**EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Monday 16th December 2019, 7pm.**

**Present:** Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Emma Cletheroe (Vice Chair) (EC)

Anne Harrup (AH) Lin Pateman (LP)

Jackie Cole (JC) Suzanne Longe (SL)

Harrie Morshuis (HM) Andrew Brown (District Councillor)

Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk) +3 parishioners

**Parishioners comments –** Jeremy Goldney reported that the ownership of the Camping Ground is being looked into, as there is a possibility is could belong to the Fuel Fund, rather than the Jubilee Playing Field Trust. It was agreed that this will be added to the January agenda.

A Parishioner noted that there were traffic lights at the BHA development for two weeks. Wellington Housing had promised that they would warn the Parish Council before any traffic lights were put in, but did not. The traffic meant that nearby residents had difficulty accessing their driveways, as they were blocked by queuing traffic. The Clerk will write to Wellington.

The Parishioner also noted that there is a lot of standing water in the road near the church, which is thought to be run off from the Stody Estate concrete pad. The Clerk will contact Highways to ask them to clear the grips, and contact the owners of the pond to see if they are able to clear it.

**19/196. Chairman’s welcome and apologies for absence** – MC welcomed everyone. Apologies were accepted for Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor).

**19/197. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak** – None.

**19/198. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 18th November 2019** – The minutes were approved and signed (prop. EC, sec. LP, all agreed).

**19/199. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – The Clerk contacted Wellington Housing regarding vehicles accessing the site from Rectory Road. The site manager was adamant it is not used, and has asked for photographic evidence if possible.

**19/200. Police report** – None. A newsletter was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

**19/201. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor** – See appendix A. JC noted that, all political parties did not come out well with the recent high court case for WASPE women, and the Liberal Democrat leader had stated that reimbursing the women involved would be too expensive, and they couldn’t support reimbursement. JC welcomed SA’s reporting of the situation.

**19/202. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor** – The Local Plan is being moved to the next phase, after receiving 900 comments from the first consultation. The comments will be documented along with responses as to how they can be included in the next draft of the Plan, which will be sent to the inspector. The Council have published their Annual Review of Brownfield Sites, which has identified ten sites across North Norfolk, mainly in market towns. If these sites are developed, it will provide 250 additional homes. The Council have finalised their new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. BHA will complete 26 homes in the new year, including some in Edgefield. The Council are on target to complete 115 new homes in the 2019-20 financial year. There is a new property adaptation team, to enable people to stay in their own homes for longer. They can offer advice and help with equipment installation. The Conservation Area Review will be published in the new year. Kier are stopping waste collections next year, and NNDC are taking this in house, combined with other District Councils in the spring.

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**19/203. 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. HM, sec. EC)

**(b) Payments -** The Following payments were approved (prop. HM, sec. EC)

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

(ii) ICO – data protection renewal (via DD) £35.00

(iii) P Borley – annual grass cutting invoice & tree work £701.00

**19/204. Planning –**

**Refusal of permission** – None.

**Applications** – None.

**Development committee decision** – None.

**Decision notice** – None.

**Additional information on applications** - None.

To discuss late planning applications – PF/19/2118. Teal Cottage, Holt Road, Edgefield. Conversion of existing attached garage to form additional bedroom and shower room to include new French Doors following the demolition of walls. The Parish Council had no comment on this application.

**To ratify applications made between meetings** – None.

**19/205. To update on community Speedwatch and consider the traffic survey** – LP reported that there will be no sessions until after 9th January, as there is no one in the office to issue letters over Christmas.

Jeremy Goldney reported that the draft second questionnaire will be brought to the PC meeting in January for approval, and will go out to residents in March. An update will be put in the next Edgefield Extra.

**19/206. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme** – William H Brown have advised that more houses will be marketed at the end of the month.

**19/207. To update on Highways issues** – None.

**19/208. To update on the Hornsea windfarm application and others** – Nothing further to report.

**19/209. Correspondence** – (i) Defibrillator maintenance – Jeff Witts has noted that the pads will expire at the end of December. It was agreed that the Clerk will respond to approve the purchase of replacement pads.

(ii) A Parishioner has approached JC to ask about putting a defibrillator in the phone box on Rectory Road. The Clerk confirmed that the box is owned by the PC but the defibrillator cannot be purchased with PC funds, and money would need to be fund raised for it. JC will pass the Clerk’s details to the Parishioner.

**19/210. To agree the date of the next meeting –** Monday 27th January 2020.

**19/211. To close the meeting** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:50pm.

Signed as a correct record by: Date:

APPENDIX A

Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone

County Council’s Response to the Climate Emergency - promising progress -

Full Council met on Monday 25th November, and the new environmental policy was voted through. This puts Norfolk at the forefront of County Councils by committing it to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 but also working with other partners to make Norfolk as a whole carbon neutral by 2030. Here's the speech I gave in support of the policy, which I was involved in shaping through my participation in the Task and Finish group:

I welcome the striking presence this morning of The Red Brigade, Extinction Rebellion, school strikers and many other people, who have been bearing witness so powerfully with their silence to the burden of responsibility facing this council. We are surely the natural unit of leadership and accountability in Norfolk in tackling the climate emergency for us and for future generations. I believe that some people in our county - from across a range of partners - have waited their entire careers for the opportunity to work under the direction of a policy like this. Others - like me - have seen the light more recently. In particular those of us who have a stake in what happens in the next fifty years, but are old and ugly enough to know that no one is going to come in and do it for us. My question is: will Norfolk County Council really take the lead, as the committee report that recommended this policy set out - or will it look after its own and let others do the same. This would be a license for inaction and a prescription for inertia. The statement “ensure that each project the Council undertakes is assessed for the contribution it will make towards meeting our environmental targets” - does this actually mean that in future, on balance, some projects will be deemed unviable under this revised focus on reducing Norfolk’s carbon footprint to net zero by 2030?

If so, then I believe we are sufficiently prepared for the change that’s needed in our county as well as our council. I can hear myself asking these questions for some time to come as the real level of political will

behind this policy is borne out. But for the mean time, with these reservation, I welcome the arrival of this policy. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve on the task and finish committee, and I wish to thank the officers in particular for the depth and detail of their work.

WASPE women -

Many of you will know that tens of thousands of women across Norfolk have been affected by changes to the state pension age. I support these women in their quest for fairness, which I think they have been denied. Although no one is arguing about the need for parity in state pension age, the way a particular group of women born in the early 1950s have been treated seems very unfair - sudden ratcheting, with very little warning, meaning many face hardship of an unexpected need to work for up to six years longer before they can retire. Council leader Andrew Proctor had previously been sympathetic and indicated that the County Council would try to help by providing free bus passes. But he has since reneged, citing lack of

funding from Central Government. A debate held in Monday’s meeting was cut short cynically and deliberately by two conservative members - many members of the public who had waited for hours to hear the debate were party to only ten minutes of discussion. The attitude of some members was an embarrassment. Many of those members of the public who attended were from across the political spectrum and were in tears afterwards because they felt let down and derided. I remain supportive of the cause and welcome any feedback on other measures that could be taken at a local level to support the women affected.

Reminder about Parish Council Attendance until January -

My wife and I are expecting our second child next month so until January I will be limiting my evening schedule further – but keeping myself just as available the rest of the time. If there are items of business on the Parish Council agenda that require my presence in person then I will, of course, prioritise my attendance.