

Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council meeting
held at Sporle Community Centre
on Thursday 10th February 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Janis Bevan (Chairman)
Helen Bartley
Jacqui Howard

John Barley
Helen Dye
Kalvin McLeod

Ed Colman Norfolk County Councillor

Peter Wilkinson Breckland District Councillor

Five Village Residents

Elizabeth Durrant (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Gordon Burrows due to illness, Ed Colman and Peter Wilkinson due to work commitments. Apologies received unanimously.
2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting of the council held on the 13th January 2022.**
Amendment to be made to Item 5 line 7 to read "*The Street near Railway Farm which was now only half the width due to mud falling down from the bank.*" Taking this amendment into account the minutes were proposed by John Barley and seconded by Helen Bartley. Agreed unanimously.
3. **To record any declarations of interest in any items discussed.** Janis Bevan declared an interest in item 10 re a planning application.
4. **To open the meeting to members of the public.**
A resident requested an update on the proposed Solar Light at the path near to the shop. The Clerk explained that currently WESTCOTEC were awaiting a delivery date from their suppliers and would then be able to give a date for fitting.
The resident thanked the Parish Council for the receipt of the letter of support in respect of possible siting of a mirror due to restricted access at their address.
An update was requested in respect of the Parish Gates under the Parish Partnership Funding. The Clerk stated they had contacted Councillor Colman and was awaiting an update to see if this would be possible under this funding.
An update was requested on when the Playingfield gates would be left locked open. It was explained that at this time volunteers were being sought for closing up in the evening. It had been decided that it would be inappropriate to leave the gates open 24hours a day due to improper use in the evening and the disturbance it would cause to local residents. It was further explained that a post had to be erected in a secure position so that the gate could be locked back onto this while it was open to ensure there was no chance of the gate blowing closed in any strong winds and thereby causing an accident.
In respect of the Street Party for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration the Community Centre Hall had been booked on 3rd June for this event. The Parish Council in consultation with the Committee set up to organise the event would fund certain aspects of this as its funds allowed. Kalvin McLeod agreed to represent the Parish Council on the Committee. At this time the Clerk and other Parish Councillors were unaware of any funding that could be used for this. A plea would be put in the next Parish Magazine for volunteers to help with the event. The Clerk agreed to check with the church re an alcohol licence, however it was agreed that this would be highly unlikely to be granted, although people are allowed to bring in their own drink generally the church does not agree to the selling of alcohol on its premises.
One of the residents said that a villager who is an artist stated he would maintain the village sign for free. A resident presented a copy of the completed Asset of Community Value form which the clerk agreed to send to the Parish Councillors for their perusal in preparation for the next meeting.
5. **To receive updates from County and District Councillors.** These have been forwarded to everyone as soon as possible after receipt.
Councillor Ed Colman: Budget Update: Plans for a balanced budget and a 2.99 per cent council tax rise will be considered by Norfolk County Council's Full Council this month. Two possible council tax rises have been tabled – 2.99 per cent or the maximum permissible 3.99 per cent – but councillors have already said they favour 2.99 per cent, in the light of feedback from the recent public consultation. We are tightening the Council's belt, instead of raising council tax even higher than we need to, because we know residents face a rapid rise in the cost of living. We are carrying out a major review of the Council, to make it fit for the future and to tackle a predicted £60 million gap in 2023/24.

The 2022-23 budget proposes significant investment, while addressing continuing severe pressure on services, including:

Adult social services: £35.478 million of growth pressure (including for the National Living Wage), against planned savings of £10.465 million.

Children's services: £23.244 million of growth pressure, against planned savings of £12.088 million.

Community and environmental services: £10.053 million of growth pressure, against planned savings of £3.496 million.

Overall, the proposals for 2022-23 increase the net budget by £25 million compared to this year, to £464.325 million.

A 2.99 per cent rise in the County Council's share of council tax would mean the following charge per band:

- A - 1,011.30
- B - 1,179.85
- C - 1,348.40
- D - 1,516.95
- E - 1,854.05
- F - 2,191.15
- G - 2,528.25
- H - 3,033.90

Thousands asked to share their views on Norfolk's SEND services and support

Thousands of children and young people with SEND, their families, and the professionals who work with them are being asked to share their views in a new survey launched this week. The wide-ranging survey has been put together by Norfolk County Council working in partnership with parents, parent carer groups, and a range of professionals. It has been designed to be as easy as possible and asks questions about support, education, health, EHCPs and social care. There are separate sets of questions for each of these three groups: children and young people aged 11 to 25; parents and carers; and professionals. The survey can be completed anonymously and should only take around 15 minutes. This is a great opportunity for parent, carers, young people and professionals to have a say and use their voice to inform and influence improvements within SEND across education, health and social care in Norfolk. The survey is open from Monday 7 February until 5pm on Monday 7 March and can be found at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SENDSurvey2022/>.

Uptake for apprenticeships in Norfolk higher than pre-pandemic levels

There has been a huge surge in people signing up for apprenticeships in Norfolk. Since August 2021, the uptake of apprenticeships across the county has increased by 53%, 10% above the national figure*.

Apprenticeships are a Government-funded scheme, which enable businesses to improve their productivity and sustainability, and give individuals the opportunity to build their future by earning and learning.

This significant rise in interest reflects the combined impact of the commitment of employers across Norfolk, recent Government incentives and Norfolk County Council's dedicated team of experts at Apprenticeships Norfolk. Last summer's #MadeInNorfolk advertising campaign and the additional grants, incentives and support offered by Apprenticeships Norfolk have proved that partnership working achieves effective results. Latest figures from Government show that in the first three months of the 2021/22 academic year, almost 2000 young people in Norfolk between the ages of 16 and 19 chose an apprenticeship, an increase in 83% from the same period in the previous year (2020/21).

Multi-million pound programme continues to deliver hundreds of new special education places

A five year multi-million pound council scheme has provided 247 new special education places with at least another 278 due to be delivered before the programme ends.

The £120 million SEND transformation programme pledged to improve inclusion in mainstream schools and deliver 500 new specialist places with at least three new-build special schools alongside expansions and improvements to existing schools.

Transforming businesses with Go Digital funding and business support

Funding and free expert advice for micro, small and medium-sized businesses is set to continue in 2022, thanks to Norfolk County Council's Go Digital grant scheme.

Since its launch in December 2020, the initiative has already supported over 400 businesses, with many claiming grants of up to £500 and receiving expert one-to-one consultancy to help make better use of digital technology. The Go Digital support scheme is an ideal opportunity for businesses to improve their business model by exploring new technology, whether that be the use of more digital devices, ecommerce, improving an online presence or increasing awareness through the power of social media. To take advantage of this, encourage business owners and managers to apply as soon as possible.

Full details <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding/go-digital>

Councillor Peter Wilkinson: The Breckland DC council tax for 2022/23 has been set and will go to full council in February. I will have an update for the council at your March meeting, plus who qualifies for the Government rebate scheme, this is a part of the Government support package to help with rising household bills, it will be paid to residents in a separate payment and not as discount on the annual council tax bill.

6. **To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 13th January 2022 not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.** None

7. **Highways**

- a) SAM2 Sign. A volunteer had been found to take on the SAM2 sign. John Corley one of the village residents has agreed to do this and he will be contacting Calvin McLeod to pick up the other sign and accessories.

8. **Parish Councillor Vacancy:** The Clerk advised those present that Jacqui Howard had been elected to the Parish Council at the recent election with 88 votes. There was a 17.9% turnout of voters. The Clerk had contacted the Electoral Department who advised her that the invoice had not as yet been completed but the costs would be at least £1,100.

