

Monday 17th July 2023, 7pm

EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Edgefield,
Monday 17th July 2023, 7pm.

Present: Mark Cook (Chair) (MC) Anne Harrap (AH)
Emma Cletheroe (LP) Suzanne Longe (SL)
Anne Harrap (AH) Jackie Cole (JC)

Cllr Andrew Brown
Amanda Yacoubian (Clerk)

1 Parishioner

10 minutes will be allowed for public comment on agenda items only at the start of the meeting

23/97. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence – Apologies, Jeremy Goldney & Cllr Steffan Aquarone. MC welcomed everyone.

23/98. Statements of pecuniary interests, and dispensations to speak - none

23/99. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of Monday 19th June 2023 – Circulated to Councillors on 16th July 2023. On a Proposal by Cllr EC, SECONDED Cllr AH the minutes were AGREED

23/100. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda – None

23/101. Report from Cllr Steffan Aquarone, Norfolk County Councillor – To be attached to the minutes

23/102. Report from Cllr Andrew Brown, District Councillor – emailed to Council on 16th July 2023. To be attached to the minutes (see below). Since the report was sent it may be possible to apply for funding from the Council, due to holidays this has not yet been confirmed.

23/103. FINANCE

- (i) To approve the financial statement – cash book & budget – emailed to Councillors on 16th July 2023

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr AH, SECONDED by Cllr EC it was AGREED to approve the financial statement and budget. £500 has been moved to Section 137 £250 in the training budget. ALL AGREED

- (ii) To Approve the following payments

Clerk salary £291.41 (June 23)
Insurance £243.67
Receipts
Village Hall (wine) £24.75
Donation - Friends of Edgefield for flagpole £465.00. See item

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On a PROPOSAL by Cllr SL, SECONDED by Cllr EC it was AGREED to approve the payments

(iii) To sign mandate from NS&I. Signatories appointed are Mark Cook, Amanda Yacoubian & Emma Cletheroe. ALL AGREED & mandate was signed by all present

23/104. Planning Applications and Decisions—none

23/105. Works carried out on The Green by Highways – NCC have offered to fill in the grups on The Green however it is not causing an issue so shall remain as it is.

23/106. To Update on Community Speedwatch and discuss traffic – JG is stepping down from being the speed watch co-ordinator. JG is looking into finding someone else to carry out this role.

23/107. To Update on Greening, Edgefield – ref item 23/102

23/108. Update on Highways issues – none

23/109. Correspondence – Clerk to look into purchase of flags – (Norfolk, St George & Union Jack) from Friends of Edgefield

CILCA for Clerk

a. To agree & sign leaning agreement – All AGREED

b. To agree and sign application for bursary – ALL AGREED

To agree and sign Section106 funding – Form needs amending

23/110. To agree date of the next meeting – Monday 21st August 2023

23/111. To Close the Meeting – meeting closed at 19.44pm

Signed as a correct record by:

date:

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Report from Cllr Andrew Brown July 2023

Dear All

NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY CHALLENGES

The embargo on planning consents for builders in the Wensum Catchment Area covering this area since March last year continues to delay new development across the District including the proposed 38 dwellings in Corpusty by Broadland Developments. Over 1,400 new dwellings have been delayed across the district which includes 950 in Fakenham. The effect, some 17 months, on remains a difficult challenge for small and medium builders, single applicants and all those businesses who rely on construction activities and housing development. The pressure put on builders compares unfavourably with that imposed on other pollution sources like fertiliser farming methods and water treatment failures of the regional water company recently publicised in national media.

EMERGING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Neighbourhood Plans are a useful tool for communities to influence development on their doorsteps. The latest neighbourhood plan has been approved in Holt at the end of June and will join the first one in Corpusty & Saxthorpe and the second in Great Ryburgh as the third adopted plan in the district. There is a referendum on the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan in September and one to follow in Wells Next The Sea to increase the number to possibly five by the end of the year.

COASTAL SCHEMES

The successful Bacton and Walcott Sandscapes scheme which cost £16 million 4 years ago is being monitored by a steering group to launch a bid for further procurement funding from Government whilst the Cromer and Mundesley Coastal Management schemes are progressing following a successful bid by the Council. A multi disciplinary Coastwise recruitment scheme to provide a team with the skills necessary to protect our coastal areas in North Norfolk is under way. This will create employment opportunities in future.

BUILDING CONTROL FEES

A new Building Control Fees scheme has been introduced on 1 July which is the first increase in fees since 2018 and will deliver a full cost recovery of the fees element of the service. The Council is in control of setting fees for Building Regulation Consent unlike the Planning Service which is controlled by central government and is not self-

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financing. There is a possibility of fees for domestic planning applications being increased by 25% and commercial fees by 35% in legislation currently going through Parliament and we await the outcome.

NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES

We have a healthy affordable housing schemes pipeline including a number of rural exception housing sites at various stages of development. There are over 20 sites which could yield over 350 new affordable homes in the next few years. NNDC officers have worked with Broadland Housing Association to get financial support from Homes England (the Government funding agency for affordable housing) to fund a package of 5 exception sites to be delivered in North Norfolk over the next 2-3 years.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Council is part of the Norfolk Warm Homes Consortium of 5 districts in Norfolk. It has successfully bid for £3.9 million from the Government to improve the energy efficiency of off-gas homes in the most deprived areas of the UK whether owned or rented provided they are category D-G for the EPC rating and the household has less than £100 thousand in savings. This will open the grant up to many of the 2,600 properties across Norfolk, 600 of which are in the District.

COUNCIL HOUSING FUND

The Council has received £1.245 million to provide 11 additional affordable homes initially to house Ukrainian and Afghan families by the end of the year. Cabinet agreed to accept the funding and work with Victory Flagship to secure offers on the 11 properties now confirmed. One home will be owned by the Council and the other 10 by Victory FG. Negotiations are ongoing for another £560,000 to purchase 4 more; 3 for refugees and the fourth will be added to the Council's stock of homes for temporary housing to help fulfil the statutory duty to house homeless families.

COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANTS

Seven applications were received in June by the North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund totalling £56,004 for grants to improve facilities (2 for under £1000 and 5 for up to £15,000.)

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Five new applications totalling £16,286 were received by the Arts & Culture Fund and one application was made for £2,000 to the Community Transport Fund.

EDGEFIELD GREENING PROJECT

The investigation into whether funding is viable from the North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund (former Big Society Fund) for the project continues. Opinion is split on whether the Council can provide finance for the project on land which it owns thereby risking an allegation of using public money for its own purposes. It would be advisable to seek other sources of funding in view of this continual uncertainty. I have requested officers to confirm the position in writing as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for reading.

Andrew

Cllr Andrew Brown

Liberal Democrat

North Norfolk District Council - Stody Ward Member

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