**EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall,**

**Monday 15th July 2019, 8:25pm**

**Present:** John Seymour (Chair) (JS)Mark Cook (Vice Chair) (MC)

Anne Harrup Lin Pateman (LP)

Harrie Morshuis (HM) Suzanne Longe (SL)

Andrew Brown (North Norfolk District Councillor) (AB)

Steffan Aquarone (Norfolk County Councillor) (SA)

Mark Ashwell (Senior Planner, North Norfolk District Council)

Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk) +8 parishioners

**19/109. Presentation and Q&A with Mark Ashwell** – JS welcomed Mark Ashwell, who introduced his role in the District Council. He reported on his role in developing the Local Plan, and how it will affect villages in North Norfolk, up to the end of the current plan in 2036. A total of 10-11,000 homes are planned for North Norfolk, mainly centred around towns, but some for villages. The waiting list for affordable housing has remained at approximately 3000 for 23 years, but house prices compared to income have risen. Different models of social/affordable housing were discussed, along with what is considered as affordable housing. The properties in Edgefield are being built as a rural exception scheme, where some market properties are built to finance the affordable houses, which are a mixture of rental, affordable and shared ownership. It was confirmed that the rental properties will not be sold.

*SA left at 7:30pm*

It was queried whether there is a local need for a further 12 houses. JS advised that BHA have confirmed that no further houses will be considered until the houses being built have been allocated, so local need can be determined. The issues with the current scheme were discussed, including working hours, noise from the site, flooding concerns on Rectory Road, cutting down of trees and hedgerows and the lack of infrastructure. It was asked if the second piece of land will come on to the open market, and it was confirmed that BHA have an option agreement on the land. The contradiction of a climate change emergency Council approving housing schemes in villages with no infrastructure was noted. MA advised that although there is a lack of infrastructure, other mitigating steps can be taken. Infrastructure such as schools and doctors are usually built after the houses, as Councils do not want to build schools until the children are there to fill them.

JS thanked MA for attending, and MA left the meeting at 8:20pm.

**19/110. Chairman’s welcome and apologies for absence** – JS welcomed everyone and apologies were received for Emma Cletheroe and Steffan Aquarone.

**19/111. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak** – None.

**19/112. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 17th June 2019** – The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed (prop. HM, sec. MC).

**19/113. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – None.

**19/114. Police report** – None.

**19/115. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor** – SA emailed the following report –

Climate Emergency **-** I am now the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for the Climate Emergency and one of only two opposition members on the “Task and Finish” group on climate change. This group, set up in the wake of the Extinction Rebellion protests that led to all three parties putting forward motions on the environment at the last Full Council meeting, is considering what Norfolk County Council can do to deal with climate change. I believe this is the single most significant political issue of our times, and that there is a window of opportunity to achieve significant change through political pressure. My current fear is that the group is unlikely to make any recommendations that it believes will not be accepted. I would welcome your views on this, and on the subject of the Climate Emergency more broadly. Children’s Centres Update - As you may be aware, there have been brutal cuts to Sure Start provision in Norfolk, and we are now beginning to see their proposed replacements take shape. The new service begins in October, and a ‘Service Level Agreement’ is currently being negotiated. Staff turnover has increased during this uncertainty, meaning that someone will have to foot the bill if agency staff are required to fill any gaps which remain come October. The closest remaining Hub for Melton Constable division is in Holt. I have been informed that this facility is currently undersubscribed, and that they would like the word spread that they have places available for September. To find out more about their service provision, visit their page on the Action for Children website. Finally, the Portage service which helps with transition for very young children requiring extra assistance before joining more formal settings, such as those with disabilities, has seen a large increase in demand, but no such increase in funding. Demand has increased 148%, but funding has remained at the same level. Growing authoritarianism on Norfolk County Council - It might come as some surprise to hear that I have some respect for the Conservative party. There are times when being considered, and not acting rashly, are the right positions to take. Equally, Robert Peel’s repeal of the Corn Laws was one of the most radical acts of social justice in modern politics - not to mention the fact that they are the only UK party successfully to have elected a female prime minister. However, as the national party prepares to elect an incompetent racist with a history of both direct and indirect acts of violence, it seems Trump-like authoritarianism is extending into local politics too. Pathetic as this might seem, the administration on Norfolk County Council has, in the past week: banned an elected politician from entering County Hall, limited the number of members of the public permitted to attend a public meeting, blocked - potentially unlawfully – a motion from even reaching the council chamber, and only narrowly decided against barring members of its own party from attending parts of cabinet meetings. These acts are all the result of the new "executive leadership" model, imposed by the administration, led by Councillor Andrew Proctor. Under this model, the politicians in charge at County Hall oversee its operations as well as its policymaking. There is no longer a managing director, and an increasing number of decisions are taken behind closed doors rather than in public. This is a time when, I believe, the way things were worked better for the people of Norfolk. Members of that party have approached me with their grievances. Given what has happened in North Norfolk, it is not unforeseeable that a similar story may unfold on Norfolk County Council. Whether you are a Conservative supporter, an opponent, or simply an impartial citizen, the erosion of transparency, public accountability and scrutiny under the current leadership should be a grave cause for concern.

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| **19/116. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor** - CAPABILITY REVIEW - External consultants have been conducting a performance review across all areas of the Council over the last 5 weeks. We will have a report of their findings presented to us this week and we will be deciding on changes required to deliver services more effectively in the best interests of residents of North Norfolk at the next full Council meeting on 24th July. DEEP HISTORY COAST LAUNCH - The promotion campaign has been launched for the Deep History Coast which affects a 22 mile stretch between Weybourne and Cart Gap. We have launched an ‘app’ which will allow people to ‘see’ a mammoth and other extinct species through augmented reality images. This will promote places like Happisburgh as the oldest archaeological site in northern Europe and West Runton as the site of the best-preserved fossilised mammoth in the UK. It is intended that the promotion will boost tourism in north Norfolk. Finds along the Deep History Coast have provided the earliest evidence for human occupation so far discovered in northern Europe. They place early humans here in Norfolk some 350,000 years earlier than had been thought, at over 800,000 years ago. MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE - A total of £274,000 has been given to Fakenham, Holt, North Walsham and Stalham to assist with improvements to attract tourism and economic development. The fund will enhance the following projects in our market towns:- improved signage, public WIFI schemes, events or festivals which are hosted in the town, promoting local products and/or community interests, loyalty schemes that encourage people to spend in the town centres, projects that generate and/or increase enterprise activity, to help create or sustain local jobs, trails or activities that encourage visitors to the towns, environmental schemes that make the town more appealing and attractive, heritage schemes that enhance the historical appearance of the towns. REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES - A review of car parking charges is now due following the last one in 2014 and we will look at creating more schemes to encourage visitors to the market towns such as Holt where we may increase the free parking on street from 1 hour to 2 hours and introduce parking permits for people who work in out of centre car-parks. We will also be considering increasing charges in the coastal car-parks where revenues are greater in order to balance the books. Proposed changes will take a year to implement due to the legal procedures and putting signage in place. SHERINGHAM SINK HOLE - The Council have introduced free parking for 30 minutes at the Morris Street car park until the sink hole has been repaired. It measures 2 metres wide and 5 metres deep since it appeared on 25 May. Perversely this has become a tourist attraction and businesses in Sheringham have reported a benefit from an upturn in trade. BODHAM AND SELBRIGG WIND TURBINES - The Council had previously challenged the decision of the Planning Inspectorate to re-determine the Bodham and Selbrigg wind-turbine appeals by way of the written-representations procedure rather than by reopening the Public Inquiry, which it considered was contrary to the Planning Inspectorate’s own procedural guidance. The Court of Appeal decided to refuse the Council permission to go to a Public Inquiry. The Council will continue to oppose the applications by way of written representations instead. SANDSCAPING PROJECT AT BACTON - A large ship, known as a ‘spud leg barge’, is currently offshore at Bacton digging the trench necessary to build the new outfall for the Bacton Gas Terminal. The creation of a new outfall is a key part of the Sandscaping project, which will place approximately 1.8 million cubic metres of sand on the beaches in front of the terminal and the villages of Bacton and Walcott. The height and width of the beaches will be significantly increased and access to beaches improved. These improved beaches are designed to provide robust protection to the terminal for approximately 20 years, while extending the life of the village defences. Machinery with global positioning will assist with moving the sand into place and engineer it precisely. As it proceeds, the project will move from Bacton – in front of the gas terminal – to Walcott. This is a large and impressive scheme which will provide protection to people’s homes and critical nationally important infrastructure |

**19/117. Finance:**

**(a) To approve the monthly financial statement** – The Monthly financial statement and budget update had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were duly approved (prop. SL, sec. LP).

**(b) Payments -** The Following payments were approved (prop. SL, sec. LP

(i) K Cotgrove – Clerk’s July salary (via SO) £203.45

(ii) K Cotgrove – expenses (ink, stamps) £ 33.40

**19/118. Planning –**

1. **Refusal of permission** – None.
2. **Applications** (i) PF/19/1079. 5 Holt Road, Edgefield. Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear section; single storey front extension. PC – no objection.

(ii) PF/19/1040. Aldergrove, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield. Erection of first floor extension & veranda. PC – no objection.

(iii) PF/19/1102. Green Lanes Cottage, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield. Erection of a single storey side extension for use as a plant room for ground source heat pump apparatus. PC – no objection.

1. **Development committee decision** – None.
2. **Decision notice** – None.
3. **Additional information on applications** - None.
4. **To discuss late planning applications** – None.
5. **To ratify applications made between meetings** – PF/19/1002. Old Street Farm, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield. Conversion of agricultural building for annexe (rather than holiday let agreed PF/18/0101) – PC No objection.

**19/119. To update on community Speedwatch and consider the traffic survey** – No Speedwatch report. A Parishioner has carried out some research, and had found information that speed cameras are easily and freely available through Highways. The Clerk has contacted the Clerk to the Town identified, and it was confirmed that a speed camera has not been erected, but a temporary data recording machine. Steve White at Highways has also advised that they do not provide speed cameras. Part one of the survey is being delivered, and part two will ask for options to slow traffic.

**19/120. To update on the Surveyors plots** – NCC have confirmed that the cheques for the Pond Hills site were cashed in February 2007. The Clerk will chase Stody regarding access to the site. The Clerk will ask SA to explore options for ownership of the Holt Road site. The Limekiln Lane right of way is still ongoing.

**19/121. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme** – A number of dates for a site visit have been circulated. The Clerk will contact Wellington to arrange a date.

**19/122. To update on Highways issues** – The Clerk will contact Highways to suggest that the gates are not fit for purpose, as they have already discoloured.

**19/123. Correspondence** – (i) A Parishioner has asked for permission to fly his paramotor from the Jubilee Playing Field. It was agreed that this would not be appropriate.

**19/124. Matters for further discussion** A kissing gate at the entrance to the footpath on Ramsgate Street is broken. The Clerk will report to Highways.

AB confirmed that the Council are still looking into reversal of the fees for taking DIY waste to the recycling centres.

Jeremy Goldney advised that the Norfolk Day event has been cancelled.

JS reported that this is his last meeting, as he has sold his house, and will be moving in mid-August.

**19/125. To agree the date of the next meeting –** Monday 19th August 2019.

**19/126. To close the meeting** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:32pm.

Signed as a correct record by: Date: