

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting
held at the Community Centre, Sporle
On Thursday 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present

Gordon Burrows (Chairman)
Helen Bartley
Helen Dye
Matthew Clark

Kalvin McLeod (Vice-Chairman)
Janis Bevan
John Rodwell

Councillor Ed Colman – Norfolk County Council
Councillor Peter Wilkinson – Breckland District Council

Elizabeth Durrant (Clerk)

4 members of the public

1. **To receive and consider and vote on accepting apologies for absence.** Councillor Peter Wilkinson. Agreed unanimously.
2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting of the council held on the 13th February 2020.** Proposed by John Rodwell and seconded by Calvin McLeod.
3. **To record any declarations of interest in any items discussed.** None known.
4. **To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public, and councillors with a prejudicial interest, to speak on agenda items.** No-one wished to speak.
5. **To receive updates from County and District Councillors.**

Ed Colman advised the meeting that there had been some funding left over and he had purchased a SAM2 sign for the village. Hopefully it should be in the village sometime in April and will update the clerk when he knows the delivery date. He requested a list of the locations around the village for the engineer however Calvin McLeod stated that the list had already been submitted and the same locations would be used. The Village Improvement Group had been successful in its bid for VE funding.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. Norfolk Safety CIC (Community Interest Company) had donated £5,000 towards the installation of up to 1,000 smoke alarms in homes across Norfolk. These would be installed by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service as part of their home fire safety checks which they carry out in the homes of the most vulnerable people in Norfolk. Last year Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service carried out 4,000 fire safety checks and helped to install 3,000 smoke alarms. Checks will often be carried out following a referral from a professional but people can self-refer on line at www.norfolksafety.org. An inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) last summer identified some areas of good performance and other areas where improvements were needed. Some of the improvements already made include: Norfolk County Council increase in service revenue budget by £877,000, which will enable additional resources for community fire protection, fire prevention work, recruitment of wholtime firefighters and the ability to maintain the specialist water rescue capability. A Norfolk County council increase of "2.897m in capital investment, which will enable a roll-out of new ICT equipment and technology, improvements to fire stations, purchase of new fire appliances, software upgrades and improved critical equipment to support operations. The appointment of two new assistant chief fire officers and the new senior management team embracing the introduction of a new cultural framework, designed with staff input to reflect the behaviours the service wants to model. The framework is being developed in response to an inspection finding of isolated examples of behaviour within the service that could be perceived as bullying, which at the time of the report Chief Fire Officer Stuart Ruff said would not be tolerated.

Resources from within the county council are now being utilised to ensure the service makes best use of the skills and teams available. This includes the ICT team now being part of the wider NCC team and senior NCC managers joining the senior management team of the service

A formal collaboration agreement has ensured the fire service works better with police colleagues to keep Norfolk as safe as possible

Clearing a backlog of home fire risk check requests from vulnerable residents

Building a new community risk profile to map risk geographically and inform targeted prevention activity

Running training sessions for residential social landlords to educate staff around community and fire safety

A safeguarding refresher training programme being undertaken

Ensuring up to date data was used when developing the IRMP for 2020-23

Much of the work above continues and in addition the service is currently undertaking an organisational review to ensure that it remains relevant, capable and agile. A new Strategic Oversight Group to support development activities in the service is also being formed.

Future Challenges: The council together with other partners has carried out an extensive review of the issues that are likely to affect Norfolk over the next 20 years. Key issues were presented to the First Futures Summit on 6th March and include:

A 15 percent overall population increase and a 96 percent increase in the number of over 85's – so there will be fewer working people, as a proportion of the total

75 per cent of new jobs will be in Norwich, posing issues for rural areas

30 per cent of current jobs will be automated

Norfolk will have some of the biggest rises in temperature nationally and coastal marshes in North Norfolk could be lost to the sea

Declining turnout at elections and declining membership of political parties – creating a risk that more people will disengage from democracy

The summit agreed to:

Explore the public sector's ability to support talent, entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs to set up in Norfolk and offer workers of all ages an opportunity to use their talents in the workplace

Look into developing a strategic sustainable infrastructure and environment plan for Norfolk
Work to make Norfolk a place to be born, thrive and live out long lives full of opportunity as engaged citizens

Recognise that Communities are built from the bottom up, and to work together to celebrate and build on the initiatives that are already happening on our door step to deliver better outcomes for all.

Children's Service. More children are being supported to live at home with their families and fewer children are living in residential care, as Norfolk County Council's work to transform support for families shows early signs of success. The council is 18 months into a five-year transformation programme aimed at providing earlier support to families and supporting more families to stay together. Over the last year the number of children in care has reduced from 1,227 in January 2019 to 1,128 in December 2019 (a reduction of 8%). The number of children in residential care has also reduced from 130 in January 2018 to 113 in December 2019 (a reduction of nearly 40%). In October 2018 the council changed how it dealt with contacts from professionals with concerns about children, bringing in a new specialist telephone service staffed by senior social workers, who provide advice and make decisions in partnership for children. This has meant only cases needing social work assessment or support are referred into Children's Services, giving social workers more time to work with the families that really need support. This change was praised by Ofsted when they visited the council last year.

In addition a social impact bond, to provide therapy to families and a short breaks service to support those at risk of coming into care, has been credited with helping more families stay together.

The council has also invested £5m in its own accommodation for care leavers, to help move young people on from residential care. It has also developed an enhanced fostering service, which provides extra support to foster carers to help them look after children who have been in residential care.

A new specialist social work team has also been created to support the county's unaccompanied asylum seekers. Seventy children and young people are being supported by the service in December 2019.

