

## EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom (online), Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 7pm.

**Present:** Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Anne Harrup (AH)  
Emma Cletheroe (EC) Jackie Cole (JC)  
Suzanne Longe (SL) Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)  
Andrew Brown (District Councillor) (AB)  
Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor) (SA)  
+ 0 members of the public

**Parishioners Comments** – None.

**21/49. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence** – MC welcomed everyone, and apologies were accepted for Harrie Morshuis.

**21/50. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak** – None.

**21/51. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – The minutes were approved and signed (prop. EC, sec. AH, all agreed).

**21/52. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** – None.

**21/53. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor** - County Council is in purdah, so less happening than usual. There is a question where the Council will meet for the AGM, as virtual meetings stop on 6<sup>th</sup> May, but work to the Council offices is not yet complete.

*2 Parishioners arr. 19:05*

*Lin Pateman arr. 19:05*

**21/54. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor** – A report was emailed prior to the meeting (see appendix A).

*1 Parishioner arr. 19:07*

SA asked what the Council's policy is on burning waste? AB advised he will find out and let the Parish Council know, via the Clerk.

**21/55. To update on the Hornsea 3 Windfarm application** – Nothing to report.

**21/56. 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. JC)

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

(i) K Cotgrove – Clerk's salary April	£221.80
(ii) HMRC – Clerk's April tax	£4.40

**(c) To consider using online banking for the Parish Council** – The Clerk advised that many Parishes are going over to online banking, which is much easier. All agreed that the Clerk should contact Barclays to arrange.

**21/57. 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.

**21/58. To update on community Speedwatch and the traffic survey** – Speedwatch took place on 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April. A number of people were logged at each. There will be a recruitment campaign soon, as the more volunteers, the fewer sessions each person needs to do. JG is due to speak to Westcotec to resolve the download issues for the SAM2 data.

**21/59. To discuss possible spending options for the Broadland Housing S106 money** - The Clerk advised that the S106 money comes with restrictions, for recreational spaces and parks, not Highways. AH asked if the money could be used to secure the piece of land next to the Rectory Road field. This money would not be sufficient to purchase, but possibly to rent on a peppercorn rent. It was generally agreed that play equipment would require too much maintenance. The land is owned by NNDC, so they would need to be contacted regarding permissions etc. AB queried how the money needs to be spent, and whether rental of the land would be allowed. LP asked how the other Parishes in the BHA development scheme spent their money. The money can be used as part funding for a larger project, e.g. the pocket park projects. It was queried whether, if the land was bought, could the JPF charity objectives be moved to the new piece. It was agreed that further research will be needed to see the best way to present the idea to NNDC. AH, EC & LP will discuss and bring a plan to the next meeting.

**21/60. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme** – Nothing to report.

**21/61. To discuss the possibility of a village litter pick, and to approve any spending necessary** – A Parishioner was in attendance, who has been corresponding with the Clerk and AB regarding the amount of litter in and surrounding the village. She has conducted a couple of litter picks, and was hoping to arrange something more formal, to try and control the amount of litter in the area. Surfers Against Sewerage have a scheme with assistance available for groups. AB thanked the Parishioner for the work she has done so far. AB has spoken to someone in Environmental Health at NNDC, who is less concerned at the volume of litter. He has agreed to put the area with a monitoring team, who can stop and collect litter along the main road. There were concerns about volunteers collecting litter along the main road, and their safety. Parishes can purchase litter pickers and bags to conduct picks, and NNDC will come and collect the filled bags. SL suggested regular litter picks, as more of a village event. All agreed that the Parishioner will arrange a date for a litter pick and contact Surfers Against Sewerage, and anyone who is interested in volunteering will contact the Parishioner.

**21/62. To arrange a working group to renovate the Ramsgate Street bus shelter** - SA has noted that the Ramsgate Street bus shelter is in need of serious attention. The Clerk will ascertain ownership, and advertise for volunteers in the Edgefield Extra and Facebook pages.

**21/63. To discuss Highways issues** – The Clerk will write to the owners of Church Farm, to request they cut their hedges back. Anyone can report potholes online at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem>

**21/64. Correspondence** – (i) NNDC Environment Forum invitation - noted.

(ii) The Village Hall committee would like to remove some panels and move them to hide the bins. The VH committee will cover all costs. All in favour. MC will let Jim Frost know.

(iii) A Parishioner has been in contact regarding the pond, concerned how quick the level of the water has gone down. The level has gone down, but it has been very dry. He has asked that the borehole water is retested to see if it can be used. AH will try to obtain another test. A maintenance session will be arranged within the next two weeks. AH will send some suggested dates round. MC has already responded to the Parishioner.

