**EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Monday 19th August 2019, 8:25pm**

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

Anne Harrup (AH) Lin Pateman (LP)

Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk) +7 parishioners

**Parishioners comments –** A Parishioner asked why an item could be confidential on the agenda. The Clerk explained that, should there have been more applicants for the PC vacancy, the public would be asked to leave the room while Councillors vote. However, as there is only one applicant, this will not be necessary.

A Parishioner noted that the noise from the building site has not decreased, with radios and workers swearing. The Clerk will contact Wellington again, and copy in the District Councillor, and contact the Considerate Constructors Association.

**19/146. Chairman’s welcome and apologies for absence** – MC welcomed everyone. Apologies were accepted for Suzanne Longe, Harrie Morshuis and Steffan Aquarone.

**19/147. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak** – None.

**19/148. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 19th August 2019** – The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed (prop. EC, sec. LP).

**19/149. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – None.

**19/150. To consider co-option of a Parish Councillor** – One application has been received, from Jackie Cole. It was agreed to co-opt her, and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed (prop. LP, sec. AH, all agreed).

**19/151. Police report** – None.

**19/152. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor** - During the Parliamentary pantomime last week you may have noticed Sajid Javid, the Chancellor, announcing that austerity is officially over! This is of course good news – there is an extra £1.5bn for Social Care which, although this is a national figure, could mean an extra £18m for Norfolk based on previous allocations, plus the power to raise a further £8m if Norfolk County Council decides to increase council tax again using the extra powers they’ve been granted to do so. There are other much needed real-terms increases in other departments too – but that’s the main problem: in essence the increased income from this announcement will only be enough to clear historic overspends on Norfolk County Council - it won’t end the pain of the cuts that are being made. How should the Council’s money be spent? The Council will soon begin the process of getting its budget together for next year - and we in the Liberal Democrat group expect that our priorities will remain as: reversing the cuts to the Minimum Income Guarantee, restoring £1m to the budget for the Early Childhood and Families Service and putting money into public transport. The chair of an important council committee was forced to resign recently after calling disability rights campaigners selfish. This is not an isolated opinion: Norfolk’s ruling Conservatives regularly point out that 75% of the council’s funds go on providing services to less than 5% of its

population. It is my view that this is precisely the point of having public services: to support those in need. Healthcare (and even car insurance) operating models have not dissimilar patterns. If we all got back exactly what we put in in council tax, there’d be little point in having government, wouldn’t there? What do you think? How do you think the Council should balance its budget (which is had to do by law) whilst protecting the most vulnerable in our society? I’m keen to hear your views. Parish Council Attendance until January - I’m happy to announce that my wife and I are expecting our second child later this year. As it stands, many of my 22 Parishes meet on the same day, so even being out every evening there is a meeting means I’m often unable to attend. However, 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 that require my presence in person then I will, of course, prioritise my attendance.

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**19/153. 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. EC, sec. LP).

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

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

**19/154. Planning –**

1. **Refusal of permission** – None.
2. **Applications** - None.
3. **Development committee decision** – None.
4. **Decision notice** – None.
5. **Additional information on applications** - None.
6. **To discuss late planning applications** – None.
7. **To ratify applications made between meetings** – None.

**19/155. To update on community Speedwatch and consider the traffic survey** – LP reported that the group is continuing as and when people can attend. Jeremy Goldney advised that he is analysing the data from the first traffic questionnaire, and is waiting for further information from Steffan Aquarone to add into the second questionnaire. Mr Goldney has spoken to the owner of RMC, who has asked if people would be interested in him reopening a village shop at the garage. It was agreed that an additional questionnaire can be sent out with the second traffic one, to ascertain support for this.

**19/156. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme** – Already covered in Parishioners comments.

**19/157. To update on Highways issues, including upcoming Parish Rangers visit** – A number of jobs for the Rangers were identified.

**19/158. Correspondence** – (i) Toad expert talk in the village in November – The Clerk has received an email from a Parishioner who has arranged a talk in the village hall in November. She has asked for a date, and will advertise once received.

(ii) Parish Footpaths – A meeting will take place on 18th. If anyone can attend, they will let the Clerk know.

*Andrew Brown (NNDC) arrived at 7:26pm.*

**19/159. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor** – AB reported that a Conservation Area review has started. This will appraise the consultation criteria to feed into planning policy etc. NNDC have been successful in a bid for funding to improve historical buildings in North Walsham. A Parishioner asked if the review will increase or decrease the conservation area. AB advised that hopefully it will increase it. AH asked if there is a map of the current conservation area, as only part of Edgefield is covered. AB will try an obtain one. A Parishioner noted that there was an article in the press stating that the cost of the failed netting of the cliffs in Bacton will not be revealed. AB advised that there is a review underway to research why incorrect advice was given, and this should be advertised. The process for Tree Preservation Orders in and out of conservation areas was discussed.

**19/160. To agree the date of the next meeting –** Monday 21st October 2019.

**19/161. To close the meeting** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:38pm.

Signed as a correct record by: Date: