



LEZIATE & ASHWICKEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th JULY 2022 FROM 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr Jason Ess (JE) – Chair. Cllr. Adrian Bramwell (AB), Cllr G Mathias (GM) and Stuart Dickerson (SD) – part time
County Councillor Jim Moriarty (JM) – part time
Two members of the public present.

1. WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR

2. PARISHIONERS 15 MINUTE FORUM:

Tom Lister and George Turner from RRT Rapid Relief Team - <https://rrtglobal.org/gb/> - gave a most interesting talk on the work they do both globally and locally. They work with emergency relief, poverty, disasters, famine, floods etc., and provide food and educational boxes in conjunction with the local Purfleet Trust. They are keen to work with the PC and can offer donations of defibs etc.

3. a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

Cllrs Blatch (holiday), Large (Covid), Manning (work) and de Whalley.

b. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

None

4. Approval of the circulated minutes from the meeting held on the 13th of June 2022

Proposed GM, seconded AB and all in favour.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

5.1 Ashwicken Lakes: no update from Cllr de Whalley

5.2 Traffic Project– (at start of the meeting) JM reported on the email received today from Andy Wallace at Highways on the survey and the PC needs to approve or amend the image. Electric vehicle ports information also sent today and the village hall would be a good candidate.

6. PLANNING:

Planning to consider: -

6.1 Applications - None

6.2 Decisions – None

6.3 Enforcement at Red Gate Farm to be followed up

7. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

7.1 Cllr Manning:

The borough is hoping to increase the number of Planning staff having plans to revise the department structure, and obtained finance etc. The next planning committee will be Wednesday 20 July, no planning meeting in August but reverting to a Monday on 5 September all with 0930 start.

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Signature

Date

All CIL claims should be submitted by August 1st

I have accompanied the Mayor as consort ,to several events , including flag raising to commemorate our military, a reception by the High Sheriff of Norfolk , visiting Holly Meadows School on Friday 8 July to celebrate their 10th anniversary and am looking forward to the KL Festival service at the Minster next Sunday with the Mayor and then attending with her to some festival events including the Grimthorpe Colliery band concert and a lecture by Nick Crane on "Latitude" and later in the month visiting Families Day at RAF Marham .

In an upcoming panel meeting will be getting feedback from fellow councillors as to preferred start times for panels and full council. It traditionally was 6pm for scrutiny panels and 6.30pm for Full Council. The exceptions being Licensing and Licensing and Appeals ,which were generally held in the morning or afternoon , and Planning Committee which used to be 10am but due to workload is now 0930am , and finishes often after lunch , in the afternoon.

Although no set time is always going to be convenient to everyone, on every occasion, I appreciate if a councillor is an employee ,unless a shift worker, then daytime meetings are probably difficult . The current times were instigated when Covid regulations meant meetings had to be held remotely by Zoom etc and our IT staff were on hand in their department during normal working hours ,to assist borough officers with any technical glitches. Will be interesting to see what the preferred time is, and is it implemented.

and finally, as August 6th approaches = I'm hoping we don't have any meetings on Tuesday evenings in the football season when we are at home , as will I need to be in my seat at the Walks stadium by 7.45pm to watch the mighty Linnets See you there !

7.2 Cllr de Whalley – No report received

7.3 Cllr Moriarty :

Update on the 'Big Norfolk Holiday Fun' scheme (Norfolk's Holiday Activities and Food Programme) Summer 2022

Background

- As previously reported, following the Government's extension of the holiday activities and food programme, we are now in the second year of delivering this scheme following a successful national rollout in 2021, despite the challenges of the pandemic.
- HAF funding has been allocated to local authorities to enable children aged 5-16 and who are eligible for means tested free school meals to access free holiday activities over a week at Easter, 4 weeks over the summer and a week at Christmas, with a nutritious lunch included.
- Active Norfolk is continuing to coordinate our 'Big Norfolk Holiday Fun' programme, working with wider NCC colleagues and providers.
- During Easter we saw 1828 children participate in BNHF activities with approximately 70 providers across the county with 21137 sessions on offer.

The Summer Offer

- The summer programme will run from 25 July to September 3 and is open to children aged five to 16 (or four if they turn five in August).
- For the summer we have places for around 3,400 children with over 95 providers offering in excess of 68,000 sessions over the 6 weeks of the holidays and activities include sport, circus skills, arts and craft, dance, music, cookery and film making and lots more!
- Booking for our Big Norfolk Holiday Fun summer programme opened on Monday 27 June, with hundreds of free activities on offer to children.

- Families can book by visiting [Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk or via the county council's webpages: www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun)
- This summer we have made it simpler for families to book onto BNHF sessions and removed the need for schools to issue codes to families. Families can book directly through the website and confirm their eligibility.
- Providers are required to ensure activities are inclusive and accessible for all children and young people. This includes those with special educational needs or disabilities. Providers are offered free workshops on inclusion, and wider SEND needs before the programme starts. To ensure reasonable adjustments can be made, details are requested at the time of booking and providers will discuss with parents and carers any specific requirements that their children have.
- Whilst BNHF is targeted at 5-16 year olds eligible for means tested free school meals, we have some flexibility to offer a small number of free places for children who are vulnerable and might really benefit from BNHF activities. These places are being offered on a first come first served basis and we have asked schools or services working with children to contact BNHF to request a place.
- We are encouraging providers to offer blended sessions, with eligible children accessing activities free of charge, alongside some families who are not eligible for means tested free school meals, paying for the session.
- The BNHF team at Active Norfolk has worked hard to expand the offer in rural communities, as we know it can be difficult for some families to travel. In general, we cannot fund transport for families to access activities. However, on an exception basis, where there are particular and exceptional circumstances, we may be able to support families. Each situation is considered based on whether or not families have access to transport of their own, public transport, alternative family transport or options to lift share, the specific needs of the parent and the vulnerability of the child. Families can contact the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun team directly to discuss their particular situation via bnhf@norfolk.gov.uk

DEBATE NOT HATE

Seven in 10 councillors reported experiencing abuse and intimidation within the last 12 months, with 1 in 10 experiencing abuse frequently, a new Local Government Association (LGA) Councillor Census, published on 30 June 2022, has revealed.

The LGA said councils are calling for government to work with local authorities and partners to urgently address toxic discourse and abuse against councillors or risk long-term impacts on local democracy and representation.

The report [Debate Not Hate: the impact of abuse on local democracy](#), highlights how councillors are facing increasing abuse and intimidation from the public, with little power to deter perpetrators or support to tackle the issue. This is leading to the expectation that councillors must tolerate high levels of sometimes extreme abuse and threats, discouraging prospective candidates from engaging with local politics.

The support available to protect the safety and wellbeing of councillors is limited and inconsistent across the sector and can be uncoordinated between agencies. As a result, the LGA is calling for government to prioritise a change in legislation to put it beyond doubt that councillors can proactively withhold their home address from the public register. The LGA is urging local government leaders, the Government, partners, political parties and social media companies to sign up to [a public statement](#), pledging to come together to develop and implement an action plan to address the issue of abuse of local politicians and their safety.

Local Transport Plan for Norfolk

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) was agreed at a meeting of Norfolk County Council's cabinet on 6 June and will now need to be signed off by the full council.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the county council's overall approach to transport, showing how transport can deliver wider ambitions including a growing economy, strong communities and reducing the impact on the environment.

Transport is now the biggest emitter of carbon of any sector in the UK and this plan is important in setting out the council's policy framework for achieving carbon reduction of the transport network.

The plan includes the council's vision for improving transport between now and 2036 and is intended to encourage walking, cycling, bus and rail use as well as deliver major projects like the Western Link and Long Stratton bypass.

As part of the plan, the county council wants to investigate the possibility that the network of abandoned railway lines, many of which were closed in the 1960s, could become 'greenways', for use as walking and cycling routes, or even see the return of trains. Parts of several former Norfolk railway lines have already been converted into footpaths and cycle routes, such as the Marriott's Way, Weavers' Way and Lakenham Way. However, there are other stretches, particularly in rural areas, that the council believes should be protected from development, to allow them to eventually be revived for transport use.

The LTP does not have the power to stop developers building on the routes, but the council hopes that by including the possibility of greenways and even future rail use in the plan, it could help to deter them and keep the options open.

Norfolk Access Scheme

Message from Suzanne Dunwoody, Client Finance Services Manager

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme which the public may or may not be aware of. The scheme is available to any Norfolk resident who is experiencing financial difficulties and the team can provide information and guidance to contact support organisations, or provide financial support to assist with the cost of food, energy, water or other essentials including white goods and furniture. NCC has also partnered with AgeUK to provide targeted individuals aged 65 and over as this has been a demographic group we have received the least applications from.

If you have any questions about NAS, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne for further information Suzanne.dunwoody@norfolk.gov.uk

Update: Jubilee Trees for Norfolk - June 2022

The **Jubilee Trees for Norfolk** scheme is now live. NCC are offering tree packs at 50% cost, subsidised by DEFRA and NCC, and the scheme is open to everyone. This will enable up to 40,000 more trees to be planted across the county.

Community groups in my area can approach me to fund the other 50% of the trees and this is entirely at my discretion. There is an application process for the scheme and tree packs will be ready for collection in the planting season between December 2022-February 2023. If applicants have reached the payment stage, this means that their planting has been approved by the 1 Million Trees Team.

Please note that the 1 Million Trees team will not be involved in the payment process – applicants must approach me independently and proceed with any agreements and payments directly with me.

The discretionary Highway Member Fund, from which County Councillors can fund Highway and Environmental works in my area, was recently increased by £4,000 to £10,000 so that I can support tree planting and other biodiversity schemes in my area, but my main focus remains highways.

Guidance notes for the scheme can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/jubileetrees. Please get in touch with any thoughts or suggestions at tree.planting@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk's Carers invited to apply for free Wellbeing Packs

Norfolk County Council is to provide a further 3,000 free Wellbeing Packs to unpaid carers over the coming months, after previous packs were taken up enthusiastically across Norfolk.

The packs, which are provided through Covid funding from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), are designed to support unpaid carers and include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support recipients in their role as a carer, as well as a range of pick-me-up items for the carer including chocolates, toiletries, and other treats to bring a little joy in these difficult times.

If you are caring for a friend or loved one, or know somebody that is, you can register your details online to receive a pack. Those who are eligible will have a pack posted directly to their home. To apply for a pack today, please visit:

https://forms.norfolk.gov.uk/service/carers_wellbeing_pack

So far, Norfolk County Council has provided over 4,000 packs to unpaid carers since February 2021, working with partners Carers Matter Norfolk, Caring Together and Carers Voice to deliver them to carers across Norfolk.

The packs have also been made available through Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, James Paget University Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, all of whom are working in partnership with the Council to support the project.

Unpaid carers can also find a wide range of support available via Carers Matter Norfolk, a service commissioned by Norfolk County Council. Details of the personalised support available for carers can be found at <https://carersmatternorfolk.org.uk/> or by calling 0800 0831 148 (Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm).

The wellbeing packs for unpaid carers were funded through the Infection Prevention and Control Fund which is provided to Local Authorities by DHSC. The scope of the funding was limited and used to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infections. Norfolk County Council took the decision to use a small proportion of the overall funding towards supporting Carers to keep themselves and their loved ones safe during the pandemic. The majority of the funding was used to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infections in care homes and other care settings.

The Carers Matter Norfolk service is commissioned by Norfolk County Council to offer a range of support for carers of all ages and the people they care for. These include weekly 'Virtual Cuppas' during which Carers can share their concerns and successes and support each other, especially in difficult times.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:

8.1 The Voice – items for the next edition in September to include the councillor vacancy and thanks to our litter picker. A request for volunteers to re-start the Neighbourhood Watch to also be included.

8.2 50:50 partnership – no relevant categories for the Parish.

8.3 CIL applications –decided to wait until Jan 23 for the driveway and start on the application in October 22, involving all organisations that use the VH etc.

8.4 Sibelco noise update from the clerk advising that following several complaints of noise during the night, Sibelco have advised that the maintenance team have fitted sound deadening around the screen and are planning to replace the vibrating part.

8.6 Plaque for George Solly – SD has checked the sign size and it was agreed to put the plaque under the sign. SD to check on the sizes. Wording agreed.

8.7 Anti-social behaviour – vehicles are parking on Brow of the Hill and vehicles were seen and heard churning up the car park.

8.8 SNAP meeting on the 13th but our ASB is no longer listed.

9. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:

9.1 JE - SAM & Speedwatch – SAM - Brow of the Hill reports send out and will be added to the website. Highest speeds recorded were 72 and 78 mph. Unit now relocated to East Winch Road

Speedwatch – JE advised that another volunteer had been signed up but awaiting confirmation of dates.

9.2 JE – Village Hall – nothing to report.

9.3 JE/ABL- Play Areas – No problems at either area.

9.4 GM – Bus Shelters – request for Paddy to strim the area around the shelter at Bawsey.

9.5 SD– Fen & Brands Wood – SD advised no change.

9.6 JL – Footpaths – No update

9.7 JL – Highways – AB raised concerns regarding traffic increase on the QE roundabout in both directions. To raise with JM.

9.8 CB – Clerk update – advised attendance on Scribe Training next week along with GDPR updates. All Policies and Procedures to be reviewed in August with list for approval at the September meeting. Working on the new website to go live on 1.9.22

10. FINANCE

10.1 The June 22 Bank Reconciliation, payments & receipts, bank statements had been sent out to all councillors. Approval proposed by GM and seconded by SD. Approved by all present. Current total is £ 15,042.45

10.2 Payments for July (to date) proposed GM, seconded AB and approved by all present.

10.3 Qtr.1 Financial Review discussed and all pleased to see under budget. Proposed AB, seconded SD and approved by all present.

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- a. Receive any updates on the Ashwicken Lakes planning application.
- b. Receive any updates on the Traffic Project.

12. The next Meeting will start at 7.30pm on the 12th of September 2022, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.50