9. **Finance:**

- a) **To approve payments to be made as at Annex A.**
All payments were proposed by Calvin McLeod, seconded by Helen Dye, approved unanimously.
- b) **Finance Report** - The Council clerk reported that the council were operating within budget. However the Parish Council may have to review the spending allocations once notification of costs for the Parish Council Election were known.
- c) It was proposed and unanimously agreed that an increase to cover increasing cleaning materials costs for the bus shelter to £25.
- d) It was noted that the proposed increase in electricity costs would impact hugely on the Parish Councils budget which was set before the extent of the increase was known. It was agreed the Precept would have to be revisited once the actual increase was known.

10. **Planning:**

PL/2021/1649/F Land off the Street Sporle, PE32 2UE. Conversion of garage approved under previous permission to a residential annexe (Full). Approved
3PL/2021/1584/F Land off the Street, Sporle. Creation of new access to field adjacent to approved development. APPROVED

As both of these had now been approved there was no reason for Janis Bevan leaving the meeting. These were on the Agenda for information only.

11. **Data Protection.** There had been no reports under Data Protection.

12. **Query over Declaration of Interest.**

The Clerk reported that all relevant paperwork had been sent to the Electoral Department at Breckland Council and a reply was awaited. Due to this it was not appropriate to discuss this matter until a decision had been received from them.

13. **Village Maintenance:**

- a) Street Lighting. The Clerk would write a note to local residents regarding the solar light. Calvin McLeod kindly said he would deliver the letter.
- b) Ditch Clearance. Gordon Burrows and Janis Bevan had been unable to contact Jack Griffiths to clarify the position re the curtilage so it was difficult to come up with an appropriate figure for Damien to do the work.
- c) Waste Bins. These were still at Calvin McLeod's but arrangements would be made to get them and place them appropriately near to the Pavilion and leading into the Playingfield.
- d) John Barley reported that the path outside had been cleaned very well by Breckland Council. However it was the path on the other side of the road that was the issue and this was still a slip hazard. John Barley would contact Councillor Wilkinson to see if he could arrange for the sweepers to attend to this part.

14. **Other Village Matters.**

- a) Seat in Bus Shelter. It was agreed that it would not be a good idea to put a seat with a plaque on commemorating the Queen's Platinum jubilee at this location as it would be damaged. The bench at the memorial garden was also not in a good state. Calvin McLeod agreed to look at this and obtain a quote for either refurbishment or replacement.
- b) Asset of Community Value. Covered under Item 4.
- c) Village Sign. John Barley had spoken to Mr McLean regarding the village sign and he stated he would be able to do it in Spring or early Summer. While it was noted that someone had agreed to maintain the sign there were certain aspects of the provision and maintenance of the sign which had to be considered and it was therefore felt that it would be more appropriate for Mr McLean to maintain the sign as he had in the past.
- d) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon - It was agreed that due to practicalities regarding security and safety it would not be appropriate to have a beacon but hopefully something else could be arranged.

8.15pm Three village residents left the meeting.

- e) Village Celebration for Queen's Platinum Jubilee - The Community Centre had now been booked for 3rd June for a street party.
- f) Armed Forces Covenant Pledge - The clerk would prepare this for signature at the next meeting.
- g) TBLI Tommy Military Figure - clerk to write to the Parochial Parish Council re the placing of a Tommy figure by the War Memorial in the church grounds.

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

- (a) email from the gardening group. An email had been received from the gardening group regarding putting small tree at the corner near the bust stop at the bottom of Bunkers Hill and also in the green at the front of the Community Centre. After discussion it was agreed that unfortunately at this time the Parish Council would have to advise that they did not own the land so were therefore unable to give permission for the planting of trees. Also Highways would need to be consulted. The e-mail also mentioned money being put aside for a bench to be placed in the memory of Monique. However the Parish Council are unaware of this. Helen Dye agreed to try and clarify the manner.

Date and time of next meeting.

**Thursday 10th March 2022, 7.30pm
Sporle Community Centre**

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

