

EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Monday 17th February 2020, 7pm.

Present: Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Emma Cletheroe (Vice Chair) (EC)
Anne Harrup (AH) Lin Pateman (LP)
Suzanne Longe (SL) Jackie Cole (JC)
Andrew Brown (District Councillor) Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)
+3 parishioners

Parishioners comments – A Parishioner called the Council regarding the fence which had been erected too close to the road. It has now been moved back. A number of fallen / damaged trees were identified.

20/20. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence – MC welcomed everyone. Apologies were accepted for Harrie Morshuis and Steffan Aquarone.

20/21. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak – None.

20/22. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 27th January 2020 – The minutes were approved and signed (prop. LP, sec. EC, all agreed).

20/23. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda – None.

20/24. Police report – None. A newsletter was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

20/25. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor – SA emailed apologies and the report in appendix A.

20/26. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor – AB reported on the development committee meeting, where the Holt housing development was refused. An appeal by the developer is expected. The ownership of the land near the playing field and development was discussed, and AB is trying to ascertain ownership. The conservation area review was discussed, along with the recent Planning Inspectorate approval of the Bodham wind turbines. The Broadland Housing presentation at the Village Hall was discussed. It was noted that some Parishioners had received an invitation, but not all, and the Parish Council and District Councillor have not received an invitation.

JC left the meeting at 7:23pm.

The lack of communication regarding S106 money for the development was discussed. It was agreed the Clerk will write to NNDC and BHA to ask about it.

20/27. 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. SL, sec. AH)

(i) K Cotgrove – Clerk's February salary (via SO)	£203.45
(ii) Tree Matters – emergency tree work	£195.00
(iii) Alan Boswell – liability insurance for JPF	£333.70
(iv) K Cotgrove – 50% trustee training	£ 21.00

The Clerk reported that a large branch on one of the trees on the Green broke and was hanging over a neighbouring property's driveway. Under 3.4 of the Parish Council's Financial Regulations, the Clerk authorised work to be carried out to make the tree safe.

(c) To approve an internal auditor for the 2019-20 accounts – It was agreed to appoint Jo Boxall to carry out the internal audit.

20/28. Planning –

Refusal of permission – None.

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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.

JC returned to the meeting at 7:27pm

20/29. To update on community Speedwatch and consider the traffic survey – There was no Speedwatch report. Jeremy Goldney showed Parish Councillors the proposed second survey. Following discussions this was agreed. LP thanked Mr Goldney for his hard work.

20/30. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme Covered in Parishioners Comments.

20/31. To update on Highways issues – including the parking of sugar beet lorries on Pecks Lane – On at least two occasions sugar beet lorries have been parked on Pecks Lane, waiting to load up further down the village. These have blocked driveways, and on one occasion stopped a Parishioner for leaving her driveway and attending an appointment. AB advised that if this happens again, to take photos of the vehicles. The Clerk will write to the farms to ask that they do not park and wait in residential areas. Some silted drains and potholes were identified, and will be reported by the Clerk.

20/32. To update on the Hornsea windfarm application and others – Nothing to report.

20/33. To discuss potential tree work necessary at the Village Green – As there have been two recent incidents with tree branches falling, it was agreed that the Clerk will arrange for a tree inspection of the trees on the Village Green.

20/34. Correspondence – (i) Boundary review consultation extension - noted.

(ii) NALC, GNLP, NCC Local Transport Plan & the Rail Prospectus – Noted.

(iii) Village Hall Risk Assessment – The Village Hall have sent through a request and risk assessment to erect a gazebo for Edgefest. This was agreed.

(iv) Permission request to metal detect in the village – An ex-villager has asked permission to metal detect on the JPF. The Clerk has established that he will have liability insurance in place. All agreed that, subject to an agreement to share anything found 50/50, he can metal detect on the JPF.

(v) JC reported that she noticed some people flying drones around the church recently. It was agreed that if anyone sees this happening again, they should report it to the police on 101.

20/35. To agree the date of the next meeting – Monday 16th March 2020.

20/36. To close the meeting There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:55pm.

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 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.