

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: A parishioner expressed a desire to buy some parish land, (approximately 11 acres), in the northern part of the village, having recently submitted a letter giving details. It would be the intention to keep some cattle on the field from July to October. Advice was given that requests of this nature are given full consideration by the members of the Parish Council.

A view was expressed that the village needs a good clean as there are areas where there are piles of leaves and debris. A number of drains are blocked by leaves. This situation is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council, Highways and Mr. Grainger advised that five issues have previously been logged but are still outstanding. There had been some response in November following help given by our County Councillor. Unfortunately, paint on the road identifying areas to be tackled had been washed away by rain. Mr. Labouchere reported that, following an inspection carried out by Paul George, Operations Manager of Norfolk Rivers Drainage Board, Water Management Alliance, it was clear that many gullies had not been properly cleared. The matter is due to be discussed later in the meeting.

It was reported that a senior lady had been terrified by some young boys who had been throwing things into her garden. It was stressed that issues of this kind need to be reported to the police. Mr. Smith is to speak with the Police Liaison Officer.

A parishioner had sent in a letter expressing concern that a low flying drone had been passing over and near to his property. He had reported the matter to the police.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd March, 2022

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522 Those Councillors Present Were:

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Mr. P. Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and five parishioners.

523 Apologies for absence: Miss A. Ferris

524 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.

525 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all. (Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Keeble)

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

526 Land Management Matters (item 493)

- (a) Village Green Mr. Gee produced two very impressive plaques (total cost £276) which are to be attached to wooden boards. The tree planted last year has been decimated by vandals. The matter has been reported to the police. A tree in Cedar Close bordering the village green needs to be cut back. The owner of the property is to obtain a quotation for the work with the intention being for the Parish Council to pay 50% of the cost.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Nothing to report.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that the brash has been burnt and the ash will be taken away. The hedges on either side of the lane have been cut.
- (d) Broom Green Nothing to report.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) According to a parishioner, the mechanism on the gate to Jubilee Wood is broken. The Chairman will inspect.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters
Please see item 544.
- (g) Prince William Wood The springs have come off the gate to the road. Mr. Labouchere felt that self centering hinges, relying on gravity, would provide a better option. Mr. Markwell will speak to Ben Darby regarding this matter. A parishioner had said that some fences were broken which meant that the wood was no longer a secure enclosure. Mr. Markwell will inspect but it was stressed that the Parish Council is only responsible for those fences that it has erected.

527 Allotments (item 494)

Nothing to report.

528 Street Lights (item 495)

Mr. Markwell reported that light 31, which is situated outside 29 Eastgate Street, is going to be discussed by the letting agent and the owner of the property. Light 76 in Wensum Drive is now working. There is no power to the pole in Pump Street. U. K. Power Networks is to be contacted by Westcotec.

529 Highway Matters (item 496)

There has been no progress regarding a number of issues which were reported in November, 2021 and on which assurances were given. Mr. Grainger is to write again on this matter with copies going to the Highways Supervisor and Mr. Borrett (County Councillor).

530 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 497)

A number of jobs are in the pipeline. It is understood that the Football Club wants to return to the village and wish to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council with a view to doing a presentation. Mrs. Keeble has contacted Mr. Duffield about the large pothole in the car park. The Tennis Club plans to resurface in the week beginning 13th March. The basketball hoop is to be moved to the top of the field.

531 Youth Club facilities (item 498)

Proposals are to be submitted at the next meeting. Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that he was concerned with the prospect of spending money on items which could be vandalised.

532 Eastgate Centre (item 499)

The AGM was held last week. The annual grant from the Parish Council will not be requested this year as funds have been received in the form of Covid grants. A new girl guides group is using the facility.

533 Brookside Development update (item 500)

Nothing to report.

534 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 501)

Nothing to report.

535 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 502)

Nothing to report.

536 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 (item 503)

It may be possible to get another band. The Chairman is to investigate.

537 Defibrillators (item 504)

Mr. Smith reported that the Institute Committee is considering the possibility of acquiring a defibrillator and the Football Club may also wish to have one at the Pavilion.

538 Village Green board displaying names of contributors to the fund raising (item 505)

Please see item 526 (a) above.

539 Affordable Housing (item 506)

Mr. Rayner said that there has been no recent contact from Broadland Housing.

540 Improvements to the frontage of North Elmham School (item 507)

The Federation has obtained quotations for the proposed work, the most favourable being for £699 + VAT. Mr. Smith proposed that the Parish Council make a 50% contribution to the cost, i.e. £349.50, and this was seconded by Mr. Grainger. All in favour.

541 Request for an additional bench in Millennium Wood (item 508)

The Chairman suggested that the additional bench be in the form of a raised timber seat and will duly investigate options.

542 Suitable location for new plaque in respect of community response to the pandemic (item 509)

Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that the oak board on which the plaque is to be placed has been cut and shaped. It is to be oiled.

543 District and/or Council Councillors' Reports (item 510)

Mr. Bambridge confirmed that bin collection dates and times will be changing for some people. Help is being given to those who are experiencing problems with paying Council Tax. Breckland Council will be calling for sites in respect of the Local Plan. A new accommodation block is being opened in Thetford. A shop has also been opened in Thetford selling cheap food obtained from supermarkets. A bus is to travel around the area and one of the weekly stops is to be in North Elmham. The District Council has a net carbon zero target (without buying credits) by 2023. Grants are still available for the forthcoming Jubilee. There are bursaries of up to £500 with about twenty remaining.

