

EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom (online), Monday 15th February 2021, 7pm.

Present: Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Anne Harrup (AH)
Emma Cletheroe (EC) Jackie Cole (JC)
Suzanne Longe (SL) Lin Pateman (LP)
Harrie Morshuis (HM)
Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)
Andrew Brown (District Councillor) (AB)
Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor) (SA)
+ 1 member of the public

Parishioners Comments – A Parishioner reported a possible planning breach. It will be reported to NNDC.

21/33. Chairman’s welcome and apologies for absence – MC welcomed everyone, there were no apologies.

21/34. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak – None.

21/35. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of Monday 15th February 2021 – The minutes were approved and signed (prop. AH, sec. EC, all agreed).

21/36. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda – None.

21/37. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor – SA advised that County Councillors are allowed to get out and about again now. County Council elections are happening in May. A meeting was expected in March to consider a proposal for the Western Link, but this has been delayed until after the election. The budget has been set for the coming year.

21/38. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor – A report was emailed prior to the meeting (appendix A). A letter has also been circulated via the Clerk from the Government to NNDC, relating to licensing changes for the summer. Council tax bills have been issued, and there is no increase in the District element. In Holt and Weybourne, there have been no Covid infection cases since late January.

21/39. To update on the Hornsea 3 Windfarm application – An email newsletter was sent by Orsted, where they indicate they will use HVDC, so there should be no booster station on the edge of the Parish, and hopefully less disruption.

21/40. 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. LP, sec. EC)

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

(i) K Cotgrove – Clerk’s salary March	£203.45
(ii) NPTS – annual subscription renewal	£66.25
(iii) Community Heartbeat Trust – defib pads	£46.80
(iv) Alan Boswell – JPF liability insurance	£364.57

21/41. 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.

21/42. To update on community Speedwatch and the traffic survey – Due to commitments, LP has decided to step down as co-ordinator. Jeremy Goldney will take over, and LP will continue as a volunteer.

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LP thanked everyone who has helped to set up and volunteered. Thanks were given to LP for co-ordinating over the last four years.

No update regarding the survey, as Jeremy Goldney is waiting for SAM2 data.

21/43. To agree a date for spring maintenance on the pond – AH has had a look at the pond, some maintenance could happen in April to clear the reeds and coppice some willow. Not too much will take place in the pond, as there will be frogspawn. A date will be agreed via email. Grass cutting will start in the last week of March.

21/44. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme – No update. AB has spoken to James Mann at NNDC, who is looking into the next step regarding releasing the S106 money. AN update is expected soon. AB has made a complaint to the head of Planning that the process should be streamlined.

21/45. To discuss Highways issues – JC was approached by a Parishioner to say that there are a lot of stones from the Pigs car park onto the footpath. She will go down and sweep them up. There appears to be a water leak from the Mount, toward Mount Farm, or water is coming from the fields. Possibly the water is from the pond. The Clerk will report to Highways. The drains in Sweetbriar Lane need clearing again. The Clerk will report.

21/46. Correspondence – (i) Norwich Western Link Update - noted.

(ii) Census 2021 – This will take place on 21st March. Letters are being sent out.

SA left 19:28.

(iii) NNDC – postal voting registration – Parishioners can register for a postal vote by calling 01263 516146.

(iv) Village Hall risk assessments – The Clerk has received risk assessments for Edgefest 5 and the Church Open Gardens event in the summer.

(v) The bus shelter is looking very untidy. SL suggested a working group to carry out some maintenance. The Clerk will put on the April agenda.

21/47. To agree the date of the next meeting – Monday 19th April 2021.

21/48. To close the meeting There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 19:33.

Signed as a correct record by:

Date:

1. COUNCIL TAX FROZEN

The Council have announced that the District Council Tax precept for 2021-22 will not be increased and there will be no reduction in key services for residents. The Council’s reserves will have an injection of £550,000 to ensure projects like the New Splash will be delivered on time and on budgets during the financial year. This will obviously help people in this difficult time. In contrast the County Council are understood to be increasing their proportion of the Council Tax by 4 per cent and brings their increases to a total of 18 per cent in the last 4 years.

Financial support confirmed in the budget means the District Council will continue to deliver more affordable homes (see 4 below); the Tree Planting scheme for 100,000 trees by 2023; £3 million to revitalise North Walsham town centre and the purchase of more properties for temporary accommodation for the homeless.

2. FOOD WASTE CADDIES

Having raised this at the Scrutiny Committee the Council can insist on a costing option to introduce this at any time during the current waste disposal contract with Serco. It is advisable to wait until the Environment Bill going through Parliament sets out the new waste strategy for 2023. All Councils are expected to collect waste food from every resident and funding for this from the Government is likely to be available. We will be tracking progress of the Bill which will help mitigate potential tax increases to residents with likely subsidies from the Government being available to help introduce the scheme.

3. FOOD WASTE ACTION WEEK

The national food waste week of 1- 8 March enabled the Council to promote the Food Fridges in North Walsham and Fakenham with another soon to be launched in Stalham. The Fridges accept food donations which would otherwise go to landfill. They can be used by anyone who does not want food to go to waste to either contribute food or collect food for free regardless of their means.

4. MORE FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES

The Council receipts are being allocated from developers building market rate properties under provisions in section 106 Agreements between developers and the planners as part of granting planning consents (known as s 106 payments). This will provide affordable housing where it is most needed in the district by the registered providers for social housing. The £900,000 will help the Council to deliver its Corporate Plan objective of providing 181 “local homes for local need” with energy-efficient affordable homes. Further pending receipts could increase this figure to £2.2 million available for subsidising affordable housing provision.

5. CROMER PIER

Re-opened on 8 March for the purpose of meeting one person or for exercising within national Covid guidelines but will not be open for crabbing, fishing or other activities until further notice when guidelines permit.

6. COVID UPDATE

Infection rates are dropping drastically and are down at 23 per 100,000 against a national average of 113. Since the District Council took over track and trace from the County Council the success rate has increased from 25% to 92%. Over 65s are now 82% vaccinated.

The Government have announced measures to support and re-vitalise the outdoor hospitality industry. We need our cafes, pubs and restaurants to help us restore some normality. Unfortunately the guidance is as clear as the proverbial mud but I will summarise as follows:

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- Pavement and street stall licences for outdoor food and drinks service in the summer are to be extended for another 12 months until 30/9/22. Importantly for us this includes permission without planning for summer fairs, car boot sales and markets.

- Pubs will be allowed to have marquees and awnings in place for 2 months as the 28 day norm increased to 56 days has been extended in November last year to 31/12/21. - - Finally Councils or rather vaguely "by others on their behalf" can hold markets without requiring planning until 31/3/22.

Why so many different end dates remains a mystery to us but we should welcome these fast-track permissions for opening up our hospitality outlets.

7. HOLT HALL

The decision of the County Council to close Holt Hall has resulted in a voluntary group, Friends of Holt Hall acting to register the building as an Asset of Community Value. They hope to buy Holt Hall to secure its future as a centre for environmental and outdoor learning for young people. They hope to raise sufficient funds to purchase the building so that Norfolk Children's Services can continue to provide quality outdoor learning for our children. You can donate or just follow progress by pasting this link into your internet browser <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/secure-the-future-of-outdoor-learning-at-holt-hall>

8. VANGUARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM

North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker attended a meeting on 11 February with Corpusty PC members to discuss the opposition to the point to point trenching and sub station construction in our area by the two Hornsea and Vattenfall schemes. The Parishes of Edgefield and Corpusty with Saxthorpe will be seriously impacted with construction traffic disruption for several years as things stand. He and 4 other Norfolk/ Suffolk MPs have formed a lobby group to persuade the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy minister to look at the alternative Offshore Transmission Network or ring main option. The Prime Minister replied to Duncan Baker's question to him in Parliament two weeks ago that the matter would be referred to the new regulatory body set up to better co-ordinate the projects and to try and minimise disruption.

Since the meeting the High Court private action by Cawston resident Ray Pearce led to a judgement confirming the Development Control Order planning permission in December 2020 by the Government to Vanguard for a third project being declared unlawful following a successful judicial review. The main reason for the decision was due to the Government failing to take into account the cumulative environmental impact of multiple schemes rather than just the Vanguard proposal in isolation. It also breached EU law which is a point of interest post-Brexit.