

Pre-Meeting Business: The Chairman stated that Mr. Wyatt was present as a representative of the local press and was not a member of the Parish Council.

Public Participation: Mrs. C. Payne was critical of the recently issued Local Plan Consultation survey form to parishioners. In particular, she felt that the letter to Breckland Council summarising the results should have stressed that the number of new houses recommended by the Parish Council (40/50) included existing commitments not yet built.

Mr. P. Howell attempted to embark upon his usual tirade by directing personal abuse at certain individuals. The Chairman quickly informed him that behaviour of this type was not acceptable. He was asked to unconditionally withdraw the remarks on several occasions and eventually did so. He then referred to some Charity land transactions. The Chairman advised him that he should contact the relative Charity with any questions on matters relating to the Charity.

Mrs. M. Brown supported Mrs. Payne's views regarding the Local Plan survey and asked if she could examine the forms returned by parishioners. This request was declined. She felt that the response was disappointing (forms delivered to 680 houses and 117 returned). Mrs. Brown said that the number of trees in Millennium Wood with ash dieback had increased from 4 to 14. She also asked if a letter could be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Weatherill for all the work they have done in the wood. She said they were very upset and would not work in the Millennium Wood again. A number of the children's signs are broken but the map detailing the children's trees is to be reproduced.

Mr. C. Starling felt that the option of "nil houses" should have been on the survey. It was previously stressed that, after guidance from the District Council, "nil" was not a realistic option. He also felt that the Parish Council's recommendation for 40/50 new houses to be built in the next 20 years was too high and asked whether there was any intention to produce another Neighbourhood Plan.

North Elmham Parish Council

**Minutes of the
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held at 7.30 p.m. at the Sports Pavilion on
Wednesday 2nd March 2016**

.....

349 Those Councillors Present Were:

Mr. M. Phillips (Chairman), Mrs. J. Borgnis (Vice Chairman), Mr. J. Brown, Mr. P. Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. C. Smith and Dr. P. Wade-Martins.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor)*, Mr. M. Wyatt (Elmham News + Dereham and Fakenham Times) and six parishioners.

350 To Consider Apologies for Absence:

Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. C. MacEwan and Mrs. D. Warner. Also, Mr. Bambridge had indicated he would be late as he was attending a meeting at the District Council (*arrived at 8.15 p.m.)

351 To Receive Declarations of Interest:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, should the occasion arise, interests should be declared by Councillors as soon as this was realised, and the interest should be minuted.

- (i) Mr. Labouchere reiterated that he owns land outside the current settlement boundary.

352 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Mrs. Borgnis and seconded by Mrs. Keeble. All in favour.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

353 Pump Street pump (item 316)

Nothing to report

354 Community Speed Watch (item 317)

Nothing to report

355 Safe Route to School (item 318)

Nothing to report

356 Land Management Matters (item 319)

- (a) Village Green Nothing to report
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Mrs. Keeble reported that English Heritage had informed her that work on the high wall will be starting in the near future.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows It is too late to cut the hedge so this will be done later in the year.
- (d) Broom Green Nothing to report
- (e) Millennium Wood It was agreed by all to send a letter of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Weatherill for all their hard work in the Millennium Wood. They were upset because their offer to remove ash trees free of charge had not been accepted.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line Mrs. Borgnis said that she wished to express her thanks to Mr. Howell for keeping his cattle off the bridleway over the past few months. His cooperation had resulted in the bridleway remaining passable throughout the winter and members welcomed his assistance in overcoming this problem.
- (g) Prince William Wood Mrs. Warner has spoken to the Community Manager of Flagship Housing regarding the fir tree which had blown down and was laying in the wood. They have apparently written to the tenant and Mrs. Warner will chase to establish if progress has been made.

357 Street Lights (item 320)

Nothing to report

358 Highway Matters (item 321)

Dr Wade-Martins reported that:

(a) *Footpath to the allotments*. The clerk has established that in order for the work to qualify for NCC Community Partnership funding the Parish Council has to submit a bid to the fund for 2016/17. This will now be put in hand when the annual scheme details are announced in June, 2016.

(b) *Footpath finger post in the rose garden*. The wooden finger post pointing down church lane is disintegrating and he has asked County Highways to provide a replacement.

(c) *Main street drains*. We are still waiting for the Highways contractor to pump out the drains along the main street.

(d) *Railway crossing*. The highway line between the two railway gates tends to flood after a heavy rain and he has asked the railway company to clear silt from their drains. He understands that this has been put in hand.

359 Eastgate Centre (item 322)

Nothing to report

360 Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area (item 323)

The field has been spiked. Six bags of rubbish have been dumped in the car park and this is to be reported to the District Council. The condition of the new kickwall is giving cause for concern and it will be inspected in the near future.

361 Parish Plan (Community Planning Action Group) (item 324)

Nothing to report

362 Dog Fouling (item 325)

Mrs. Borgnis reported that the new signs have been put in place. Mr. Brown said that a parishioner had suggested fencing off an area of the Village Green for free-running dogs.

363 Allotments (item 326)

Nothing to report.

364 Community defibrillator (item 327)

Confirmation that they are prepared to proceed is awaited from the Surgery. A training meeting is to be arranged for an evening in April.

365 Play equipment and car park proposals (item 328)

Nothing to report

366 Community Farm (item 329)

Nothing to report

367 Steps from Institute to the burial ground (item 330)

Nothing to report.

- 368 Detailed information map for village/Notice and Information Boards (item 331)**
Nothing to report
- 369 Volunteers (item 332)**
Dr Wade-Martins proposed that the Parish Council should buy a safety helmet with front visor and ear defenders to be used in conjunction with the Council's strimmer. All agreed. The clerk reminded the Council that it was also important, in order to maintain public liability insurance cover, that the Council compiles a list of all those volunteers who might be using the machine and that a risk assessment be carried out in respect of the likely tasks to be undertaken.
- 370 Village Maintenance (item 333)**
Nothing to report
- 371 Play Area Operating Policy (item 334)**
Nothing to report
- 372 Church Lane ownership (item 335)**
The Clerk had finally managed to make contact with Andrew Kitchen of Norfolk County Farms and explained the history of the situation. Mr. Kitchen subsequently visited the location and has requested a site meeting with members to discuss how best to proceed.
- 373 Village Hall Group (item 336)**
The Chairman is to arrange for a feasibility study is to be commissioned to establish the options for the Memorial Hall's development.
- 374 Queen's birthday event (item 341)**
Mr. Smith confirmed that members of the Community Farm will be prepared to do the sizzling but sausages will need to be provided. A sub-group consisting of the Chairman, Dr. Wade-Martins, Mr. Smith and Mr. Peter Braybrook will make the necessary arrangements. The Chairman will also register the event and obtain a time for when the beacon is to be lit.
- 375 NALC petition re PC right to appeal against planning decisions (item 345 (2))**
The Clerk advised that it was not possible for Parish Councils to sign this petition but individuals could.
- 376 Report from District Councillor**
Mr. Bambridge said that the Government appeared to be in rather a confused state regarding the proposed devolution of powers to Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. It is possible that funds from business rates may be directed to any newly created body.

- 377 North Elmham F.C. – level of payment for facilities**
Mr. Brown had spoken to Jackie Price of the Football Club. They do not have the funds to cover the agreed monthly payments of £37.50, the last sum having been received on 1st February. The number of teams in the Saturday league has reduced to eight which means that there are only seven home matches plus cup ties. Mr. Brown says that Mrs. Price has guaranteed that the amount outstanding will be repaid at the end of the season (April/May). Mr. Labouchere felt that a definite time limit was required and all agreed that payment should be made within two months.
- 378 Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2016**
The Parish Council is about to enter the second year of a four year contract with Norse. The pricing for 2016 has seen a small increase but in line with the contract terms (no more than the Consumer Price Index). The total cost of all work for 2016 is £4,798.86 + VAT. The position with Millennium Wood will be reviewed later in the year when the work is completed. All agreed to continue with the current arrangements.
- 379 Village Resilience Plan**
Mrs. Borgnis and Mrs. Warner had recently discussed this matter and a meeting is to be arranged with Chris Cawley, Resilience Officer of Breckland Council. An update will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 380 External Audit for Smaller Authorities**
In accordance with the decision previously made, we will opt in to the new arrangements. This effectively means that the procedures will be the same as they are now. All in favour.
- 381 Management Financial Report to February 2016**
The Chairman presented the financial report as at February 2016. The figures had been circulated for members to peruse before the meeting and were broadly in line with expectations.
- 382 Smoke-free areas around children’s play areas – voluntary code**
Breckland Council is promoting the introduction of voluntary smoke-free areas in the vicinity of children’s play areas, school gates and nurseries in conjunction with a competition to create a design for a sign. Our play area is already designated as a smoke-free zone and the Chairman will take details of this District Council initiative to the school.
- 383 Parish Council response to Breckland Council following Local Plan consultation**
The letter forwarded to Breckland Council follows:

Ref: BDC Local Plan Consultation – Parish of North Elmham

In response to the Local Plan consultation, the North Elmham Parish Council held a public meeting attended by approximately 120 parishioners and invited all households in the Parish to complete a questionnaire to ascertain opinions about how much the housing land allocation should be increased in the village. The questionnaire requested views on the sites marked on the consultation document and also asked for suggestions for additional areas for development. The questionnaire asked people to indicate the total number of new houses which could be erected.

The questionnaires produced 117 responses as follows:

Results are as follows:-

1 to 15 houses	19 votes
16 to 30 houses	38 votes
31 to 50 houses	28 votes
Over 50 houses	29 votes

Votes for LP(070)001	Brookside Farm	88
Votes for LP(070)006	Station Road	68

The Parish Council have discussed these results and have formed the opinion that the village would find between 40 – 50 houses as a reasonable target for future development. We are also in favour of the Brookside development. However we are aware of planners’ comments and many parishioners’ views that the Station Road site (006) would present a serious flood risk on the northern half of the site.

There was also a high number of comments that there was a need for more “affordable” houses such as “part owned / part rented” homes for first time buyers.

Other Suggested Sites:-

Eastgate Street. Land opposite Old Hall Farm	21 votes
Station Road. Land between station Yard site and LP(070) 006	6 votes
Back Lane. East of Orchard Close	4 votes

A site also mentioned that would also fit into our plan was:-
Larch Grove. Land at the southern end of Larch Grove.

All these sites are shown on a copy of the map enclosed

We hope you will take these findings into account and we look forward to seeing the next stage of the consultation process

(After much discussion, Dr Wade-Martins proposed that an email should be sent overnight to the Breckland Planning Officer to clarify that the figures of 40-50 new houses that the Council will support includes the consents already given for houses not yet built)

384 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a) Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-

11/2/16	E-on (monthly direct debit for streetlights - December)	£113.42
2/3/16	T. D. Gardens (grass cutting – 2 hours @ £25 per hour)	£50.00
2/3/16	J. R. G. Fletcher (new curtains in pavilion)	£8.19
2/3/16	Thinking Rural (payroll services Nov & Dec 2015 + Jan 2016)	£36.00
2/3/16	Thinking Rural (payroll services Feb. 2016)	£12.00
2/3/16	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for February)	£469.12
2/3/16	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay for February)	£117.40
2/3/16	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for February)	£80.40
2/3/16	K. Webb (new desktop computer from Unique Computers)	£850.00

Expenditure accepted and approved by all members.

b) Schedule of Income:

4/2/16	Pavilion lettings	£20.00
15/2/16	Allotment rent	£10.00
24/2/16	Rural Payments Agency (Higher Entry Level Stewardship)	£1,349.40
29/2/16	Co-if inc dividend	£16.42
29/2/16	Co-if inc dividend	£26.55

385 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:

a) Applications

None

b) Determinations

- (i) Mr. and Mrs. J. Slade, 17 Cathedral Drive, North Elmham – single storey side extension (3PL/2016/0010/F) – permission granted

386 CORRESPONDENCE –2/3/16

- 1) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for March 2016
- 2) NALC Service to members update (Feb 16) and What we do for our Councils leaflet
- 3) Queen Elizabeth 90th birthday commemorative medal for schools and councils (the Chairman is to take this to the school)
- 4) Norfolk C. C. Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation Draft

387 Announcements

None

388 Agenda items for next meeting:

Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday celebrations
Village Resilience Plan

389 Next Meeting:
Wednesday, 6th April 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Chairman

Date