**EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Monday 20th May 2019, 8:25pm**

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

 Anne Harrup Emma Cletheroe (EC)

 Lin Pateman (LP) Suzanne Longe (SL)

 Andrew Brown (North Norfolk District Councillor) (AB)

 Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk) +8 parishioners

**Parishioners comments:** None.

**19/76. (i) To elect a Chairman for 2019-20** – JS was nominated by EC, seconded by MC, all agreed. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed.

**(ii) To elect a Vice Chairman for 2019-20** – MC was nominated by JS, seconded by SL, all agreed. The declaration of office was signed.

**19/77. Chairman’s welcome and apologies for absence** – JS welcomed everyone and apologies were received for Harrie Morshuis & Steffan Aquarone (Norfolk County Councillor). AB was welcomed as new District Councillor.

**19/78. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak** – None.

**19/79. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 15th April 2019** – The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed (prop. LP, sec. AH).

**19/80. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – The Clerk advised that SA is still looking into the Pond Hills compensation payment.

**19/81. Police report** – None.

**19/82. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor** - Climate Emergency - Back in February, as the County Council prepared to debate the budget for the next financial year, the meeting was interrupted by protestors from Extinction Rebellion, who prevented the meeting from continuing for a number of hours. While many other councillors have been highly critical of their action, I am supportive. We are truly facing a climate emergency, and every day of inaction brings us one day closer to global catastrophe. Everyday life should not be continuing as if nothing is happening, and if storming a Council meeting is what it takes for people to pay attention, then so be it. At last month’s April Full Council meeting, the Liberal Democrats proposed a motion to declare a county-wide Climate Emergency. This was voted down by the Conservatives, despite having cross-party support within the opposition groups and, since then, the backing of the UK Government. A more watered-down motion, proposed by the Conservative administration was accepted, however. I supported this motion, as I believe it is better to be taking some action rather than none, but we are still doing nowhere near enough. I and the Liberal Democrats will continue to fight for the Council to take more action on Climate Change, and I wholeheartedly support the nationwide Climate Emergency declaration. There are glimmers of hope, however. I, like so many others, have been taken aback by the passionate, principled work of 16-year-old Greta Thunberg. She, like so many other young people, gives me hope that this generation will force the hands of politicians who for too long have failed to robustly address this issue. Furthermore, Lib-Dem controlled North Norfolk District Council has already declared a Climate Emergency - the first local authority in the County to do so. This is a vital step and I look forward to seeing our local district council take the lead in Norfolk in fighting back against the climate crisis.

Local Council elections - I am happy to be welcoming new District Councillors, with whom I will work regardless of their political party. Previously a total of four wards were covered by Melton Constable County Division; since the boundary changes things have become a little more complicated but if you haven’t yet met your new district councillor, let me know and I will introduce you!

Update on Surveyors Plots - At the last meeting it was discussed that Ponds Hill was handed from the County Council to Stody Estate when it was actually owned by the Edgefield Parish Council. Compensation was agreed and EPC settled that the land was owned by Stody but with access being permitted for common land. There is no evidence of this agreement. It appears that compensation was never received from the Council. Documents state that the compensation was agreed at £1300. An initial cheque of £1108.71 was issued. There is a document stating this was banked but it appears the council cancelled the payment and never issued a replacement cheque or the additional £191.29. I have contacted someone at the Council to help access account records. In regards to Holts Hill, at the last meeting we knew that 4 pieces of land were gifted in 1815 and one of them was swapped with this piece of land. There is no record of this that the Council can find. Without evidence they cannot transfer the land to Parish Council, which they are happy to do. I have contacted the owner of Glandford Mill who was one of the people mentioned in the most recent documents (2007) and who may be able to help.

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| **19/83. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor –** AB reported that NNDC have declare a climate change emergency. This means that all new policies will have to take into account its effect on climate change. The new makeup of the District Council was discussed, with AB being given a cabinet post with the portfolio of special projects. A Parishioner asked about the netting and the sand martins. AB advised that there is an independent investigation taking place to find out what went wrong.  |

**19/84. 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.

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

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

 (ii) NPT&S – Annual subscription renewal £58.12

 (iii) Jo Boxall – internal audit £50.00

 **(c) To declare the Parish Council exempt from external audit in 2018-19:** As the payments and receipts were both well below the £25,000 threshold, the Parish Council declared itself exempt from external audit (prop. JS, sec. EC, all agreed).

 **(d) To receive the internal auditor’s report:** The Internal Auditor’s report was received and recommendations noted. LP offered to check the bank reconciliations at each meeting.

 **(e) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19:** The Annual Governance Statement was received and approved (prop. AH, sec. MC, all agreed).

 **(f) To approve the Accounting Statements 2018-19:** The Accounting Statements were received and approved (prop. JS, sec. LP, all agreed).

**19/85. 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.

**19/86. To discuss the village pond** – AH suggested a date to clear the reeds. This will be arranged. A Parishioner commented that the water is very low. JS advised that the borehole cannot be used, and advice has been received that if the pond dries up over the summer, it will do no long-term damage. The Parish Council was told that a resident had run a hose from their property into the pond, but it was established that this was just for the rainwater from their building. The resident was very upset that his hose was removed and thrown into a hedge.

**19/87. To update on Highways issues** – None.

**19/88. Correspondence** – (i) NNDC Local Plan consultation. This closes on 16th June. Councillors will send comments to the Clerk to respond.

**19/89. Matters for further discussion** – None.

**19/90. To agree the date of the next meeting –** Monday 17th June 2019.

**19/91. To close the meeting** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:45pm.

Signed as a correct record by: Date: