

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 25th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Sue Douglas (Chair)
Cllr Phil Collins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anne Kerry
Cllr Margaret Dy
Cllr Roddy McLeod

D/Cllr Richard Duffield
D/Cllr Roger Atterwill
One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Donna McLeod and C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2019 and the extraordinary meeting held on 14th October 2019.

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

4. Meeting open for public participation.

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

5. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

The Chairman commenced by reading a report received from C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris regarding the ongoing independent review of County Council divisions in Norfolk. This is being carried out to ensure that each councillor represents, as near as possible, the same number of voters.

D/Cllr Atterwill reported that the Breckland Local Plan is due to be adopted by Council on Thursday 28th November. He does anticipate some further issues, particularly with developments outside of settlement boundaries which, if sustainable, are likely to be approved. This is due to the continued lack of a five year land supply.

D/Cllr Duffield also had concerns regarding this issue and felt that if Breckland has a Local Plan that it should be adhered to.

Concerns were raised that Breckland did not take note of parish council comments and the section in the Local Plan which required parish council approval for developments had been removed.

CLlr Collins raised the issue of the slurry in Bittering Lane which is now so bad that the road cannot be used by walkers and horse riders etc. Council agreed to take this issue up with Highways once again as it is their responsibility to ensure road safety.

6. To discuss planning issues:

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no new applications to consider.

b) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following decisions:

- 3PL/2019/1199/F – The Old Rectory, Honeypot Lane, Longham – erection of 2 bed dwelling as an annexe to The Old Rectory – REFUSED.
- Bittering Quarry (Longham Site): Variation of condition 1 of planning permission C/3/2016/3013 to allow inert recycling operation to continue until 31 December 2021 – PERMISSION.
- Bittering Quarry (Plant Site), Reed Lane, Bittering: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission C/3/2016/3017 to allow storage of inert recycled materials until 31 December 2021 – PERMISSION.

7. To discuss Highway issues.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported.

Council noted the following updates:

- Slurry on Bittering Lane – previously reported to NCC who are taking no action at present time but will continue to monitor - this item was discussed at item 5.
- Speed Limit request – Litcham Road – with County Councillor who is trying to get a 50mph speed limit from Gressenhall to Litcham.
- The drain cover on the Honeypot Corner – this has been repaired.
- Flooding is an issue at the junction of Hoe Road and Litcham Road – problem resolved by NCC.
- Gruts on Litcham Road – will be cleared as part of NCC regular maintenance.
- Overgrown hedge between the two junctions on the Litcham Road – this has been cut back.

b) To consider any new issues.

There is a loose cover (BT) on the Wendling Road and this will be reported.

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 bases have been installed and it was hoped the benches would be in place in the new few days.

b) To receive a report regarding the refurbishment of the football pitch.

The Chairman reported that she had been unable to obtain the additional funding of £3,000 required to resurface the football pitch and the project would not be able to go ahead.

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

Additional quotes are awaited and a decision would be made at the January meeting as to the way ahead.

d) 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.

The Chairman advised that it was necessary to open up the front of the Clay Pit for access and a pull-in may be the way forward. It was agreed to submit an application to the Parish Partnership Scheme initially. It was also agreed that a path with a handrail was required and advice would be sought from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust as the area is a County Wildlife Site.

In addition, it was agreed to reconsider an easement to reinstate previous access.

b) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

10. To receive an update re the registration of Parish Council land.

This issue is ongoing with the Land Registry who, due to the lack of a Closure Order from the Charity Commission, may initially award a possessory title, prior to full title.

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

The Chairman agreed to contact the Tree Warden for an update.

12. To discuss any issues regarding the Village Hall.

There was no update in respect of the Village Hall.

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

A location for the unit was yet to be confirmed but it was agreed to consider the Village Hall as an alternative location as a power source was required. The Chairman is hoping grant funding will make up the deficit.

14. Finance and Governance

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

The Council noted the financial report.

Cllr Collins proposed that a reserve fund of £3,000 be allocated to the Clay Pits Access project, this was seconded by Cllr Douglas and agreed by Council. In addition, Cllr Roddy McLeod agreed to research the outstanding Section 106 monies which may still be available.

b) To consider adoption of the General Power of Competence.

Cllr Douglas proposed the following resolution:

The Parish Council hereby confirms we meet the eligibility criteria for adoption of a General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. We further resolve to adopt a General Power of Competence.

This was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council. Accordingly, the Parish Council now has the General Power of Competence.

c) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2020.

Cllr Douglas proposed that Mr Bergin be appointed once more as internal auditor to the Council at a cost of £25, this was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council.

d) To consider approval of Clerk's attendance at Essential Update Seminar (£6.81).

Cllr Douglas proposed approval of the Clerk's attendance at an Essential Update Seminar at a cost of £6.81, this was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council.

e) To consider the draft budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Council considered the draft budget and, taking into account the funds now reserved for the Clay Pit, Cllr Douglas proposed that the precept remain the same at £6,000. This was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council.

f) To approve the payment made on 17th September 2019:

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

- Church signage (x6) £201.60

g) To authorise financial payments as set out below:

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

- Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Oct/Nov) £257.84
- NBB – 2 x Recycled Plastic Benches £333.60
- Brisley PC (see 14d above) £6.81
- Brisley PC (SLCC Membership Renewal) £19.31

15. Correspondence for circulation

Council noted the following correspondence. In respect of the bus timetable amendments, Council expressed disappointment that the village did not receive any bus service at all and had not done so for some time now.

- Norfolk County Council Boundary Consultation

- Norfolk County Council Budget 2021/22 Consultation
- NWT County Wildlife Site Newsletter
- Breckland Local Plan Update
- NCC Fire & Rescue – Integrated Risk Management Plan
- Digging up Norfolk – Boreas & Sheringham Shoal
- Breckland Parish Forum – 12th February 2020
- Bus Timetable Amendments - Norfolk

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

17. To note the date of the next meeting which will be held on Monday 20th January 2020 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Signed:

Date:
