

MINUTES of the meeting of WOOD NORTON PARISH COUNCIL held at WOOD NORTON VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor J. Marchant (Chairman), Parish Cllrs: T. Lidstone-Scott (minute taker), L.O'Keefe, C. Robson, J. Johnson.

- 1. To receive and accept apologies.**
- 2. To receive a report from the Police.**

JM read an email from PC Rich Dawson (Fakenham Safer Neighbourhood Team):

"Just a short email to highlight the increase we are seeing in rural crime across our area. In particular Ivor Williams trailers and bridle tack appear to be the main targets with various tools being an added bonus where they are easily accessible.

Whilst I've been out and about several comments have been made about 'they'll never come up here. I'm too remote for them to find me'. This is a wrong assumption to make. The more remote a property the less likely the perpetrators are to get disturbed and it will have been checked out earlier, but I must also stress that even properties in populated areas are also being targeted. Could I ask that you put a warning out on your community web pages, noticeboards and any other local media you use, i.e. Nextdoor, Twitter, etc. asking residents and businesses to make sure they are taking the necessary steps to protect their property and report any suspicious vehicles, preferably with an index, or suspicious activity in their area."

- 3. To receive a report from County/District Councillors.**

Steffan Aquarone reported:

Parish Council Nomination Forms

Following concerns raised by the Clerk of another Parish Council, I contacted Democratic Services for information about the submission of Parish Council nomination papers. Nomination papers for Parish Council candidates must be had delivered to the NNDC offices in Cromer by hand by the candidate themselves or by someone they trust. I understand that some received advice stating that these papers could only be delivered by the candidate, their agent or the parish clerk, which the District Council have confirmed to me is not the case. Papers cannot be submitted by courier or post, or by fax, email or any other electronic means. The deadline for submission is 4pm on Wednesday, April 3rd.

County Council budget for the year 2019/20

Full Council met three weeks ago, as it does several times a year, this time specifically to discuss the budget for the coming financial year. This is set against a backdrop of the total removal of government support for local authorities by the year 2021/22. The effect of this reduction is to remove £100m from the County Council's annual budget. Whilst this might seem like a manageable percentage of our total £1.3bn annual spend, the vast majority of council expenditure goes on children's and adult services (looked-after children, social workers, and adult care including elderly care) that are in fact not able to be reduced because they are already being delivered at the statutory minimum level.

Therefore, the effects of the recent reductions are profound and particularly harsh on the services that stop people needing to come into care in the first place. Whilst the ruling conservatives on the Council have written to government asking them to slow down the removal of support, there remain serious party political differences about how to manage budgets and finances. All of our motions to amend the budget were rejected by the controlling Conservative group and it remains the case that I believe now is exactly the 'rainy day' that any previous fiscal responsibility was saving for, and that it is vital in any tightened financial situation to be able to invest for the long term.

I was therefore particularly disappointed, given the parlous state of County Council finances in

general as well as our weak economic development record in Norfolk, that our amendment to propose a £500,000 public transport innovation fund was defeated. Public transport is vital, both as an economic catalyst and for social mobility i.e. the ability for everyone in society to get access to a job and access to medical facilities amongst other things. Protecting the vulnerable and investing in the future appear to be causes that were defeated at Full Council.

With reference to the County Councillors' report last month a question was asked about the size of booster boxes needed to improve mobile signal locally; they about the size of a briefcase. The boosters do need power, which would be paid for. These boosters can go on the side of a building. Each booster has a maximum range of about 500 m.

NB. District Councillor Pierre Butikofer was not present, his report was delivered by email later and can be found at the end of these minutes.

4. Public Participation.

It was pointed out that since the Hollands had moved the village green would need cutting. TLS and JM would see what could be done and report back.

5. Declarations of Interest.

There were none

6. The minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 23 January 2019 were agreed and signed.

7. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise covered on the agenda.

PF/18/1641 and 2 - External alterations including new windows, doors and external cladding to facilitate conversion of former storage building to dwelling house previously approved under prior approval application ref.no. PU/18/1000 – Unit 1, Rectory Road, NR20 5BA.

Both units now have permission to go ahead.