Peter Wilkinson sent a report to the clerk which was read out at the meeting.

Breckland District Council voted through in the 2020 budget an increase in the council tax by 1.9% A band (D) property will rise by £1.75p with Breckland Council spending £776 per household.

Breckland District Council are to invest £1m on a range of projects to help vulnerable residents, such as the Daisy programme which helps with domestic abuse. This funding will continue to support the Silver social events and get together for our most isolated residents, youth groups will be eligible for funding to help with mental health issues arising from bullying.

Breckland District Council are entering into a new waste collection contract with KLWN Souncil and North Norfolk Council which should make monetary savings over the life of the contract.

Any residents who wish to speak to Councillor Wilkinson should not hesitate to get in touch.

6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 13th February 2020 not covered elsewhere on the Agenda. None,

7. Finance:

- a) To approve payments to be made as at Annex A. Proposed by John Rodwell, seconded by Matthew Clark and accepted unanimously.
- b) Clerk gave the budget report which was running well within budget. There were no questions in relation to the budget.
- c) The clerk advised the Parish Council that they would receive an updated Financial Regulations over the next few weeks for their consideration. This would be voted on at the next Council meeting in April to comply with Financial Regulations Legislation.
- d) Letter had been received from e-on regarding the contract for the Pavilion electricity. It was offering a further three-year contract. After discussion it was agreed the clerk should contact e-on and agree a further one-year contract due to the refurbishment work being undertaken at this time. Next year the contract would be reviewed again.

8. Planning:

3PL/2019/1578/1403 – Land off The Street. Sporle Breckland Council Planning Committee met on Monday 9th March. Calvin McLeod attended the meeting and sat in the objectors section, as the Parish Council had Objected to the Planning Application, he did clarify the position in the regards to the comments made on the website and advised the Committee that two of the comments had been withdrawn but the decision to Object still remained.

9. Highways:

- a) Street Lighting report – In response to further e-mail regarding the lighting in Newfields. Apparently the engineer from T T Jones had suggested that a metal bar could be put on the light outside number 42 which could further help with the issues and that the light at number 1 could be tilted downwards to top the reflection. After careful consideration it was agreed unanimously that the clerk would contact T T Jones re fitting the metal bar. However, it was decided to leave the streetlight as it was as the tilting down would affect the lighting of the pavement.
- b) Painting of railings – Ed Colman stated that Mr Jacklin, who was in charge of this area, had been on holiday and he would speak to him next week then update the clerk accordingly.

10. The Pavilion, Playing field and Playground project:

Gordon Burrows reported that work was progressing well with the project. However, he was sorry to report that one of the new windows had been broken by youths playing football and aiming the ball at the windows. All the other windows had the mark of a football on them as well. Some names had been given to Gordon regarding who may be responsible but there was no evidence to support this. The windows would be replaced with extra toughened glass to try to stop this happening again. An article would also be placed in the village magazine with photos of the damage.

In answer to a question regarding quotes. Gordon informed the Parish Council that a lot of the people working on the Pavilion were giving their time freely and that the materials were being paid for from the fundraising raised for the project.

The roof has been replaced and work should finish on this tomorrow. The roofer who was undertaking the job had given a very competitive quote and two other roofing firms who had been approached were unable to meet the quote. During the course of the reroofing it was discovered that new soakaways would have to be dug as the original ones were only two feet deep and were ineffective.

The lights and showers are fully functioning. There is still some snagging to do and some interior work to finish.

Now in the position to start listing what is needed for the inside. It was suggested that chairs similar to those in the Community Centre should be purchased, instead of putting in a fixed wooden bench round the changing rooms, as this would be more suitable for other users. Gordon had priced the chairs in green, this is the football team colours, at £13.20 plus vat.

It is the intention of everyone involved to try and encourage other users to utilise the Pavilion not just the football team.

People working on the Pavilion are trying to get it finished so that it can be used for the Village Fete in July.

11. Village Maintenance:

- a) Ditch cutting – Work was continuing on the specification for the ditch cutting. The clerk would contact land registry to enquire who owned the stream in the village.
- b) Grounds Maintenance Contract. The clerk advised the Parish Council that she had received a letter from NORSE stating they were terminating the contract at the end of March. After careful consideration it was proposed that the Parish Council purchase their own mower for the playing field as those involved with the football club had stated they are happy to cut the grass. Gordon Burrows to investigate the cost of a suitable mower.
- c) Bus Stop at Bunkers Hill. Janis Bevan stated that the painting of the bus shelter was flaking. Gordon Burrows stated that the Gardening Club had realised that they had painted the bus stop at the wrong time of year and were intending to repaint the bus stop in the Spring once it had had a chance to dry out.
- d) Gordon Burrows informed the meeting that the bus stop outside the Community Centre required maintenance. Both pillars were out of alignment and on further inspection it would appear that they had not been fixed into the ground correctly initially. Gordon Burrows was awaiting an estimate for the cost of the repairs.

12. SAM2 sign update.

The SAM2 sign was due to return to the village at the end of March.

13. To consider correspondence. (All circulated prior to meeting).

- a) Weeding of e-mails. Matthew Clark suggested that a review of the amount of e-mails that were being received should be reviewed. After careful consideration it was agreed that the present process would continue with the Councillors receiving all e-mails.
- b) Email received regarding thorns growing out of the elder bushes at 74The Street. After discussion it was decided that these were the responsibility of the resident and Matthew Clark agreed to advise the resident accordingly.

14. Date and time of next meeting.

Thursday 9th April, 2020, 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Sporle

Meeting closed at 8.58pm

Elizabeth Durrant
Clerk to Parish Council

25th March 2020

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND