

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Phil Collins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anne Kerry
Cllr Margaret Dye
Cllr Donna McLeod

D/Cllr Richard Duffield
C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
No members of the public.
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Collins took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr's Sue Douglas and Roddy McLeod and D/Cllr Roger Atterwill.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019.

Cllr Kerry proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council. The chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Meeting open for public participation.

There were no members of the public present.

5. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave a report which is attached to the minutes.

D/Cllr Duffield gave the following update:

The Breckland Local Plan has been adopted and Council now has a five-year land supply.

He warned that Councils need to be aware of regulations regarding static caravans in that, in certain situations, if they have been on site for eight years then they cannot be moved on.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris was updated in respect of the ongoing situation in Bittering Lane in respect of the slurry, mud and gravel etc on the road, making the road dangerous to use. Despite Highways being involved following the November meeting, nothing had improved and the C/Cllr will now take this matter forward, with prosecution being one option, if necessary.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their input.

6. To discuss planning issues:

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications to consider.

b) Decisions to note.

There were no decisions to note.

7. To discuss Highway issues.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported.

Council noted the following updates:

- Slurry on Bittering Lane – this had been dealt with earlier in the meeting at item 5.
- Speed Limit request – Litcham Road – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris continues to take this matter forward although a previous application elsewhere in the county had taken nearly three years to complete. Ideally, he would like a 50mph limit from Gressenhall through to Litcham.
- BT Cover on Wendling Road – this had not yet been repaired.

b) To consider any new issues.

Cllr Dye requested that Open Reach be contacted regarding the poor service in the village which, given the poor mobile service, caused problems for many people. A letter will be sent to Open Reach regarding this issue and requesting improvements.

8. To discuss any issues relating to the Playing Field.

a) To receive an update re the purchase of additional seating for the Playing Field.

The Chairman reported that the additional seating was now installed.

b) To consider any actions in respect of the Play Area inspection report.

Cllr Kerry proposed approval of £887 in respect of improvements to the play area, as recommended in the recent report, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council.

c) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

9. To discuss issues relating to the Clay Pits.

a) To consider the issue of access.

Council were informed that an application for match funding under the Parish Partnership Scheme had been submitted, to install a pull-in for parking at the Clay Pit. A decision will be received in March.

b) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues to consider.

10. To receive an update re the registration of Parish Council land and to consider the way forward in respect of an easement.

Council agreed that the documentation received from the Land Registry was accurate but noted it was disappointing that a possessory title had been made, rather than a full title. However, full title will be granted in due course.

It was agreed to write a letter to the neighbour requesting access for pedestrians to the Clay Pit. At the present time access had been blocked and this was causing difficulties, particularly for the Countryside Wildlife Wardens who were wanting to go in and carry out essential winter works.

11. To consider the appointment of a tree warden and a professional tree survey.

Council noted that the tree warden continued his work, in liaison with Breckland District Council, and there was no need to appoint a new warden. He had requested that Council consider planting more trees and it was agreed a commemorative tree in respect of the 75th commemorations in respect of WWII may be appropriate.

12. To discuss any issues regarding the Village Hall.

Cllr Collins updated Council in respect of Longham Football Club. Currently, the first team were playing elsewhere, due to the lack of separate changing facilities for the referee. Cllr Douglas continues to seek grant funding for improvements to the pitch and this is ongoing. Cllr McLeod volunteered to provide a quotation for the works and this was gratefully received. New goal posts had been installed recently and an electricity supply issue to the changing rooms had been resolved. Cllr Collins will be meeting with the Chairman of the Club in the near future to discuss the way forward.

13. To receive an update regarding the installation of a defibrillator.

Cllr Collins confirmed that the landlord of the White Horse had kindly agreed to the unit being installed on an outside wall of his building. The total cost of the unit was likely to be in the region of £1,400, with £500 already raised, and Council approved grant funding applications be submitted to find the additional amount required.

14. Finance and Governance

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

Council noted the financial report.

b) To receive a report re Website accessibility.

Council received a report regarding the new regulations regarding public sector accessibility and noted that the current site was now old and did not meet them. It was agreed to research any grant funding available for a new site, which will then be compliant.

c) To receive a report re Operation London Bridge.

Council agreed that no action was necessary.

d) To authorise financial payments as set out below:

Cllr Collins proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr McLeod and agreed by Council.

• Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Dec/Jan)	£257.84
• Solicitors (Land Registry)	£971.00
• Community Car	£106.75
• Concrete Seat Bases (x2)	£380.00
• Norfolk Playing Fields Assoc Membership	£20.00
• Mole Catching – Playing Field	£261.00 (paid 16.12.2019)

15. Correspondence for circulation

Council noted the following correspondence.

- Breckland – Adoption of Local Plan

16. To note 2020 meeting dates.

Council noted the meeting dates for 2020.

Monday 16th March

Monday 18th May (following the Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 20th July

Monday 21st September

Monday 16th November

17. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

18. To note the date of the next meeting which will be held on Monday 16th March 2020 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillors Report – January 2020

The consultation by the Boundary Commission (BC) on the review of voting Divisions in Norfolk was suspended during the election and is now set to close on the 11th February. The purpose of the review is to ensure that each Norfolk County Councillor represents a roughly equal number of voters. The BC have determined that the number of Councillors elected to NCC should remain at the current number of 84, and that each Division should be represented by a single Councillor. It now remains for the BC to divide up Norfolk into 84 Divisions of, as nearly as possible, an equal number of voters and they would like to know which communities feel tied together and would like to be represented by the same Councillor. Details can be found on the BC website. A further consultation on the BC's draft recommendations will take place from the 5th May to 13th June. Their final recommendations will be published on the 30th September.

The Council's budget will be set at the meeting of the Council on the 17th February. The government has agreed a one off grant towards adult and children's social care and the proposal is to increase Council Tax (2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept and 1.99% increase in the general rate), this is insufficient to cover the inflationary and demand cost increases projected in 20/21 and certainly not enough to reverse any of the reductions in service applied in previous years. We are still waiting for government to make a firm decision on business rate retention as a funding stream for local government and to implement the Fairer Funding formula which would see rural counties such as Norfolk receive a larger slice of national funding. The central government budget that could address these issues has been delayed from February until March and is therefore beyond the date which NCC must set its budget.

NCC Local Transport Plan 2020-2036. The last Transport Plan was agreed in 2011, since then there have been many changes to the way and how much they travel, shopping on the internet, local transport schemes, car sharing etc have all changed the way and why we travel. NCC want to know the priorities that the public place on transport; what is required and how it will be used up to 2036. Responses can be made on the NCC website until 28th February.

Norfolk Rail Prospectus 2020. NCC wants the views of the public as to what is required of the rail network and what benefits are expected from an improved rail network. We will use a consultation which runs until the 28th February to gather views that will provide evidence for an updated Rail Prospectus which will be used to influence the delivery plans of the rail industry.