

SOMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2017 in the Village Hall commencing at 7pm

PRESENT

PClir Starling (Chairman), PClir D Van de Bulk (Vice Chairman) PClir Barker, PClir Clift, PClir Crane, PClir Grayling & PClir Jones, BClir Bensly & CClir Hanton 3 members of the public and S Weymouth as BClir and PClerk.

1.Apologies

To consider apologies for absence

There were none

2.Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda

PClir Jones declared an interest in Agenda 17 the Poors Land Committee -a trustee of the Somerton Poors Land Charity

PClir Jones & PClir Grayling declared an interest in Agenda 18 & 19 as a member of the Church Council

3.Suspend the meeting

To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public and Borough/County Councillors the opportunity to inform the meeting:

PClir Clift proposed the meeting be suspended, seconded PClir Crane, all in agreement.

4. Public discussion

15 minutes allowed

Council House renovation – Agenda 11

A neighbour of the property requested an update on the current position. They were advised a feasibility study is being carried out and the results will be going to Committee in December. It was left with the BClir Weymouth to give them the result of the study.

5.Report from Borough Councillors/County Councillor – if present

CClir Hanton

The Chairman had sent an email asking when the programme for cleaning out the road side drains will commence. Email received states they will clear the grips and the drains behind on an annual basis.

CC report

The council will stage a series of service reviews over the next two years, to meet its savings targets.

Ideas include:

Targeting services where people need them most, in fewer buildings

Early help for families in crisis, to reduce the number of children going into care

Support for adults to live independent lives, through reablement and assistive technology

Smarter information and advice, to signpost people to support in their local community

Using county council land to develop housing that is needed by communities

Greater use of technology within the council and in frontline services

More commercial ventures, to make profits that can be invested in services

New centre to boost business in Norfolk

Entrepreneurs and small businesses celebrated the launch of a unique new service for Norfolk earlier this month, designed to enable people to protect, research and commercialise their ideas.

The new Business and Intellectual Property (IP) Centre in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library is one of a network of eleven centres across the UK. It is modelled on the successful Business and IP Centre in London and allows entrepreneurs to take advantage of free intellectual property and business information and expertise. The Business and IP Centre model has proven successful in helping businesses thrive and survive. It provides a space for entrepreneurs to come together to network, attend events and access a wealth of resources including business databases, Mintel market research reports, company data and information on patents, trademarks, designs and copyright

Proposals to join-up children's centres and other services considered

Children's centre services across Norfolk will work more closely with other community services, as part of proposals to improve support for vulnerable families.

NCC is developing a Local Services Strategy, aimed at bringing a range of public services together in urban centres and market towns and developing more targeted outreach services to where people live.

Multimillion pound bid to further improve county's broadband

Norfolk county councillors have approved the development of a bid which, if successful, would see significant additional fibre optic broadband cabling installed in the county.

The County Council has already submitted an expression of interest in the Government's Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) programme, which is seeking to encourage further and faster deployment of full fibre broadband networks across the UK.

Now the recently established Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is being asked to support a bid that could give Norfolk businesses the possibility to access funding to improve their broadband speeds up to one Gigabit speeds (1000 Megabits per second) and establish 'digital hubs' across the county to support residents and businesses, among other things.

Council Tax

The grant given to N.C.C. by the Government has fallen by £189 since 2011 and is expected to fall to zero by 2011

Since 2011 NCC has made £334 million in savings but we need to make a further

£125 million savings by 2021

The proposal is to increase council tax by 4.9%.

This would equate to £1.17 week for a Band D Property

If we do not increase council tax, then we would have to find over an extra £17m of savings next year.

The proposed increase will not be enough to balance the budget and consequently a set of budget saving proposals are now out for public consultation.

This started on the 6th November and closes on the 2nd January 2018

The Budget will eventually be set at the NCC Full Council meeting on the 12th February 2018

BCllr Bensly

The Planning Presentation held on the 6th Nov was well attended, from his Ward a PCllr from Winterton was in attendance.

Hemsby & Hopton are going to be Community Land Trust areas. Hemsby is holding a CLT meeting on the 12 December in the VHall.

