.9 **CPR and Defibrillator training**

It was agreed to arrange an evening training session in April or May.

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

Street lighting – The Clerk advised that she has been looking into the increasing charges for the street light electricity but it appears that the unmetered supply code is correct. The current supplier is not currently providing any fixed term contracts at a lower rate. The Clerk will continue to try and source a better deal.

10. Playing Field & Allotments

10.1 Grounds Maintenance, Repairs & RoSPA Inspection

Repairs and inspections:

Hip Hop swinger – David Bracey has inspected the repairs and signed it off.

Nest Swing – Cllrs. Hannant & Risebrow will treat the wood. The guidance received to date is to continue to monitor this as part of the regular inspections and replace the beam if the gaps are more than 8mm.

Wooden Climber – This will be continued to be monitored as part of the regular inspections. Action will be required if the gaps exceed 8mm.

Playbark – To be topped up in the spring.

10.2 Reduction of height of hedge at Village Hall

It was noted that the hedges will be cut this week. Mr Youngman is providing a trailer for the cuttings to be taken to the farm.

10.3 Gallus Plough

It was noted that the Church no longer have room for the plough and suggest that it could be displayed by the village sign. It was agreed that this is an excellent idea. The Clerk advised that she will need to know the value of the plough for insurance purposes and will contact the Highways Engineer to ask whether a street furniture licence will be required. If this goes ahead, the plough will need to be fixed securely in place.

10.4 Allotment Tenancies

It was noted that a site visit needs to be arranged to check that all plots are being prepared for the growing season. A date for the site visit will be set for the spring.

10.5 Other playing field and allotment matters (for information only)

There were no other matters to report.

11. Correspondence and other matters

11.1 D Day 80 - 06 June 2024

Cllr. Fish advised that Northrepps Royal British Legion will be discussing this at their March meeting and will be leading the arrangements for the commemorations. It is hoped that the Parish Council and other village groups will participate. Initial suggestions are for an event at the weekend of 07/08 June and will include family entertainment, a BBQ and the lighting of a beacon.

11.2 **Correspondence received since 07 November 2023** (circulated)

Norfolk ALC & Wellbeing	Newsletters
Community Action Norfolk	Newsletters
NPTS	Training events
NNDC	Affordable Housing Crisis – parish statistics
NCC	Minerals & Waste Local Plan

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)

There were no other matters to report.

13. To note the date of the next meeting: 19:00 on Tuesday 06 February 2024.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:50.

Signed

Dated.....

County Councillor's Report: February 2024

Budget: what would you change?

The County Council will decide on its budget for the next financial year in February. I have the opportunity to suggest amendments. Any changes have to 'balance the books': if I suggest an increase in spending on something I have to say where the money is coming from to pay for it. In the past I have proposed small changes: extra funding to support hedge planting; a 'Dragon's Den' scheme to promote innovations that protect the environment for example. They are rarely accepted by the ruling party at the time but sometimes can find their way into plans later on. So, I thought I would ask if you have any suggestions for what should be included. I have to put forward my proposals by 12th February so you won't have time to make formal proposals as Parish Councils but I welcome suggestions from anyone as individuals. Let me know if you have any suggestions!

Support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At the Council meeting on 30th January, I asked what the Council is doing to ensure the diagnosis system for children with Autism and other conditions is working for families. North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker has called for teachers to be given more training in such conditions – which I support – but the diagnosis system must be able to cope. Another independent councillor pointed out that the Council's new system for providing support to families of children with SEND already seems to have run into trouble with the Department for Education. The full story is here: <https://edmaxfield.org.uk/2024/01/30/questions-for-norfolk-county-council-about-send-support/>

Mental Health Support

At the same Council meeting, I asked what the County Council is doing to fix our failing mental health support system in Norfolk. Following the tragic deaths in Costessey, changes to police response policy came into the spotlight. But I made the point that really that just highlighted how disjointed is the whole system, with no one willing to take charge and sort it out on behalf of the people who need support. The EDP covered my question and the response of the Council leader here: [Costessey deaths prompt council call for public inquiry | Eastern Daily Press \(edp24.co.uk\)](#)

Norfolk Rural Business Awards

I've circulated separately information about the Norfolk Rural Business Awards. A reminder that the deadline for nominations is 19th April and there are full details online here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/norfolk-rural-business-awards>

Dentistry

We had a briefing from the NHS about dentistry services in Norfolk recently. I know this is a big concern for many in North Norfolk. There's a survey online here that the NHS is encouraging people to fill in to give your views (before 21 February): <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/dental-priorities-survey>

Grapes Hill

I usually avoid talking about Norwich in my reports but I spotted that the County Council is consulting on alterations to the Grapes Hill/Dereham Road junction. As it is such an important junction in the city, especially anyone coming from the north of the county, I thought I would share the link to the consultation: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/norwich/city-centre-improvements/improvement-projects/future/dereham-road-a1074-bus-lane-near-grapes-hill-junction>

24/7 free travel to all disabled bus pass holders in Norfolk

From 1 February 2024 all Norfolk residents who hold a disabled concessionary travel pass are eligible for free bus travel 24 hours a day, seven days a week when travelling within the county. The decision means that more than 14,500 people across the county who hold a concessionary bus pass due to disability, and their eligible companions, will now be able to travel on any bus at any time free of charge across Norfolk.

Ed Maxfield

www.edmaxfield.org.uk

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
January / February 2024****Cabinet Approvals:**

Glaven Valley Conservation Appraisal extended boundary, To Raise fees and charges, The draft budget 2024-25 which will further raise Council Tax for residents and businesses. To spend £1M on investigations and possible works on The Rocket House, Cromer.

Full Council Decisions:

I attended my first Full Council after the operation on my feet in December where I was able to have an amendment agreed to include Norfolk County Council (The lead Local Flood Authority) in letters demanding further action in respect of surface water drainage and sewerage overflows.

Ward Issues:

I am pleased to hear that the Coastal Department will be holding Coastwise Cafes in both Trimingham and Overstrand – I hope as Parish Councils you will be able to encourage as many of your residents as possible to attend. I regret I shall be unable to attend at Trimingham due to annual leave, but I am looking forward to seeing lots of residents at Overstrand.

There was a cliff slip over the Christmas period between Overstrand and Sidestrand - only to be expected with the amount of rain we are experiencing.

The residents of Bulls Row, Northrepps were very concerned that the ditch opposite the front of their properties was likely to overtop and or give way. I was able to arrange that the agricultural contractor to Northrepps Hall Estate ploughed the field behind to ditch to prevent further run off.

I am very disappointed to hear (by social media) that the rare breed goats introduced as part of vermin control on Cromer Cliffs when I was Environment Portfolio Holder, are to be done away with.

I shall be on annual leave from 26th January until 12th February. Cllr Maxfield will be able to deal with any queries that you may have.

Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett
Poppyland Ward, NNDC

Financial Matters:**Payments made in January**

102542	CHEQUE VOID	£	0.00
102543	Northrepps Village Hall – Hire fee	£	200.00
102544	J Warner – Clerks Salary & Expenses (Dec)	£	279.60
102545	Norfolk Pension Fund (Dec)	£	97.28
102546	HMRC – Paye (Oct,Nov,Dec)	£	214.60

Payments for approval at Feb meeting

102547	D M Bracey – Play equipment inspections	£	144.00
102548	Secret Gardens – Maintenance (Dec & Jan)	£	480.00
102549	St Mary's Church – Grant for upkeep of churchyard	£	1250.00
102550	Community Action Norfolk – 2024 membership	£	20.00
102551	J Warner – Clerk's salary & expenses (Jan)	£	291.60
102552	Norfolk Pension Fund (Jan)	£	97.28

Direct debit payments:

18/01/2024	NPower Street Light Electricity (for Dec)	£	106.66
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Receipts since last meeting:

04/12/2023	Interest on bank accounts	£	108.73
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Financial Statement:

Reconciled balances as at 26 Jan 2024

Community Account	£	8922.72
Business Premium Account	£	26504.15
Business Premium Account	£	<u>4830.53</u>
		£40257.40

Less cheques issued but not banked

£ 57.94

Balance

£40199.46

Signed

Chairman.....
Responsible Financial Officer

Dated

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NOTE: Signed copy held with the accounts