

EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 27th January 2020, 7pm.

Present: Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Emma Cletheroe (Vice Chair) (EC)
Anne Harrup (AH) Lin Pateman (LP)
Suzanne Longe (SL) Harrie Morshuis (HM)
Andrew Brown (District Councillor) Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor)
Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk) +9 parishioners

Parishioners comments – A Parishioner with a family connection to Fuel Farm explained what is done with their tenancy of the Camping Ground. MC clarified that the ownership of the field is on the agenda, but the PC are happy with the tenants. Jeremy Goldney has indicated that the Fuel Trust feel that they may have claim to the ownership, but nothing has been shown to support this.

A Parishioner reported that a section of hedge has been removed near the Broadland Housing Development. It was confirmed that the hedge is on Stody Estate land, and the Clerk was asked to contact them to ask why it has been grubbed out.

SL commented that there is a lot of rubbish at the corner of the BHA development. The Clerk will write to them to ask them to clear. A Parishioner commented that they have planted a new hedge along the roadside, about 3ft closer to the road, which is Highways land, and is likely to obscure vision in future years. The Clerk will ask about this too.

A Parishioner reported that there is a lot of mud on the road around the concrete pad, from contractors hauling beet. The Clerk will speak to Stody.

Richard Sear was in attendance, who organised a Toad Talk at the Village Hall, and is coordinating a new Toad Patrol group. He reported that there were 8 volunteers at the last meeting, and more volunteers would be welcome, to conduct patrols each evening from dusk to 9pm. He asked if two permanent signs could be erected to warn people that there are toads crossing in the area. SA confirmed that he will look into this, and should be able to fund this from his Members' budget. SL noted that there was already an active toad patrol group, operating in the village for over 20 years, and could these volunteers be included in future emails.

20/01. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence – MC welcomed everyone. Apologies were accepted for Jackie Cole

20/02. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak – None.

3 Parishioners left the meeting at 7:15pm.

20/03. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 16th December 2019 – The minutes were approved and signed (prop. EC, sec. HM, all agreed).

20/04. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda – None.

20/05. Police report – None. A newsletter was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

20/06. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor – SA distributed the report in appendix A, and it was discussed.

SA left the meeting at 7:25pm.

20/07. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor – There are four electric car charging points at the NNDC office now. The North Norfolk Town & Parish Forum took place last week, with approximately 100 attendees. Car parking charges in the district are being reviewed. Tree planting is continuing. It is necessary to change the computer systems in the planning department, as updates to the current system are no longer supported. This means that the website will be down for a couple of weeks in April. The Council have announced plans to compulsory purchase the Shannoeks Hotel in Sheringham. The senior management change to reduce the Paid Head of Service role from two to one is going ahead, with the role being advertised internally and externally. There will be another consultation on the Local Plan soon. An increase in council tax will mean a likely £60 increase on a band D property. The lack of parking spaces in Holt was discussed.

20/08. To discuss ownership of the Camping Ground – Already covered in Parishioners comments.

20/09. 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. AH, sec. EC)

(i) K Cotgrove – Clerk’s January salary (via SO)	£203.45
(ii) NNDC – uncontested election charge	£91.03
(iii) Community Heartbeat Trust – defibrillator pads	£45.60
(iv) Edgefield Village Hall – regular group hire 2019	£564.00

20/10. Planning –

Refusal of permission – None.

Applications – None.

Development committee decision – None.

Decision notice – None.

Additional information on applications - None.

To discuss late planning applications – None.

To ratify applications made between meetings – None.

20/11. To update on community Speedwatch and consider the traffic survey – LP reported that new volunteers are always welcome, and the group goes out when weather allows. Jeremy Goldney was not in attendance, so the survey was deferred to the February meeting.

20/12. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme Covered in Parishioners Comments.

20/13. To update on Highways issues – The Rangers have filled potholes, and cleared the path along Holt Road. Turkey Lane has been cut.

20/14. To update on the Hornsea windfarm application and others – Two applications are with the Secretary of State, one is currently having public hearings and two others are doing scoping reports. It has been reported that, even if the Offshore Ring Main is used, there would still need to be a number of cabling corridors, due to the volume of electricity produced and security issues. The National Grid have indicated that they would prefer overhead cables, due to potential heat issues.

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20/16. To update on the Toad Patrol – Covered in Parishioners Comments.

20/17. Correspondence – (i) North Norfolk Town & Parish Forum – noted and covered in Andrew Brown’s report.

(ii) Community Led Housing newsletter – Noted.

(iii) E.on electricity bill – The Clerk received a bill for approximately £66 for the Rectory Road phone box, despite no contract to provide electricity. She queried with E.on, and the bill has been cancelled.

20/18. To agree the date of the next meeting – Monday 17th February 2020.

20/19. To close the meeting There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:50pm.

Signed as a correct record by:

Date:

DRAFT

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 reservations, 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.