**21/65. To agree the date of the next meeting** - The virtual meeting legislation ends on 6<sup>th</sup> May, then no physical meetings are allowed until 17<sup>th</sup> May. Options were discussed, and it was agreed to hold a brief Annual Parish Council Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm, unless virtual meeting legislation is extended.

**21/66. To close the meeting** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:08pm.

Signed as a correct record by:

Date:

APPENDIX A – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – APRIL 2021

**1. COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS** - Pleased to inform you that I will be a County Council candidate for the Liberal Democrats in the Wells Division following the retirement of Cllr Marie Strong after serving 12 years over 3 successive terms. I will be continuing on the District Council whatever the outcome on 6 May. County Cllr Steffan Aquarone will be defending in the Melton Constable Division. In view of COVID regulations if you prefer to apply for a postal vote instead of attending the polling station you can apply by emailing [postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:postalvotes@north-norfolk.gov.uk) or ringing 01263 516046. It’s advisable to do this as soon as possible due to the increase in demand for postal votes. You do not need your polling card to vote in person but it helps staff at the polling station if you do take your polling card with you. If you decide not to use your postal vote then you can still vote in person on 6 May instead but of course you cannot do both.

**2. INVESTIGATION INTO THE REVIEW OF COUNCIL’S SENIOR MANAGEMENT** - I am pleased to confirm that as expected Cambridgeshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service have closed the investigation into the procurement process in 2019 for the review by external consultants of senior management at the Council. No criminality has been discovered following a detailed investigation as indeed was the conclusion of the Council’s own cross-party internal investigation in early 2020.

**3. RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN) SEMINAR** - I attended a zoom meeting of the RSN on 29 March with delegates from all areas of the country dealing with problems of rural transport, economies and affordable housing in rural areas and national strategy for levelling up rural areas such as ours. Since 2009 there has been a 45% drop in funding for rural transport and 500% more is spent on transport in urban areas although people travel twice the distance to access key services in rural as compared to urban areas. The Government White Paper on buses as good as recognises the failings of previous public transport policies and with £3 billion being injected now we will wait to see if the much needed reforms do materialise.

**4. SHERINGHAM LEISURE CENTRE** - The new Sheringham Leisure Centre will be called “The Reef “ and will have a 6-lane, 25m main pool, a 13m x 8m learner pool with moveable floor, a splash pad with water play features and two community rooms for flexible use. There will be a café area on the ground floor with spectator viewing into the pool. Upstairs there will be a fifty station health & fitness suite, a dance/ activities studio covering 200sqm, a spinning studio 96sqm all of which will enable twice as many people to participate in sport and exercise than can currently at the Splash. The Centre is due to open on time and on budget in August.

**5. SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES RE-OPENING AFTER COVID-** The Council recognises that many businesses will be busy making arrangements and adjustments to their businesses ahead of projected re-opening dates; many businesses may be feeling uneasy or unsure how to safely re-open their doors and welcome customers back in to the premises. To alleviate some of the stress of working out how to re-open safely, the Council’s Public Protection team have put together some checklists and information on best practice for making sure your work place is as safe and COVID-19 compliant as possible. This includes guidance on completing a COVID-19 Risk Assessment, a Foods Standard Agency re-opening checklist and a list of COVID-19 priority actions for shops and retail businesses.

**6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** - The Government announced that they would not extend the emergency legislation on virtual meetings beyond 7 May despite announcing that indoor gatherings by business, charities and public bodies cannot take place until 17 May. We on the Council urge the Government to reverse their position and not to force face-to-face meetings until all restrictions are lifted. An application to the courts has been made to obtain a legally binding declaration that Councils already have the required powers to continue holding online meetings. So more to follow as soon as possible hopefully.

**7. SECTION 106 FUNDING FROM BROADLAND HOUSING** - Details have been circulated from an email received - after months of chasing for a response- from the Planning Authority requesting details of projects for which we could use the £7,600.00 available to improve open spaces in the parish. Broadland Housing agreed to provide this funding via NNDC as a condition of receiving consent to develop the Glaven View site on Holt Rd. I hope we will be able to discuss options for funding such as playground equipment, village pond maintenance and similar schemes.

**8. LITTER ON THE B1149** - I have been in touch with Environmental Services to request an inspection of the litter collecting on the B1149 verges north and south of the village. NNDC have agreed to monitor the amount of litter in these areas and some has been removed by Serco operatives employed by NNDC. A new report form can be completed online using this link <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/environmental-protection/report-littering/> for future incidents and the more people who report an incident the better the likely response and outcome. This is a new process and it will go direct to Serco so they can investigate such incidents more efficiently.