

Needham Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 28th March 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Needham Village Hall.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Andrew Major, Belinda Della, Adrian Mowbray, Robin Twigge.
Six members of the public.
Clerk: Philip Freeman.

Public Forum:

Including any reports: County Councillor, District Councillor, and Village Organisations.

Report from Councillor Wilby:

Norfolk stands ready to welcome Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict in their country, the leader of the County Council has pledged. Andrew Proctor (leader of the council) told a meeting of County Halls cabinet that the humanitarian cost was “truly horrific and it would only get worse.” He said: “Norfolk County Council stands ready to help Ukrainian refugees wherever we can, working with the UK government to support its settlement programme. In the meantime our people from Abroad Team are making preparations for refugee settlement in our county.” We are advising the best way for our residents to help are to make cash donations to agencies like the Red Cross and Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine appeal. Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk for up-to-date information.

Well done to Terry Pegg and the Harleston and District Royal British Legion for holding the memorial service on March 9th to commemorate the seven young men that lost their lives in the two aircraft crashes in 1942. It was good to see so many people attending the service at the War Memorial remembering those brave young men. It reminded me of my father who flew the Wellington Bomber during world war 2.

Adult Learning operates the cutting edge of the further education sector and successfully secured over £1 million of new funding to Norfolk in 2021, firstly as a sector lead in the use of technology in education and, secondly to enable the implementation of a new construction and environmental curriculum, responding directly to the needs of Norfolk's economy. The funding will enable the service to establish two new construction training hubs in Norwich and King's Lynn that respond directly to the future skills needs of the county, with a real emphasis on skills that support a green and sustainable economy. Adult learning continues to provide a wide range of innovative learning programmes that Norfolk residents both welcome and benefit from. With the delivery of 50% of courses online, the service has developed a sustainable delivery pattern, combining online with a local physical presence through the development of training venues in libraries.

We established the Parish Partnership scheme to give local communities the opportunity to directly influence the programme of small highways improvements. This year's Parish Partnership scheme will see 153 small local schemes, delivering what communities tell us they need. This includes trods, village gateways, bus shelters and vehicle activated signs. The way the programme is funded, with Town and Parish Councils making a contribution, means that we can more than double the impact of the funding we make available. This year, our proposed contribution of £674,739 and a Safety Camera Partnership contribution of £62,744 to this local investment programme, will support the delivery of schemes totalling £1,493,057.

Younger residents from across Norfolk will get the chance to learn vital skills with the welcome return of children's safety programme Crucial Crew. Crucial Crew is a multi-agency safety education event for year 6 children across Norfolk. The programme involves the RNLI, Norfolk Constabulary and HM Coast Guard to stage fun, engaging and informative safety events for students to learn about safety by experiencing risk in a safe, controlled environment. Cabinet member Margaret Dewsbury said “Crucial Crew” offers valuable, educational resources from public sector experts for local children which will help keep them safe in years to come. We are so pleased to be able to return to face-to-face events as these prove to be invaluable to Norfolk's children.

- There were no questions on the report.
- It was agreed the Clerk will report the following: **Action: The Clerk.**
 - Trees have fallen in the ditch by HLC pallets.
 - Report that Brook Lane needs clearing.

1. Apologies for Absence.

- Georgina Frost, James McMillan, County Councillor Martin Wilby and District Councillor Jeremy Savage.

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2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
 - the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Alan Jeffery had resigned as a parish councillor.
3. Councillor's Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.
 - Councillor Twigge declared an interest in agenda item 10 a.
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
 - The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman proposed by Robin Twigge and seconded by Adrian Mowbray,
5. Matters Arising:
 - Action Points from the Meeting of Needham Parish Council on 26 July 2021.**
 - A report will be prepared on the issues caused by the flooding on 23 December 2020 and what can be done to resolve the problem. Contact will be made the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance. **Action: Georgina Frost.**
 - Action Points from the Meeting of Needham Parish Council on 29 September 2021.**
 - A litter bin will be set up in the play area. **Action: The Chairman. A concrete pad will be laid so that the bin can be bolted to it.**
 - Action Points from the Meeting of Needham Parish Council on 22 November 2021.**
 - Volunteers are needed to help get sponsorship and advertising for the Link. Councillors were asked to find one sponsor to help if they can. **Action: Councillors. Nothing to report.**
 - Robin Twigge will put a sign in the noticeboard asking members of the public to report any problems with the play area to him. **Action: Robin Twigge. Robin Twigge is waiting for the keys to the noticeboard, and he will speak to Mr Jeffery about them.**
 - Action Points from the Meeting of Needham Parish Council on 10 January 2022.**
 - Report **Action: The Clerk.**
 - Wells Lane trees down needs clearing. **Reported again.**
 - Drain blocked at 81 High Road single drain in corner by layby all layby water goes into 81 High Road all soak aways and drains not maintained. **Reported.**
 - Email Jeremy Savage District Councillor for locality budget to support cost of grass cutting. **Action: The Clerk. The locality budget is not available for this type of expenditure.**
 - Send precept form to South Norfolk Council. **Action: The Clerk. Completed.**
 - The Chairman will speak to SPH about the cutting of footpaths. **Action: The Chairman. The Chairman has been unable to speak to the contractor and will do so before the next meeting.**
6. Reports from Committees.
 - a. Report from the Village Hall Committee.
 - i. Management of the Hall's finances.
 - The balance of the Parish Council's bank account will be transferred to the Village Hall account on a temporary basis. A new account will be opened in the name of the Parish Council with Unity Trust Bank which had been recommended by the Norfolk Association of Local Councils.
 - The account balance for the Village Hall was £24,592.22p.
 - ii. Proposed Expenditure:
 - Units £4,800, Work tops £483, Sink and taps £235, 2 x fridges, dishwasher and cooker £679, flooring £2,500. Total cost £8,697 of which £1,483 VAT can be reclaimed.
 - Fitting: plumber £250, electrician £300, Fitting £1,200
 - Total cost excluding building work to re-open door opening circa £9,000.In the discussion the following points were made:
 - It was agreed that expenditure could take place to a maximum of £9,000 exclusive of VAT on the projects listed above.
 - There has been an increase in the number of hirers of the hall which was welcomed by the Parish Council.

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- The Village Hall roof has been repaired by local volunteer at no cost and it was agreed the Village Hall Committee will write a letter of thanks to the person who carried out repairs on the roof of the Hall. **Action: Village Hall Committee.**
- b. Community Environment Initiative.
- i. Community woodland.
Report from Georgina Frost:
I convened a meeting with Nigel Tufnell and a few interested people including representatives from the Village Hall. 10 people attended but no-one else from Parish Council.
Nigel said that The Townsland Trust is generally in favour of using some of their land for a community woodland for the benefit of the villagers but would need assurances that it would continue to be properly maintained for the long term. He also stated that he would have a conflict of interest if he were on the steering group.
I reported that the Woodland Trust is giving 420 trees to suitable groups, such as ours, to cover an area similar to a football pitch, which is only part of that field under discussion adjoining the Nook. That field is being sub-let to Whartons for 2 years for rose growing, so nothing can happen just yet.
Whilst the planting of the trees would be relatively easy, the longer-term maintenance is difficult to guarantee. It would need to have footpaths, benches, bins etc. Another suggestion was to create a wildflower meadow. More preparation would be required to get the soil suitable. It is possible that new government agricultural subsidies will support wildflower areas, giving the farmer an incentive to plant and do the annual cutting required.
After discussion, several people said that they were not in favour of using the land for woodland or wildflowers. There was concern about misuse and bad behaviour.
No-one present was willing to commit to putting in sufficient time and effort in getting something set up for the initiative to be realistic. It was agreed to ask the villagers through the Link whether there is actually real committed support to go ahead.
I left the meeting quite disheartened.
Councillors thanked Tina Frost for her report.
7. Finances and Financial Support:
- a. RFO's Report:
 - i. Santander bank account balance at 21st February: £3,506.30p.
 - ii. Ns&i: £2,297.87p.
 - The bank balances were noted.
 - iii. Accounts and bank account reconciliation.
 - Detailed accounts had been given to Councillors, which recorded all items of income and expenditure, and compared them to the budget. The spreadsheet also showed both as a percentage of the budget.
 - The accounts were to the date of this meeting and included a bank reconciliation.
 - There were no questions
 - b. Cheques for Signature:
 - i. Clerk's pay and expenses: £315.84p.
 - ii. HMRC: £72.00p
 - iii. The Link:
 - iv. ICO: Data Protection Fee - £40.00p
 - v. NALC: subscription - £114.49p
 - vi. South Norfolk Council: dog bins annual charges - £663.60p
 - It was agreed to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Adrian Mowbray and seconded by Belinda Della.
 - c. Receipts: none.
 - d. Request for financial support: none.
8. Redenhall with Harleston Town Council Neighbourhood Plan.
- The report is currently going through an inspection process.

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9. Highway/footpath matters.
- There was a discussion of the cutting of footpaths and the Chairman agreed to discuss the work that is being carried out with SPH Garden Services. **Action: The Chairman.**
10. Update on the Needham Link.
- Mr Tom Barber has now on the role of editor of the Link.
 - Editions of the Link will be added to the Parish Council website.
11. Planning:
- a. Application:
- Ref: 2021/2689
Applicant: Mr Robin Twigge
Location: Hill View Farm Upper Brook Lane Needham Norfolk IP20 9LJ
Proposal: Replacement single storey rear extension Application Type: Householder
 - It was agreed to support this application as the work is not visible from the road.
 - Ref: 2022/0175
Applicant: Ms April Mason
Location: 58 High Road Needham IP20 9LB
Proposal:
Single storey rear extension, flat roof car port to side and front roof extension to create gable end. Changes to fenestration and external alterations.
Application Type: Householder
 - It was agreed to make no comment.
- b. Decision:
- i. No decision:
- Ref: 2021/2274
Applicant: Mrs S Simmonds
Location: 116 High Road Needham IP20 9LG
Proposal:
Replacement of roof structure and thatched roof covering. Repairs to timber frame gables. Internal repairs of ceilings and wall coverings.
Application Type: Listed Building Consent
 - Ref: 2021/1002
Applicant: Mr De Bernieres
Location: 93 High Road Needham Norfolk IP20 9LF
Proposal: Demolition of front porch and associated making good
Application Type: Listed Building Consent
 - Ref: 2021/1877
Applicant: Mr Rhys Thomas
Location: 149 High Road Needham IP20 9LG
Proposal:
Replacement front door and frame
Application Type: Listed Building Consent
- ii. Approved with Conditions:
- Ref: 2021/2433
Applicant: Mr M Massey
Location: The Red Lion 117 High Road Needham IP20 9LG
Proposal: Full Planning Permission for Erection of 3 No. Holiday Lets with Provision of Car Parking and Landscaping Application Type: Full Planning Permission
 - Ref: 2022/0093
Applicant: Mrs L. Quick
Location: 58 Needham Road Needham Norfolk IP20 9JY
Proposal: Erection of single storey extension
Application Type: Householder
- iii. Refused: none.
- iv. Discharge of condition: none.
- v. Withdrawn:
- Ref 2021/2702
Proposal: Single storey extension, internal alterations and garage conversion

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Location: 60A High Road Needham Norfolk IP20 9LB
Applicant: Mr L Rolingson
Application Type: Householder

vi. Appeal:

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Local Planning Authority Reference: 2021/0145
DCLG Reference APP/L2630/D/21/3273133,
Location: 66 High Road Needham IP20 9LB
Appeal By: Mr P Bee 66 High Road Needham IP20 9LB

12. Play area:

- a. To receive Play Area Inspection Report.
 - Robin Twigge reported that the play area is safe and in good condition.
- b. Arrangements for an Annual Report.
 - Nothing to report.

13. Correspondence.

- a. Correspondence circulated:

14. AOB - items for inclusion at next meeting.

- None.

Action Points from this Meeting:

- Report: **Action: The Clerk.**
 - Trees have fallen in the ditch by HLC pallets.
 - Report that Brook Lane needs clearing.
- The Village Hall Committee will write a letter of thanks to the person who carried out repairs on the roof of the Hall. **Action: Village Hall Committee.**
- The Chairman will discuss the work on the footpaths that is being carried out with SPH Garden Services. **Action: The Chairman.**

Meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.