

EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Edgefield, Monday 21st June 2021, 7pm.

Present: Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Lin Pateman (LP)
Jackie Cole (JC) Harrie Morshuis (HM)
Anne Harrap (AH)
Andrew Brown (District Councillor)
Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)
+ 2 members of the public

Parishioners' comments: None.

21/98. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence – MC welcomed everyone, and apologies were noted for Emma Cletheroe.

21/99. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak – None.

21/100. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of Monday 21st June 2021 – The minutes were approved and signed (prop. LP, sec. JC, all agreed).

21/101. Matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda – There are overhanging branches from a property on the Norwich Road. The Clerk will write to ask them to cut back.

21/102. Report from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor – None.

21/103. Report from Andrew Brown, District Councillor – AB's report was emailed prior to the meeting (see appendix A). There is a new Government scheme to make properties available to first time buyers. Conditions can be imposed by the District Council to help, by linking property prices to income. Other criteria can also be applied. Planning reforms are still going through, and the District Council are objecting to some sections.

Suzanne Longe arr. 7:09pm.

21/104. To update on windfarm applications – Nothing to report.

21/105. Finance:

(a) To approve the monthly financial statement – The bank reconciliation and budget update were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. They were duly approved (prop. JC, sec. AH)

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

(i) K Cotgrove – Clerk's salary July, inc. HMRC	£226.20
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21/106. Planning:

(a) Refusal of permission – None

(b) Applications – PF/21/1809. Edgefield Hall Farm, Holt Road, Edgefield. Construction of trackway (retrospective) – The application was discussed. The PC has no comment on this application.

(c) Development committee decision – None.

(d) Decision notice – None

(e) Additional information on applications – None.

(f) To consider late planning applications – none.

(g) To ratify applications made between meetings – PF/21/1629. Old Street Farm, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield. 2 storey rear extension – The PC had no objection to this application.

(h) Additional planning issues – (ii) Field of Fun – The Clerk has heard back from the Environmental Protection team, who have given a contact number of 01263 516085 for anyone who is suffering noise nuisance. The Planning department are still investigating.

21/107. To update on Community Speedwatch and discuss the traffic survey – Jeremy Goldney was in attendance. In the last four sessions, between nine and 16 vehicles each session were logged speeding. JG will forward a years' worth of SAM2 data to Steffan Aquarone (County Councillor).

21/108. To update on the Broadland Housing scheme, the land adjacent to the development & to consider options for the S106 money – The Clerk has passed details of the dog walker to NNDC, and they have also been asked if they will pledge the land to WildEast for re-wilding. The dog walker does not have permission to use the land in question. Two residents close to the land say that delivery vans are using the footpath to access the new development. The Clerk will write to Highways and the developers to advise vehicles are using the path, and to request bollards are put in either end. The communal garden areas on the new development are also not being maintained properly and the beds are overgrown with weed. The Clerk will ask Broadland to attend to the communal areas on a regular basis, as there is not only one man to garden, instead of two. AB was asked who the PC can speak to, to discuss the option to buy that Broadland Housing have on the land at the moment. AB will speak to someone for information. It was queried whether the Climate Crisis team could help to retain this area as green space. The Clerk will put in a SAR for all information relating to BHA & NNDC. The S106 money will be discussed further when information on the land is gained. Two Parishioners have asked for a new Jubilee bench and restoration of the older one. It was queried whether the S106 money can be used. AB advised that the sustainable communities fund would be better for benches. Whether the Jubilee Playing Field would be suitable for the S106 money was discussed. AH will circulate a plan for the existing Rectory Road play area to Councillors to discuss further next month. The Clerk will circulate photos of recycled plastic benches to Councillors for approval, and quotes to refurbish the existing bench, then funding can be sought. The Village Sign also needs to be refurbished, along with the two phone boxes and the bus shelter on Ramsgate Street. Quotes will be obtained to deal with next year.

21/109. To discuss Highways issues – Rectory Road is still flooding when there is heavy rain.

21/110. Correspondence:

(a) A Parishioner has contacted MC to complain that someone is throwing bags of dog waste into hedges. There are signs up to ask people not to allow their dogs to foul. If anyone witnesses who is doing it, they can report to Environmental Protection at NNDC.