544 Mid Norfolk Railway – Transfer Deed, footpath and other matters (item 511)

A meeting was held at Breckland Council on this day attended by the Chairman, Mr. Rayner and Mr. Markwell (Parish Council), Mr. Robinson (Chairman) and the Finance Director (Mid Norfolk Railway) and Ralph Burton, Zoe Footer and Gordon Bambridge (Breckland Council). It was considered to be a generally positive meeting and minutes are to be written and issued. Both Breckland and the MNR agreed that the footpath is not permissive and there is no intention to change the status. Wording in an agreement would need to be included to allow them to close temporarily for maintenance or emergency reasons. This is all subject to agreement by the MNR board. An assurance was given that there would be no further development north of the point in the transfer deed in respect of the Miniature Railway. It was mentioned that the recent tree felling did not need consent as it was either covered by a Works Order or is not in the Conservation Area.

545 Eastgate Street drains (item 512)

Messrs Labouchere and Phillips met Paul George, the Area Manager of the Inland Drainage Board, on 4th February to look at the problem. Eight gullies were measured and there is a lot of silt in them which is being taken towards Eastgate Street. A quotation had been obtained to carry out necessary work - £3,315 plus £700 to cut the hedge where there is no ditch. It was acknowledged that mud is coming from the Brisley Road and is blocking the drains. The gullies need to be cleared on a regular basis. Mr. Smith proposed that the hedge should be cut, the ditch cleared and Highways Department requested to flush out the gullies. All in favour.

546 Breckland Council's new commercial waste service (item 514)

Breckland has started a new commercial waste service which appears to be competitive regarding price. The Parish Council is served by Biffa and the position will be assessed prior to August when the current contract is due for review.

547 Storm damage to property bordering the Village Green

An email has been received from a parishioner stating that during the recent strong winds some damage to the boundary fencing has occurred as a result of bushes on the village green being blown over on to them. Two boundary fences have been damaged beyond repair and a request has been made for the Parish Council to make a contribution towards replacements. It was agreed by all, in principle, to make a payment of 50% towards the reasonable cost of two new panels.

548 Update on village facilities

It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the next meeting.

549 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

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

3/2/22	Npower (street light electricity for December, 2021)	£359.84
20/2/22	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 22/1/22 to 18/2/22) - (d/d)	£37.78
20/1/22	K. Webb (quarterly computer allowance)	£20.00
2/3/22	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for February)	£678.20
2/3/22	HMRC (tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£184.66
2/3/22	Mole Country Stores (large bag of rock salt)	£101.70
2/3/22	Norfolk Parish Training and Support (annual subscription)	£240.07
2/3/22	Priscilla Bacon Norfolk Hospice Care (donation)	£100.00
2/3/22	T. H. Scott and Son (hedge cutting – Cathedral Meadows)	£307.80
2/3/22	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning – February)	£106.92
2/3/22	B. Gee (2 engraved brass plaques – Broadland (U.K.) Ltd)	£276.00

(Expenditure approved by all members)

b) Schedule of Income:

28/2/22	HSBC (coif inc div)	£46.02
28/2/22	HSBC (coif inc div)	£28.45

Balances (as at 1/3/22):- Current a/c - £116,692.94 Business Premium a/c - £36,490.43

550 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- (i) Mr. and Mrs. R. Allen – single storey extension to – 3PL/2022/0148/HOU – 46 Orchard Close – no objections.
- (ii) Mrs. S. Gillespie – erection of shed and summerhouse - 3PL/2022/0129/HOU – Ash Tree Cottage, 43 Eastgate Street – no objections.
- (iii) Mr. C. Healy – the erection of three single bedroom holiday cabins – 3PL/2022/0107/F – The Railway Arms, 40 Station Road – no objections.

b) Determinations

- (i) Mr. and Mrs. Newey – two storey side rear extension with balcony, single storey front extension and new entrance porch with associated internal remodelling – 3PL/2022/0025/HOU – Primrose Cottage, Great Heath Road – approved.
- (ii) R. Mumford – single storey side and rear extension – 3PL/2021/1678/HOU – Rackham House, 39 Holt Road – approved.
- (iii) Orchard Homes – proposed pedestrian walkway to link residential development to school – 3PL/2021/1675/F – land to the rear of Brookside Farm, Holt Road – approved.

The attention of the Parish Council has been drawn to application 3PL/2020/0497/HOU regarding Station House, Eastgate Street. A standard condition of the permission stated that the development shall be constructed using the materials specified on the planning application form and/or submitted drawings. Both the application form and the floor plan state that the new roof will have “plain tiles – to match”. At present, the new tiles do not match the existing ones. This matter will be drawn to the attention of the District Council.

551 Correspondence

- 1) Letter from George Freeman M.P. to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up asking for greater emphasis to be placed on flood resilience within the planning system.
- 2) Vattenfall awarded a Development Consent Order for their Offshore Wind Farm.
- 3) Letter from a parishioner expressing an interest in buying some parish land. (Following appropriate discussion, it was agreed by all that there is currently no intention or desire to sell parish land).
- 4) Policy Community Update newsletter for February, 2022.
- 5) Report from a parishioner of a low flying drone in the village. (It was acknowledged that this is not an issue for the Parish Council. It has previously been reported to the police who will, no doubt, proceed accordingly).

552 Any Other Matters (for information only)

Mr. Phillips said that a parishioner in Brookside had reported some very loud bird scarers going off every 30 minutes from 9.30 a.m. each day and stopping when it gets dark.

553 Agenda items for next meeting:

Village facilities

554 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 6th April 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.52 p.m.

Chairman

Date