

**MINUTES of the MEETING of
WOOD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at WOOD NORTON VILLAGE HALL
on MONDAY 30 October 2017 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Marchant (Chairman)
Parish Cllrs: T. Lidstone-Scott, C. Robson, M. Crowe, L. O'Keefe, J. Johnson
Clerk: L. Jennings
County Councillor Steffan Aquarone
District Councillor Pierre Butikofer
One member of the Public

43 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Huw Bailey

- 44** The new Parish Councillor Huw Bailey unfortunately could not be present for the meeting. He has met with the Clerk and signed all necessary papers and these have been forwarded to the District Council Returning Officer.

45 REPORT FROM THE POLICE

The October Newsletter was shared with Councillors. The Norfolk Constabulary 2020 Police Structure Review will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

46 REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Council met in full on Monday a fortnight ago.

Final recommendations about spending cuts between now and 2022 will come to Full Council later.

The governing party had a majority of 26 councillors (out of 84) so all the committees and full council itself make decisions that conform to the administration's strategy, not least because the governing party employs a 'whipping' system that requires individual members in their party to vote as they are told.

There is an opportunity to ask questions of the leader of the council, and County Councillor Aquarone asked County Councillor Cliff Jordan what he would say to an elderly person who was having to spend more on their care than they would otherwise, as a result of the cuts to council spending being 'front loaded'. This relates to his previous report to the Parish Council concerning the timing of the cuts, and the fact that they mean at least £20m less is being spent on services during the period from now to 2022 than would be the case if the cuts were introduced evenly across all four years. The answer Cllr Aquarone got was that Cllr Jordan couldn't comment as he didn't know the circumstances of the person concerned.

Several motions were proposed, most notably on public sector pay, which the Council backed after an amendment and will now call upon the Government to fully fund the increases in public sector pay that may result from the 1% pay cap being lifted. If it does not (and we will know more in the Autumn statement) then the County Council will face an even bigger gap in its budget. Dealing with the cuts caused by the expectation that central government will withdraw all funding from local authorities by 2022 is a challenging task for any administration especially as the Council is required by law to balance its budget. The Liberal Democrat group's concerns are about how the cuts are being imposed: the less visible services that will be cut, the denigration of

people who are treated as though their dependency on services is a choice, and the voicelessness that many of the most vulnerable people in our society suffer.

A matter that Cllr Aquarone is particularly passionate about is mobile libraries: in Melton Constable Division there are no bricks and mortar libraries and in many cases the mobile library is the only County Council service that users access. The proposed cut of £200k from next year onwards is more than 40% of the total budget of the mobile libraries service and will radically reduce its ability to deliver. It's almost certain to mean fewer vehicles making fewer trips. Cllr Aquarone will undertake to fight this matter hard - not least because he believes there is a huge opportunity to innovate and fundamentally upgrade the role of mobile libraries to being mobile service points, able to provide access to a wide range of County Council services and even save money elsewhere. Would Councillors please let me know their views on the proposed cuts to mobile libraries.

46 REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Butikofer reported on the Bacton-Walcott sandscaping scheme. Multi million pound sandscaping project to help protect the coastline from Barton to Walcott has benefited from a further £0.5million funding from Norfolk Business Rates pool. This is on top of £0.5million from North Norfolk District Council (NNDC), £0.5million from local level by Regional Flood and Coastal Defence Committee and £120K from National Flood Management fund.

Innovative project to use natural processes to reduce coastal flood and erosion risk. Sandscaping the shoreline uses high volumes of sand to protect coast. Equivalent to 200 Carrow Row football pitches, covered up to a depth of one meter, or 1.5 million cubic meters.

Total cost in region of £17-19million.

NNDC has given its backing for tougher fly tipping penalties. Last year NNDC had over 500 incidents, costing in excess of £40K. Roadside (288), footpaths, agricultural land, railways, alleyways and beside rivers. Current on the spot fine is £200.

Multi million pound investment in council leisure - Splash, will be partly paid by a new hotel. Splash is over 30 years old. Feasibility study to see if it should be refurbished or a new build will be presented to the development committee.

47 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public updated the Parish Council on the progress of super-fast broadband for those residents yet to receive it. Nothing further has been received and it is likely that the remaining residents could wait until 2020.

The Clerk will contact Norfolk County Council asking when it is likely and to keep the pressure on. Other nearby villages are in the same position.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Lidstone-Scott, Johnson and Marchant all declared an other interest on item 9B.

49 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

On the proposition of Cllr Marchant, seconded by Cllr Lidstone-Scott, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 September 2017 were approved and signed.

50 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Highway Matters** – Lyng Hall Lane (BOAT) Nothing further to report.
- b) **Defibrillator** – Cllr Lidstone – Scott has contacted anyone interested in the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS).
- c) **Broadband** – See minute 47.
- d) **Land at Foulsham Road** – The Clerk has been in contact with Gressenhall Rural Life Museum who has recommended that the Parish Council contacts Natural England. The Clerk will do this.
- e) **Local Green Space Designation** - Nothing further to report.

51 FINANCE

- 51.1 The half yearly precept payment of £1417.00 has been received.
- 51.2 On the proposition of Cllr Robson, seconded by Cllr Crowe that a donation of £100 is given to the Wood Norton PCC towards tree works in the churchyard. All in favour. The amount was set to enable the precept not to be increased.
- 51.3 A request for a donation to Norfolk Family Mediation was declined.
- 51.4 A request for a donation towards the proposed playground was discussed. Councillors felt more specific proposals were needed as the budget is very tight. Suggestions for funding are the Aviva Community fund and the Big Society Fund.
- 51.5 The Clerk reported the balance of accounts as at 30 October 2017:
Business Current account = £3053.66
Defibrillator account = £272.00
Village Sign account = £1706.47
Business Saver account = £568.62

52 INFORMATION FROM NORFOLK ALC

- a) The Data Protection Bill/General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Parish Council will have to abide by these guidelines when they are implemented in May 2018. The Clerk is attending a training course to gain a better understanding.
- b) Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Place – a consultation is available.
- c) Briefing on Precept Consultation.

53 NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL TOTAL TRANSPORT PROJECT

This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

54 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. North Norfolk Parish & Town Forum update.
- 2. North Norfolk Parish & Town Forum request for information regarding NNDC's assets.
- 3. Norwich & Norfolk Eco Awards.
- 4. Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute 11th November 2018 – update.
- 5. Vattenfall – Update.

55 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Land at Foulsham Road
Broadband
Defibrillator
Web Site
Budget
Notice Board

56 The Clerk asked if the Parish Council would be willing to change the day that the Parish Council meets. Wednesdays would be better if the Village Hall is available.

57 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**
Monday 11th December 2017 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman

Date