

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council

Minutes of the council meeting of Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council at the Community Centre, Sporle On Thursday 8th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present

Gordon Burrows GB (Chairman)
Kalvin McLeod KM
Helen Bartley HB
John Barley JB
Peter Wilkinson PW (BDC)

Sue Clark SC
Helen Dye HD
Jacqui Howard JH
Murdo Durrant MD (Clerk to PC)

1. **To receive and consider and vote on accepting apologies for absence:** Cllr. Ed Colman (NCC) sent his apologies as he had another meeting, SC proposed that this be accepted, seconded by JB passed unanimously.
2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting of the council held on the 15th February 2018:** Proposed by KM seconded by HB, passed unanimously.
3. **To record any declarations of interest in any items discussed:** Nil.
4. **To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public, and councillors with a prejudicial interest, to speak on agenda items:** Nil.
5. **To receive updates from County and District Councillors:** PW gave the following report, the budget had been approved which meant a tax increase of £4.95 flat rate based on a band D house. Possibly the lowest in the council tax in the UK, lowest in Norfolk. £1.7m on community projects had been ringfenced. The man who deals with pot holes is the head of Highways, £1.5m had been spent on pot holes and drainage in the last year in Breckland District Council (BDC), £1.7m had been claimed back from central government. BDC had purchased three more machines that cut out the holes for repairing pot holes. PW had made suggested ways of dealing with pot holes this had been taken on board. JB said the government had spoken about giving incentives to ensure that more affordable homes be built, as the village was crying out for it. PW agreed that more 2 bedroomed houses were needed. MD asked if what was being discussed was 'affordable home' or 'social housing'? PW said that Lord Porter was pushing the treasurer to allow councils to build more social housing. GB asked how we ensure that affordable housing is actually built? PW informed the meeting that BDC had set a target of 25% affordable housing build, if they can borrow money they could then build social housing. KM gave an example of where it was going wrong, with Hill View having first 11 then 7 then 5 affordable homes in the plans. None had actually been build.

MD read out a report from Cllr. Ed Colman.

Grit bins are being refilled this week, this started on Monday March 5th and should be complete by the end of this week. Any problems please get in touch. Last week during the winter weather, we had over 100 members of staff in our highways team working alternating 12 hour shifts to try to make roads passable, with tremendous help from our network of farmers with snow ploughs. It was a real battle though and we are now left with potholes caused or worsened by the weather last week.

Highways have told members a massive effort is underway to get on top of these issues, so can I ask Parish councillors to ensure potholes have been reported on our website. The Beast from the East means roadworks between Dereham and Swaffham will now not be complete on the A47 until May at the earliest.
Better broadband for Norfolk expansion

Millions of pounds of additional investment will be ploughed into a County Council programme which has already helped to double superfast broadband access in Norfolk since 2013.

Councillors on Norfolk County Council's Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee have agreed to extend the Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) Programme, aiming to plug rural gaps in coverage.

£11m of BBfN contract rebates will be reinvested back into the programme which would be used to help make superfast (24 megabits per second and above) broadband available to those properties in Norfolk that are not already in line to receive access to it.

The rebates are due to be paid to the council to avoid public money being used to subsidise commercially-viable networks, following higher than expected levels of take-up of the broadband services on BBfN-installed infrastructure to date.

The Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership is a well-established partnership working to co-ordinate and share initiatives to conserve biodiversity across Norfolk and organises the Awards annually, to recognise people's voluntary efforts to give nature a helping hand and to help people connect with nature. If there are any local organisations who you think are worth nominating please let me know, happy to support.

- 6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 15th February 2017: Nil.**
- 7. Planning: a) 3PL/2018/0160/HOU 46 Priory Close single store canopy porch to front:** Approved, proposed by KM seconded by HD passed unanimously.
b) Any other planning applications received after the date of this agenda: Nil.
- 8. a) To approve payments to be made as at Annex A:** Proposed by HB seconded by SC passed unanimously.
b) Finance and accounts update: MD gave an update on the current financial situation, the PC is currently reasonably off at the end of the year which should allow us to make some capital expenditure in the next financial year.
c) A proposal that any monies saved on the 2017-18 budget be used to purchase and erect additional street lighting and change old sodium lighting for newer lights: A discussion took place about using the money saved in 2017-18 to finish off purchasing street lighting in the village. It was agreed that all the remaining sodium lights should be replaced and also that the post head and sleeves be examined and replaced where necessary. MD to contact TT Jones and see if we can buy in bulk and store items. Proposed by JB seconded by HD passed unanimously.
- 9. Highways:**
 - a) Pot holes:** GB said that he had recently spoken with highways and they stated they were inundated with reports due to the recent bad weather, and they would get round to dealing with them as they can. JB said that the repair patches are starting to go again at the edges. PW informed the meeting that between Christmas 17 and Feb 18 1086 potholes had been reported in Breckland, 1035 had been inspected and 623 had work programmed on them. SC told the meeting that the local news this evening had carried a story telling people to report the pot holes themselves and not to go through the Parish Council. MD reinforced this by stating that Highways paid no more attention to him reporting a pot hole than any other individual.
 - b) Cleaning/clearing mud and debris:** This continues to be a problem, the verge and bank at Wolverton House had been destroyed by a sweeper and hasn't been cleared.
 - c) Highway Rangers:** MD asked councillors to email details of work required doing.
- 10. The Pavilion and Playing field projects:**
 - a) Pavilion update:** GB said the meeting with the committee had been cancelled due to the weather, as had the race night. If it is run at a later date it will be in the Community Centre. Waitrose had put the Pavilion project as one of their charity's

to support, so please put any tokens into the pot for the pavilion project. Two quad bikes had been seen on the playing field, GB had called the police, but they had gone by the time they arrived. MD asked to supply details to Joyce for the magazine pointing out that the playing field is private property and they should not be there.

b) Playground update: Nil.

c) CGM and grass cutting contract update: MD informed the meeting that he expected Norse to commence look after the grass cutting shortly.

11. To consider correspondence. (All circulated prior to meeting): Nil.

12. Date and time of next meeting.

**Thursday the 10th April 2018, 6.30pm at the Community Centre, Sporle Parish
Meeting & Parish Council AGM**



**Clerk to Parish Council
Murdo Durrant**

28th March 2018