(b) Invitation to bid – Parish Partnership – Applications are now open. It was queried if another SAM2 unit could be applied for, as some now record registration numbers. The Clerk will obtain quotes and ask Steve White if it would be possible to apply for funding for an additional unit. Additional possible locations for the SAM2 unit were identified. JG will send a map to the Clerk, who can approach Highways and Westcotec to gain permission.

21/111. Any other urgent business for information only – None.

21/112. To agree the date of the next meeting – Monday 16th August 2021, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

21/113. To close the meeting There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:05pm.

Signed as a correct record by:

Date:

APPENDIX A – District Cllr Brown’s report

1. FIRST HOMES GOVERNMENT SCHEME

The Government has launched a national scheme to improve the delivery of affordable homes for local people. New properties will be advertised for 6 months at least 30% below market prices up to a value of £250,000. The Council will be able to set prices linked to local earnings and will impose a 25% minimum number of such properties through planning agreements on any new development. In order to ensure they continue to be affordable a restriction will be put against the property so the discount is transferred when sold in the future. The scheme also allows the Council to give preference to people with local connections for the first 3 months of marketing like the criteria for rural exception sites already familiar to us which will also continue.

2. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL CONSULTATION

The second phase of the Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal is due to start and will go out to public consultation soon. Residents in Edgefield and Stody, Hunworth, Brinton, Sharrington and Thornage will also be included. Recording features of our architecture and landscape is a very important as part of the process to preserve and enhance our area. Conclusions will feed into the forming of planning policies to help make development decisions when planning applications are submitted. I have been promoting Stody as a conservation area and it’s satisfying to have this created as a new area. Of all the parishes in my ward only Corpusty with Saxthorpe remain outside a conservation area. Worth reminding that all trees are automatically protected in a conservation area so permission is required for any maintenance beforehand.

3. PLASTIC FREE JULY CAMPAIGN

The Council are supporting the Plastic Free Foundation this month under the Council's bid to be plastic use free by 2023 as part of our climate emergency declaration in 2019 and to be carbon neutral by 2030. In support of this the Council are highlighting the absurdity of single use plastics which clutter our streets and get into the food chain via polluting our seas and oceans with the breakdown into particles which last for centuries. The Foundation website gives information on how to avoid the use of plastic and information on the irreversible damage to the environment.

4. NEW COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The Council have supported the launch of a new community fridge in Stalham to add to the ones already opened in Holt, Fakenham, North Walsham and Sheringham. Households, retailers and allotment holders can donate food from 12 July. Food waste is a huge issue in the UK with every household thought to throw away food on average worth £700 per year whilst 4 million families are considered to be in food poverty in the UK.

5. NOMINATION FOR PUBLIC FINANCE AWARD

The Council have been shortlisted for an award which recognises the success in distributing grants to support businesses during the pandemic. The Council have distributed £120 million in over 30,000 transactions via innovative IT systems and have been consistently among the best performing authorities in the country. We have received numerous messages from businesses thanking the Council for ensuring that financial support is delivered to support our local economy. The Business Grants team made business rates relief and retail discounts of over £50 million to 5,000 local businesses in April and May 2020 alone. A small team of staff have worked often with difficulty from home with admirable commitment and dedication to achieve the level of support required.

6. PLANNING REFORMS DEBATE

We are bringing a motion to the full Council this Wednesday to continue the challenge to the reforms announced in the White Paper last Autumn. We are calling for our two North Norfolk MPs Mr Baker and Mr Mayhew to vote against the proposal to remove local opinion and democracy from the planning process which the Government want to replace with a centrally defined zoning system. It is vital that local people are able to be the arbiters of what is developed in their localities instead of handing decisions to developers willing to lobby and befriend the government.

7. NEW HOUSING STRATEGY

We have published our revised Housing Strategy to identify the requirements for more local homes for our residents. This includes ensuring the new First Homes scheme - see section 1 above - is implemented but also properties are adapted to take into account changing needs and adaptations so people can remain in their homes for as long as possible. If not possible then we are intending to deliver more Extra Care units like Meadow View in Fakenham with self contained and sheltered accommodation sharing the same premises.