



Minutes No:
2024/75

Necton Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held

Monday 12th August 2024 at 7.00 pm held at Necton Rural Community Centre

Parish Councillors (6) present:

Councillors Fraser Bateman, Thirza Hicks, Joe Sisto, Phil Hayton, Genine Curtis and Alice Spain

Additional attendees:

Justine Luckhurst- Parish Clerk,
Members of the public – 4

Date: Monday 12th August 2024

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Necton Rural Community Centre

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Chair Bass, Councillor Fejer and Councillor Jennings

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Fraser Bateman

2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensation

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Necton Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

None received

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting of 8th July 2024

Proposed as accepted by Councillor Hayton, seconded by Councillor Batemans and agreed unanimously by all Councillors who were present at the July meeting.

4. Adjournment for public participation (10 mins)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda before the Council make decisions.

Nothing raised

5. Reports from:

Parish Clerk –

The Clerks report is attached to the minutes

Norfolk County Council, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris

No report

Breckland Council, Cllr Nigel Wilkin

No report

Chair

Councillor Bateman provided an update on the Festival held last month, confirming that although the weather conditions were horrendous the day was very enjoyable. Tickets sales were 291 and he passed on his thanks to everyone involved and attended. The funds raised will be split equally between EACH, Merle Boddy Centre Swaffham and NRRC.

Councillors

Councillor Curtis said she heard loud crashing sounds coming from the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood last week in the evening, she took a torch and went to investigate, although she couldn't see anything amiss there had been a number of motorbikes around the area and it has been noticed that an entrance seems to have been created from St Andrews Lane into the wood and she discovered half a motorcycle there. – she is concerned the area is being used by motorbikes for off roading.

Councillor Spain confirmed she would be attending the count after the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan on 12th September. The consultant has already created a postcard which will be displayed on the noticeboards and in the Link and will be distributed as a loose copy in the next Link edition as well. This Referendum is the culmination of over 3 years of hard work by the working group, the consultants and other professionals involved. The public have attended consultation days and on 12th September is when residents get the opportunity to vote on the final draft plan. Despite recent planning changes coming from Westminster it is still an important document for Necton and Councillor Spain urged the public to use their vote. She also suggested that Councillors remind residents in their area of the Referendum. Whilst we cannot urge people to vote either way the main highlight is for them to actually participate in the voting process

Councillor Hayton asked the Clerk to clarify a point of order regarding the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood and the agreement in place between the PC and Necton Area Trust, in particular the Clerks interpretation and perspective on NAT's authority regarding alterations to the perimeter fence – the Clerk to update at the next meeting. He continued to say the bin that was moved in Chantry Court should be further away from the bench, the Clerk to discuss with the caretaker.

6. To approve Bills made, to be made and approve late payments as necessary: To receive financial update and monthly reconciliation for consideration.

See separate payments list

Proposed as accepted by Councillor Hayton, seconded by Councillor Spain and agreed unanimously

7. To receive the minutes of the NRCC meeting held on 29th July 2024

Received and noted

8. To receive confirmation that the first quarterly financial checks have been completed Councillors

Confirmation noted

9. To continue discussions on the agreed second de-fibrillator and receive any updates regarding location and decide on next steps

Councillor Bateman confirmed he had received a response from the Plymouth Brethren and they have agreed to site the de-fib at their premises on the corner of Hale Road and North Pickenham Road. They plan to reinstate the gate for pedestrian access on Hale Road and the de-fib can be installed just inside this gate. The Necton Sports and Social Club have offered the PC their spare de-fib and cabinet. Updates on the progress on the installation will be provided when received and the de-fib will be serviced etc. before it is put in place and registered on the 'Circuit'

10. To discuss and consider if the Parish Council would consider supporting/ endorsing a Neighbourhood Watch group if formed in Necton and if agreed to supporting any grant applications received from said group as and when required.

Councillor Bateman confirmed he spoke with Mike Onassis the area coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch about setting up a NW scheme for Necton. He confirmed Mike stated the following - Although he can supply some signs free (for the approaches to the village - locations already identified) in his experience a more practical approach would be to advertise that the Parish Council is supporting the scheme and ask for local volunteer coordinators.

He continued by saying Mike confirmed that If we fail to get sufficient volunteers we can fall back to just putting up the signs, but it is far more effective if we have active coordinators and window stickers on properties. The Neighbourhood Watch is not just about burglary but can also help address antisocial behaviour, littering, dog fouling, vandalism and a more worrying recent trend of drones being flown over resident's gardens!

Thereafter Councillor Bateman proposed the PC support the initiative and endorsed any local group that formed. He proposed something was placed in the Link magazine to see if there was interest amongst residents to form a Neighbourhood Watch in Necton, but noting the PC would not run any group but would support and consider any grant requests for items a formed group may require. Seconded by Councillor Spain, a show of hands showed 5 in favour and 1 against – motion carried. Councillor bateman to provide an advert for the next edition of the Link.

11. To receive any updates and proposals from action plan working party, including the following:

- **Consider any projects eligible for the Parish Partnership Scheme and decide on next steps**

Councillor Spain proposed that the PC apply for the Parish Partnership scheme to install village gates at the A47 / Tuns Road entrance (noting the other entrances are to receive

village gates as part of this year's scheme already. Seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously. – the Clerk to take forward

- **To discuss and consider approaching RWE to arrange a meeting to see if they would consider a footpath from Lodge Lane to Fransham and to discuss other permissive footpaths and if agreed to decide on next steps**

After lengthy discussions it was proposed by Councillor Curtis to defer this back to the working group to consider a draft proposition with information such as maps etc to be considered at the next meeting. Seconded by Councillor Bateman, a vote by show of hands provided 4 in favour and 2 against – motion carried.

- **To discuss the speed limits within Necton and whether these should be reviewed and if agreed decide on next steps**

Councillor Curtis provided the Community Speedwatch data collected from July. She confirmed there were 3 sessions undertaken, each lasting for one hour. On Hale Road it was noted 4 cars were travelling in excess of 35-40 MPH and another vehicle was driving in excess of this speed. Two sessions of one hour each were undertaken on Tuns Road near the community centre. On the first session 3 vehicles were driving in excess of 35-40 MPH and one vehicle was driving at 53 MPH. On the second one-hour session 7 vehicles were in excess of 35-40 MPH with another vehicle in excess of this. She continued by reminding everyone that speeding is one of the SNAP priorities.

Thereafter Councillor Spain proposed the Clerk contacted Highways to find out the criteria required for them to undertake a review of the speed limits in Necton. Seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed unanimously.

- **To discuss replacement fencing around the children's play area and decide on next steps**

The new fencing installed along the play area and Tuns Road perimeter has proven to be very popular in the village but it has been noted the lower fence around the children's play area is starting to look very old and there are some areas where it is damaged. Councillor Spain proposed the Clerk contact the installers of the main fence to obtain some quotes for replacing the fence and gates around the play area and to investigate styles and colours. Seconded by Councillor Bateman and agreed unanimously. The Clerk to take forward.

12. Adjournment for public participation (5 mins)

This provides the opportunity for the public to raise awareness of an issue for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting

A resident asked if the SAM II could be placed in Chantry Lane at some point to capture speed data there. He also asked if we would consider removing one of the poplar trees that is closest to Tuns Road to aid visibility from the Costa Coffee entrance onto the road.

13. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as Monday 9th September 2024 @ 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 20.25 pm