Precepts – this should remain the same

Ice Rink will be back in the Market Place this year.

UKIP – 7 of their Cllrs have joined the Conservatives.

BCllr Weymouth

Will give a response on Agenda 11

6. Police/PCSO

The Police are unable to attend this meeting, however they sent in a report stating they have not received any calls from Somerton nor any recorded incidents.

Norfolk Constabulary 2020 Police Structure Review - Emailed to PCllrs prior to the meeting.

The proposal is to remove all 150 PCSO posts, these will be replaced by 80 extra police officers and 19 police staff posts. The remaining money will be needed to offset savings the force is required to make. There are also a number of Police Stations and Public Enquiry Offices closing. However, the Great Yarmouth District is largely unaffected by this. Caister will close in a couple of years' time.

The meeting re-open the meeting

7. Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th September, PCllr Grayling proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record, seconded PCllr Barker, all in agreement – the Minutes were signed.

8. Matters arising

To report on matters arising from the Minutes if not already on the Agenda for information only.

a. Collis Lane Street nameplates

Because they will be sited further back on the grass verges GYBS have to consult with all the utilities to ensure they will not damage the services.

b. Staithe fencing

PCllr Barker reported the repairs are in hand, on safety grounds yellow tape has been put around the damaged area.

c. Cottage Road

Grange Cottage flooding outside the property

The Chairman reported he had viewed the area and he had emailed the NCC Highways Officer stating:

1. The drainage pipework is not blocked, all that is needed is the routine cleaning out of the existing drains.
2. He had cleared the roadside grip entrances with a spade some time back and again the back ditches need routine clearing and extending if possible.
3. The property owner is correct the surface water doesn't reach the drains/pipe network until it crosses the road and enters his property.
4. Please proceed with a new gully as originally planned.

To date no reply has been received, it was agreed a further email be sent.

d. Flytipping

As agreed an email was sent to GYBC asking how many vehicles are employed by GYBS for collecting flytipping – no reply has been received so a further email is to be sent requesting an answer.

e. NSF

No reply received to PC letter, they are to be requested to reply to the email

9. Broads Authority Conservation Area Review

PCllr Jones read an extract from J Wentworth Day's book 'Broadland Adventure'

The Chairman reported two BA Officers were in attendance at the public consultation in the VHall and there was a steady flow of parishioners.

There were concerns that GYBC had handed over the review of the Conservation Area to the BA.

Four comments have been received directly from parishioners/property owners:

1. The Street – 4 residents contacted the Chairman to inform they do not want any involvement with the BA in their area

2. Manor Farm – they have no objections (only 1 response informing 'no objections')

3. Staithe Farm, Sandy Lane – no objections from the owner

4. Staithe House Farm, Staithe Road – Email from the family stating – they strongly disagree and object to the proposed changes being put forward:

The boundary should be left as it is.

Part of the area is on their land, the farmyard has no special architectural or historical importance. There was also similar objections to having Broads Authority involvement from adjacent property owners.

After discussions PCllr Clift proposed an email be sent to the BA & GYBC advising them the PC totally agree and support of the above comments, seconded PCllr Grayling, all in agreement.

10. Accounts

a. To agree payments in accordance with the budget

Chq 726 S Weymouth (Oct-Nov) Net salary £166.66 less tax £133.46

Chq 727 HMRC salary tax £ 33.20

Chq 728 St Marys PCC £760.00

Chq 729 R Bird £259.00

Omitted from the Minutes in May 2017

Chq 715 Westcote (SAM Sign) £3417.00

Chq 716 Came Ins (Inv £282.80p – pd £280) £280.00

Banking

Community Account -£2500.00

Refunded by NCC partnership funding SAM signs -£1708.50

VAT refund on SAM sign -£ 634.00
 PCllr Barker proposed the accounts be paid, seconded PCllr Grayling, all in agreement
 b. Cash book/bank reconciliation and financial statement
 All documents emailed to PCllrs prior to the meeting, they were noted.
 Opening balance at the bank 1.5.17 £5653.32
 Receipts from 1.5.17 to end Sept £4424.12
 Less payments not inc Nov £2076.33
 Bal in Community & savings account £8001.11
 All as the bank statements 30.9.17

Breakdown of the money in the bank accounts

Parish Council funding £3789.09
 Community Account £4212.02
 Total £8001.11

11. Update on Council House renovation – Parish Clerk

At the GYBC Housing and Neighbourhood meeting it was agreed to carry out a feasibility study and then a decision will be made in December whether to carry out the updating works to the property and it be added to the Council housing stock or it will be sold.

12. Planning applications/TPO's

06/17/0629/F proposed cart-lodge and workshop 5 Collis Lane for Mr Cross – PCllr Jones proposed no objections to the application, seconded PCllr Clift, all in agreement.

BA/2017/0386/NONMAT alterations to windows and door, non material amendment to BA/2016/0351/HOUSEH Ivy House, Horsey Road, West Somerton for Mr Davies – PCllr Grayling proposed no objections to the application, seconded PCllr Crane, all in agreement.

BA/2017/0319/TCAA The Grange – Cottage Road permission has been given for the following works tree works – noted.

- T1 Oak reduce lowest limb by 3m,
- T2 beech – crown reduction by 3m
- T3 beech – fallen – remove

13. Overgrown hedges bordering highways

The following were reported and the action to be taken:

- The Street – east and west junction – both property owners will have their hedges cut back.
- Horsey Road east side – it was left with the Chairman to speak to the owner of the property.
- Manor Farm Road – it was left with the Vice Chairman to speak to the land owner.
- Collis Lane – it was left with the Vice Chairman to speak to the land owner.

14. Footpaths

Report any overgrown footpaths – none reported

15. Damage to roadside verges

The Chairman reported a parishioner had emailed him concerning agricultural vehicles damaging the verges which causes the following issues:

Damage to peoples frontages they maintain and keep presentable

Mud in the road

Blockage of drainage channels

Artificial widening of the highway

Hedges getting closer to the road due to verge erosion

Damage to road signs and street furniture

Erosion of the road margins and the formation of potholes at the edges of the road

After discussions it was noted the farm vehicles are getting larger, however more care needs to be taken.

It was reported Sandy Lane street nameplates has been damaged. Now there isn't one street nameplate that isn't damaged which is very concerning because they are so important for ambulances to locate a patient.

16. Incidental matters dealt with since the last meeting

a. Flytipped rubbish – Horsey Road – reported to GYBS 17.9 in the rubbish correspondence was found so it was left with GYBS to deal with and prosecute the offender.

b. Flytipped rubbish – Collis Lane – reported to GYBS 30.9 – it has been cleared.

c. Damaged double bend road sign, Winterton Road – reported to NCC Highways on 30.9 ref No ENQ900121834 – repairs have not been carried out, it was agreed a further email should be sent to find out when the work will be carried out.

d. Repair Staithe Road sign – the Chairman has carried out a repair (north side) on the 17 Oct and it is stable.

e. SAM2 sign Serial No. 8881 – was faulty and the Chairman returned it to Westcote and it has been repaired.

17. Update on Poors Land registration

PCllr Jones declared an interest as a Trustee

PCllr Grayling reported he had checked the 1805 and 1811 Awards and there is evidence in them that the land should be registered. He has prepared a file with all the evidence to enable the Land Registry to look into registration, it was agreed any costs incurred would be paid for through the Community Fund. The file with all the evidence was given to PCllr Jones to take to the Poors Land Committee meeting on the 8 Nov, there was suggestion that PCllr Grayling should attend that meeting so that he could answer any questions the trustees might have.

18. Quotations for 2018/19

PCllr Jones & PCllr Grayling declared an interest as Members of the Church Council

Grass Cutting specification:

- a. The Staithe Area (village sign side of the river including area around car park).
- b. The War Memorial grass plus one cut of the hedge.
- c. The School Hill Bus Shelter – strim around seat bench but only every second cut.
- d. Church Footpath – Between Collis Lane and the entrance kissing gate but only every second cut.
- e. Rectory Cottage Path (New Track) – Cut grass at west end of path only every second cut.
- f. The Street to Ivy House Path every second cut.

One tender received from R Bird, all as specification total £1068.