8. Outcome of Clerk interviews

The meeting agreed to offer the post to Charlotte Stannard, on the advice of the interview panel. TLS will inform Ladywell Accounting we would be employing again soon and check what action the PC would need to take. He will also enquire about non-cheque methods of paying the salary.

9. Local elections

Parish Council elections take place on the 2nd May 2019. The Nomination papers are available now for completion. JJ can take other people's nomination papers, to save a trip to Cromer. Please get them to Jean for 2nd April. 3rd April is the last day for nomination papers.

10 Annual Parish Meeting, 15th May

The PC could invite reports from other groups/organisations in the village, a practice which happens elsewhere. This would distinguish the meeting as being more correctly a 'parish' meeting. JM to circulate a formula of words for the invitation. Groups to invite: Village Hall, PCC, WN Charitable Trust, Orchard, Playground, Bowls and Art Group; also the police.

11 Financial matters

To consider quotes for refurbishment of the Parish Noticeboard.

George Maynard £300; Mitchell and Rollins £357.60

The difference between the two prices accounts for VAT, George Maynard is not registered for VAT. However there were mitigating factors that led the Parish Council to accept the higher estimate.

Proposed: Jean Johnson; Seconded: Lorraine O'Keefe; all in agreement

12 Update on contact with the Pensions Regulator

The Pension Regulator (TPR) website is now recording the correct name for the Parish Council. The Council's re-enrolment date has been set as 1st April. On or after this date TLS will submit the online 'declaration of compliance', which has to be completed before 1st July 2019.

13 Policies for approval: Health & Safety; Sickness and Pay

The draft Health and Safety Policy was agreed

After discussion it was agreed that a Sickness and Pay policy was not needed as the points were covered by the contract of employment.

14 Parish Council Website access

The new clerk will be asked to upload minutes and agenda directly to the site.

15 Dog bins

North Norfolk District Council has confirmed the following costs.

To supply and erect one dog bin £190 + VAT. Emptied every fortnight @ £3.40 per empty. It was agreed to proceed in principle. CR will instigate. It would be located on highway land near Wings Lane.

16. To note any matters arising for information only:

Standing Orders/annual task spreadsheet next agenda

Proposed work shop on airfield. We have no comment or objection.

ROW deposits

17. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda

Annual spread sheet

Dog bin payment

Welcome clerk and sign contract

Annual Parish Meeting

TPR report

18. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 2125 hrs

Emailed report of District Councillor Pierre Butikofer, received following the Parish Council meeting

1. On the 27th February 2019 At full council, the budget was approved for 2019/20. Some of the keys elects are listed below.

A) additional £33K to be allocated to these community transport fund.

B) £130K to be allocated to a new business development fund including the creation of a new full time post to support small business startups and related initiatives including an allocation of £20K to a new local industries hub at Alderman Peel High School, Wells

C) £30K to fund the opening of all public conveniences through the year with the exception of the facility at Mundesley promenade.

D) £20K to be allocated to support Norfolk Constabulary's Operation Moonshot for automatic number plate recognition cameras to protect our communities from criminal activity.

E) £4K grant funding to Cromer museum provided match funding is forthcoming from Cromer town council.

F) £2 million pounds to establish a property investment company for the purpose of helping address local housing need and to create a property portfolio to provide a revenue stream for the council to address the financial deficit in future years.

2. Riding establishment near Tunstead fined for taking payment for hiring horses in contravention of the Riding Establishment Act 1964. Fined £250 with £750 costs. Had applied for a licence but had been refused on basis of location lacked required facilities.

3. Successful North Norfolk business awards with two dozen of district's business winning plaudits for success. Oyster Yachts won the chairmans award.

4. Landscaping award signed. This the placement of 1.8 million cubic metres of sand off the Bacton gas terminal. It was awarded to the Dutch company Team Van Ord.

5. NNDC became the first authority in Norfolk to sign the Couthold Commitment 2025. It is a voluntary agreement which aims to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable. It does not commit NNDC to any additional expense.

6. Bigot goats - six kids were born as part of the district's goat breeding programme. These goats are classed as vulnerable by the Rare Breed Survival Trust. They have helped to keep the cliffs at Cromer clear but now Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust have bought and borrowed some of the herd for habitat management.