

LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Andrew Parker

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

PRESENT: Cllr Jason Ess (JE) – Chair for this meeting. Cllr. Adrian Bramwell (AB), Cllr Andy Blatch (ABL), Cllr Jon Large (JL), Cllr G Mathias (GM) and Stuart Dickerson (SD)
County Councillor Jim Moriarty (JM), Borough Cllrs & Michael de Whalley (MdW), & Colin Manning (CM)

Two members of the public present.

Due to the resignation of the Chairman, Andy Parker, Cllr Ess was voted to run this meeting as Chairman, proposed by ABL, seconded SD and all in favour.

1. **WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR** and Andy Parker was thanked for all his hard work and support of the Parish Council. He will be missed as our Chairman and Councillor.
2. **PARISHIONERS 15 MINUTE FORUM:**
Comments made under 5,1
3. **a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**
none
b. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -
Cllrs Ess and Dickerson re planning application 22/00349/F
4. **Approval of the circulated minutes from the meeting held on the 14th of March 2022**
Proposed JL, seconded ABL and all in favour.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**
5.1 Leziate Lakes/Park:
Mr. Williamson (owner) and Mr. Cribb (agent) were present to discuss the comments raised by the Parish Council in support of the application. The planning department required these comments to be under separate cover.
The clubhouse will be built by the same builder of the 7 executive homes and be of timber frame structure to suit the surroundings and be of robust construction.
The clubhouse will be a member's club with swimming, water sports and no Motor Sports. Members will run the club and a subscription will be required to join. It will be a non-profit making club.
Being a member's only club, all members will be vetted by the committee, and they will have their own entrance. This should prevent any anti-social behaviour.
Walking Routes – there is a tree down on the footpath and the entrance to footpath 29 to East Winch Road will require making good as opened for trenches and vehicles had accessed it last summer. The actual footpaths are the responsibility of NCC but signage, fencing and monitoring was discussed including private land trespass.

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Signature

Date

Mr. Williamson has contacted the school and will look to hold discussions after the Easter break regarding granting of land for car parking.

JM raised the issues with the planning department staffing and 4 different officers have worked on this application.

Mr. Cribb will contact the clerk regarding resubmission to Planning. ACTION JC/CB

5.2 Ashwicken Lakes:

Further information is required, and JM advised that Highways have dealt with all issues raised.

5.3 Redgate Farm Planning Response:

It was agreed that our objection response needs to be amended and to include the points raised by parishioners at the last meeting. ACTION JL/CB

5.4 Neighbourhood Plan Review:

to be discussed later in the year.

5.5 Traffic Project– JM advised on the clearway extension for Brown of the Hill and East Winch Road as this would affect the Leziate Lakes location too. The initial survey costs £5k with a further minimum of £10k. JM will use £10k of his annual fund to support this but additional costs will require other funding.

JM to ask Andy Wallace about any planned closures of Sandy Lane. ACTION JM
AB raised concern that the clearway could lead to an increase of parking at the Village Hall car park.

6. PLANNING:

Planning to consider: -

6.1 Ref: 22/00349/F – extensions to dwelling and self-contained annex and summer/guest house at Wild Wood, 63 Gayton Road, Ashwicken – support for this, proposed GM, seconded AB and all in favour.

Ref 22/00517/F – Proposed extension and alterations at Wicken Oake Farm, Church Lane, Ashwicken - support for this, proposed GM, seconded SD and all in favour.

Ref 22/00474/F – Extension and alterations to dwelling with increased width of highway access at 41, Station Road, Leziate – as emailed by the clerk, support for this, proposed GM, seconded SD and all in favour.

Ref 22/00377/LDP – Certificate of lawfulness – use of land as garden land – land adjoining Windyridge, 94 Brow of the Hill. Further to information provided by JL, it was decided that this requires further clarification from the planning officer.

7. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

7.1 Cllr Manning:

The situation with Google/gmail email address should be improving. His councillor community grant has now all been taken up. The Guildhall is owned by the National Trust and leased by Borough, it is now hoped that restoration will take place and improvements made. There are still issues with planning losing experienced staff and the refuse collections are under review to bring all collections into line with timings. Information will be sent to all households by 22nd May. There is a national government fund of £150m available for bus services.

7.2 Cllr de Whalley –

The refuse collections in some parishes are changing from w/c 9th May, and information will be sent out to all homes.

His community grant of £1k was gladly given to the Village Hall for the CCTV.

The seating at the Guildhall are being replaced and a task group will be set up. A Biodiversity Cabinet group is to be set up to review issues. A members project meeting took place earlier today and starting to move forward with priorities to be made within the next week.

ABL raised the issue of fly tipping as he had reported tyres being dumped in March but they have not been collected to date. MdW and CM to chase this. ACTION MdW/CM
JM advised that meeting times could be moved to daytime instead of evenings and there was a government agreement to end charges for DIY waste.

7.2 Cllr Moriarty -

New roles created to improve the link between county and local councils

A significant investment has been made into the relationship between Norfolk County Council and the rest of the county with £160,000 committed over the next 2 years.

The county council have funded the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (Norfolk ALC) to employ two members of staff who will be dedicated to improving the link between the county council and Norfolk's town and parish councils.

The new roles will help local councils stay up to date on key initiatives and policies that affect them, while ensuring that local voices are heard at a county level. They will also work to raise the profile of Parish Councils across Norfolk and the work they do for their communities.

Jeremy Burton, County Officer for the Norfolk Association of Local Councils said :

“Local councils at different levels will naturally talk to each other throughout the year, so this is about making sure it happens more effectively. We can also use this as an opportunity to help parish and town councils talk to each other. We know that they will share common goals and common challenges so each council can learn from each other.”

The funding will also aim to help local councils build their skills and get access to the right information. That might include help with developing a parish plan, writing a funding bid, or reaching a wider demographic in their area.

This help will be in addition to the support the Norfolk ALC already provides which has seen a range of initiatives co-ordinating the Parish and Town Councils in Norfolk.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the support available via the Norfolk Association of Local Councils can visit their [website](#) which holds information, advice and training on a wide range of subjects.

Road Safety Community Fund Application – unsuccessful.

REVIEW

- All 14 Members invited to make bids.
- Average spend per Member was originally £10,714 this increased to £12,500 because 2 Members made no bids.
- 57 bids received; 23 bids were successful at an average cost of £6360 (roughly equivalent to 2 successful bids per member)
- Member submissions, mine were the highest at 21 the next highest was shared by 2 Members at 7, the vast majority of Members submitted 1 or 2 bids.
- Using the average cost of the 23 successful schemes, had all of my bids been acceptable they would have totalled roughly £133,560 (11 times my budget, the total area budget was £150,000)

- Your received 4 successful bids, no Member received more, and 7 of the 12 Members received just 1 successful bid.
- Unlike the Parish Partnership Initiative, the RSCF was a relatively small pot of money when evenly spread across the county, similar to your personal Local Member Fund, to be used selectively.

Leziate - Complex wide-ranging issues made for complete area review of the highway network. The cost of such an exercise would be far in excess of £10,000. The idea of this fund is to look at small-scale one-off locations. Bid was also received extremely late.

A review to make Norfolk County Council “match fit” for the future and save up to £20 million will be considered by the cabinet.

Removing duplication, improving performance and being more cost effective are the aims of a proposed organisational review – the council’s first for 10 years.

Initial work carried out last year suggests that there is scope to make recurrent annual savings of £15 million - £20 million, by the end of the 2022-23 financial year, by improving the way the council operates.

The report says the review provides an opportunity to:

- Remove all areas of duplication, including in support services that exist in the council’s centre and in departments
- Give greater clarity of accountability
- Adjust the number of management layers and improve spans of control, to support “robust and agile decision making”
- Make management and supervisory savings, creating a more effective structure “that enables performance to be maximised”

It says the review will also support empowerment and upskilling of leaders and managers and attracting, retaining, and developing the best people.

The report says: “The County Council will continue to be a large organisation that delivers a diverse range of services. But changes to the public sector landscape and funding regimes necessitate a new approach as we evolve over the next few years.”

If cabinet supports the review, specialist advisers will be commissioned to assist the Council. The cost is not known at this stage, but it will be fraction of the project £15 million - £20 million saving.

The council anticipates that a review will reduce the number of roles in the council. This would be managed by staff turnover, redeployment, and flexible retirement, plus, where appropriate, voluntary redundancy, reducing the number of compulsory redundancies required.

FAQs: Why are you doing this now?

It’s 10 years since our last organisational review and so much has changed since then. Most councils have regular reviews, to ensure they are organised to meet the latest challenges.

Is this just about saving money?

No. We do need to make financial savings through this programme (£15m -£20m), but it is also about making sure we are structured in ways that help us make the most of changes in technology, duties and expectations over the last 10 years and ensure we are fit for the future.

How many people will be made redundant?

In order to make the financial savings described above, there will be fewer posts. At this stage we haven't done the design work to confirm which posts will change. At that stage we will do all we can to avoiding people losing jobs through redeployment, retraining and through natural turnover. But we cannot promise there will be no redundancies.

Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

Norfolk County Council has secured a revenue grant from central government to support the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Norfolk.

The LCWIP for Norfolk plays an important part in delivering the Government's strategy for encouraging everyone to cycle and walk more, especially when making short journeys in towns and cities. Increased levels of active travel, especially for shorter journeys in towns, will help to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and benefit the environment and local economy.

The County Council is working in partnership with all district and borough councils to create the plan. The Norfolk LCWIP builds on plans already completed for Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, and Greater Norwich.

The objective of the plan is to develop a countywide walking and cycling network, and identify infrastructure improvements over the short, medium, and long term.

The development of the Norfolk LCWIP also supports the delivery of a low carbon, well-connected transport network in Norfolk.

The plan for Norfolk is in the early stages of development and to support with the development of the plan the County Council has created an online survey to help obtain insights into current levels of cycling and walking within Norfolk and to identify places where people feel they want to be better connected on foot or cycle.

The initial Norfolk LCWIP engagement runs from the 5 April to 30 May. Residents and stakeholders can find out more and have their say here:

Details about completed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans will be published in Spring this year. Residents and stakeholders will have a further opportunity to review and comment on detailed proposals within the Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in Autumn 2022.

The initial Norfolk Cycling and Walking Survey is open from 5 April to 30 May.

More information and a link to the survey can be found [here](#)

8. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 The Voice – items for the next edition to include thanks to Andy Parker, the Fun Run by JM and dog fouling. The vacancy for a councillor cannot be advertised until the 14 days period by Borough is completed.

8.2 – “inconsiderate and inappropriate vehicle use” online survey – JL expressed disappointment that the end date was cut short and the response from Borough was poorly worded. JM agreed, apologised and advised it would be passed anyway.

8.3 Local Plan Review – send out by clerk for information.

8.4 New website and logo – The website has been well received and the clerk to find out from Borough if we can use Leziate and Ashwicken logo’s. The clerk advised that the existing website would have to continue until September as it is on the AGAR forms and cannot be changed now for this report. ACTION CB

9. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:

9.1 JE - SAM & Speedwatch – ABL is talking over the SAM work and a new battery is required. Clerk to be advised and order.

Speedwatch – JE advised that we now need a schedule in place with agreed dates.

9.2 JE – Village Hall – a flyer with the Jubilee events had been sent out – copy to clerk for the website. ACTION JE

9.3 JE/ABL- Play Areas – No problems at either area and ABL advised that the fencing had been repaired.

9.4 GM – Bus Shelters – Nothing to report and GM asked that councillors advise him of any issues they may notice.

9.5 – Fen & Brands Wood – SD offered to take this on as lives close by and reported that he had checked the gate post and will be straightening when time allows.

9.6 JL – Footpaths – No issues other than dog fouling.

9.7 JL – Highways – report to be produced but the increase in HGV’s on Church Lane is a growing concern. Large farm vehicles are also causing verge damage, but they have a requirement to attend their land.

9.8 CB – Clerk update – working on year end and AGAR reports. Has attended Scribe training and contacted Sibelco asking for funding to repair the car park and entrance.

10. FINANCE

10.1 The March 22 Bank Reconciliation, payments & receipts, bank statements had been sent out to all councillors. Approval proposed by GM and seconded by AB. Approved by all present.

Statement of Account: Year-end balance was £3482.70 as at 31.03.22 on the bank reconciliation.

10.2 Payments for April proposed AB, seconded JABL and approved by all present.

10.3 AGAR Certificate of Exemption to sign – agreed and signed by Chair

10.4 AGAR Governance and Accounting Statements were read, agreed by all and signed.

10.5 Financial year end report discussed, and it was stressed by the clerk that this year requires financial restraining due to the last two years spending on play areas, leaving our funds depleted.

10.6 The internal auditor was approved retrospectively, and they have sent int their full report which was well received.

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

a. Updates on the Ashwicken Lakes planning application

b. Receive any updates on the Traffic Project.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- The Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7.00pm on the 9th of May 2022, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.26