

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 18th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Sue Douglas
Cllr Phil Collins
Cllr Margaret Dye
Cllr Anne Kerry

District Cllr Richard Duffield
District Cllr Robert Richmond
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 County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2019.

Cllr Kerry proposed that, subject to a minor amendment as set out below, the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Amendment: Item 5, paragraph seven, line two, amend 'monthly' to 'annual increase'.

4. Meeting open for public participation.

The issue regarding the poor state of Bittering Lane, due to the nearby pig farming, was raised. It was agreed to write to the farmer regarding the mud and slurry on the roads which was causing blocked gullies with subsequent flooding, and the Environmental Health Department with particular regard to the slurry.

5. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

D/Cllr Duffield reported issues surrounding the installation of smart meters and advised that consumers were not obliged to have one installed as they can cause issues for vulnerable people. An article will be included in the local magazine regarding this subject, together with advice on the related issue of phone scams.

C/Cllr Richmond reported the ongoing Breckland Local Plan consultation and ongoing issues with Capita (Breckland Planning) and advised Council that they can request paper copies of planning applications if required.

The Town and Parish Forum had been well attended and was found to be useful. A powerpoint presentation had been circulated to everyone who had been unable to attend.

Both Councillors noted that this would be their last meeting prior to the election in May but both hoped to re-elected.

The Chairman thanked both councillors for the valued assistance with local matters.

In the absence of C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris, the Chairman read out his written report:

Resurfacing of three junctions and the two miles of resurfacing of the B1145 had been carried out using some of the £12.7m which the government had given to NCC for pothole repair and highway improvements.

Norfolk County Council agreed a net budget of £409.293m on the 11th February. It was agreed that NCC's share of Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property and that an adult social care charge of a further 3% rise was not to be made. Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and NCC has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. This year's NCC council tax bill will be divided into two lines, one for the general council tax showing a 2.99% rise and the other for adult social care showing no rise but currently £96.05 for a Band D property.

The Council set the Children's Services budget at £186m for the year. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities to children from birth to the age of 25 (government has revised the upper age of for which Children's Services are responsible from 18 to 25) and the pressure on this budget is increasing.

NCC are awaiting a government grant to allow a fibre broadband connection to Norfolk's schools, this will allow broadband speeds of 1Gigabit.

6. To discuss planning issues:

a) Applications for consideration.

- 3PL/2019/0121/O – Renewal – House & Garage, Manor Cottage Wendling Road – Council agreed there was no change to their previous comments - no objections.
- Any applications received after the agenda has been published – there were no further applications received.

b) Decisions to note.

- 3PL/2018/0912/F – Proposed dwelling and garage – Land adjacent The Old Rectory – appeal to Secretary of State – Council noted the decision in respect of this appeal was still awaited.

c) To consider an input into the Breckland Local Plan consultation.

Council agreed not to submit any comments to the current consultation as their comments had been raised at the initial consultation stage.

7. To discuss Highway issues.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported.

The following updates were noted:

- The pothole at the junction with Wendling Road is unlikely to be repaired as it is not highway land.
- Other potholes around the parish have been repaired.

b) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

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

a) To consider purchasing additional seating for the Playing Field.

The Chairman reminded Council that it had been previously agreed to purchase additional seating for the Playing Field, as requested by a parishioner, with monies received from the recycling bins, however, the original plan to buy a picnic bench was too expensive to purchase and fit. Accordingly, the Chairman proposed the purchase of two recycled plastic benches, which would require no maintenance and be easy to strim around, at a cost of £135 each, plus fitting costs. This was seconded by Cllr Kerry and agreed by Council.

b) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

9. To receive a report regarding the refurbishment of the football pitch.

The Chairman reported that a grant for £6,000 had been obtained and she would be submitting an application to the Breckland Community Foundation for match funding. This will leave an additional £3,500 to be raised which she hoped would be available from other grant sources.

D/Cllr Duffield suggested an application to the Breckland Lottery which was raising funds for local causes.

10. To discuss issues relating to the Clay Pits.

The Chairman reported that the volunteer team were keen to return to carry out further works but access was an issue at the present time, it is hoped this can soon be resolved.

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

Work is ongoing and a full update should be available at the May meeting of the Council.

12. To discuss any issues regarding the Village Hall.

a) To consider a donation request for valuation of the School House.

A request had been received from the Village Hall Committee for a £300 donation to cover the cost of the School House valuation, Cllr Douglas proposed approval of this request which was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council.

b) Any other issues relating to the Village Hall.

The Chairman reported that the Committee would soon be submitting their application to become a CRO, which will assist in fund raising.

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

The Chairman reported that the previous monies raised for this project (£500) were now available and the full costs of purchasing and maintaining a defibrillator will be investigated and reported to the next meeting. Grant funding options will also be explored.

14. Financial Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2019

Council noted the financial report and there were no questions.

b) To consider membership of either Norfolk ALC or Norfolk Parish Training & Support

Cllr Collins proposed membership of Norfolk ALC at a cost of £99.94, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council.

c) To authorise financial payments as set out below:

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

• Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Feb/Mar)/End of year expenses	£384.32
• HMRC	£31.00
• Community Car Scheme	£107.00
• Village Hall (see item 12a) above)	£300.00
• Norfolk Playing Field Association Membership Renewal	£20.00
• Contractor (Pest Control – Moles) – paid 7.2.19	£165.60

15. Correspondence for circulation

The following correspondence had been received:

- Great British Litter Pick – it was agreed to organise a village litter pick on Saturday 13th April at 10.00am and information will be circulated to the village.
- Carers Matter Norfolk Newsletter – this was noted.
- Visit Breckland Website – it was agreed there was no need to advertise Longham on this website, at an annual cost of £50.00.
- Western Link Update – this was noted.
- Police Lincoln Newsletter – February edition – this was noted and it was agreed to try and add it to the village website.
- Calor Gas Community Fund – this was noted.
- BHIB – Tree Information – this was noted.
- Breckland Town & Parish Forum Presentation – this was noted.
- Governor Vacancies at Great Dunham Primary School – this was noted.

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

There were no new items for the agenda.

- 17. To note the date of the next meeting which will be held on Monday 20th May 2019 in the Village Hall, following the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7.30pm.**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed:

Date:
