

Needham Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 20th March 2023 at Needham Village Hall.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Andrew Major, Robin Twigge, James McMillan, Belinda Della, Georgina Frost and Gary Cropley.

No members of the public.

Clerk: Philip Freeman.

Public Forum:

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

Report from County Councillor Martin Wilby:

Thanks to everyone for the many kind messages of support that have been sent to me over the past few weeks following my recent operation, this support has helped me greatly and I am on the road to recovery. New road safety schemes are to be introduced in almost 100 towns and villages across Norfolk. The projects, including traffic calming measures, vehicle-activated signs, extra signage, bus shelters and new footpaths, form part of Norfolk County Council's parish partnership initiative. First launched in September 2011, it invites communities to bid for cash to make much-needed improvements to slow down traffic and make our towns and villages safer. A total of £770,000 is to be spent on 95 schemes across the county, with County Hall putting in just under £345,000 and the Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership £40,556. The rest of the money comes via match funding from town and parish councils. Locally there are schemes planned for Pulham Market, Starston, Tivetshall and Redenhall with Harleston.

NCC has unveiled plans to join forces with Saffron Housing to build houses in Harleston, for people who want to live independently but with extra support. The plan will see the creation of an independent living scheme made up of 91 new flats, with a mix of 16 two-bed and 75 one-bed flats, on land east of Mendham Lane. The county council will put in just over £4m into the scheme. The Harleston scheme would be fourth in Norfolk, following ones in Fakenham, Acle and Stalham. Construction should start on site in June 2024. Properties can be owned or rented and are available to those who pay for their own care and those funded by the council.

A multi-million-pound boost means Norwich is to get 55 more electric buses – making it one of the first cities in the country with a depot running an all-electric fleet. An £11.5m investment will see First Buses getting new double-decker electric buses, in addition to the 15 single-deckers which had previously secured funding. The money from the government's Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme means the First Bus Norwich depot at Roundtree Way will be one of the first outside London to go fully electric from March next year.

A crackdown on abuse of blue badges for disabled people has seen 10 people taken to court and dozens of warnings for misuse. NCC's determination to stamp out the abuse bucked the national trend, where more than 100 councils failed to take any legal action. County Hall employs an enforcement officer who goes undercover on patrols, which helped lead to 10 people being taken to court for misuse of the badges. In addition, 24 verbal or written warnings issued and 28 badges were seized with 19 of them subsequently destroyed. Across Norfolk, 35,000 valid badges are held, entitling the holder park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours in vehicles they drive or travel in.

Looking forward to the many King's Coronation events to be held over the weekend 6th to 8th May 2023, there is funding available from South Norfolk Council to support town and parish council's, all details on their website. Hoping for good Weather.

- The Chairman will write to Cllr Wilby on behalf of the Parish Council to send him their best wishes for a quick recovery and to Cllr Savage to thank him for the support he has given the Parish Council. **Action: The Chair.**

1. Apologies for Absence.

- Adrian Mowbray and he is unfortunately leaving Needham and standing down as a Parish Councillor.

2. Councillor's Declaration of Interests in Agenda Items.

- None.

Needham Parish Council.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
 - The minutes of the previous meetings on 9th January 2023 and 13th February 2023 were agreed as true records and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Councillor Della and seconded by Councillor Twigge (9th January 2023) and proposed by Councillor Twigge and seconded by Councillor Frost.
4. Matters Arising:

Updates in red font.

 - Robin Twigge will try to find someone to cut the Nook. **Action: Robin Twigge.**
Completed: Two quotations have been received for the work for biweekly cutting: Stephen Crisp at £60 per cut for the Nook and Gareth who is Chair of Brockdish Parish Council has quoted £650 for the work during the growing season. There was a discussion of how frequently the grass will need to be cut and it was agreed that the Chair should contact Mr Crisp.
 - Speed Watch will be discussed at a meeting of the Village Hall Committee. **Completed but no one has volunteered to be involved.**
 - The Clerk will send Robin Twigge information about planning applications on Eye Airfield which could affect the River Waveney. **Action: The Clerk. Completed:**
 - The Chair will send Gary Cropley the contact details of SPH Garden Services to arrange for a bramble to be cut back on the footpath at Brook Lane. **Action: The Chair. Completed:**
 - The Chair will report an incident of fly tipping on Mather Lane. **Action: The Chair. Completed:**
 - The Clerk will send the precept form to South Norfolk Council **Action: The Clerk. Completed:**
5. Reports from Committees.
 - a. Report from the Village Hall Committee.
 - Quotations for flooring had been received for £950 which is recommended by the Village Hall Committee. It is for the small room which is used for smaller meetings and events.
 - Income: Wedding £450 and Elections in May £400. There may be an additional letting for a christening.
 - These were approved proposed by Gary Cropley and seconded by Georgina Frost.
 - There will be a tea party to celebrate the Coronation.
 - Dates are being arranged meetings for the remainder of the year these are agreed.
 - Village Hall Committee account: £17,018.60.
 - £2,365.49 has been recovered from a dormant Barclays Bank account. The Village Hall has raised £2,284 since the last Parish Council meeting in January.
 - The Parish Council received the grant of £200 from South Norfolk Council towards the cost of the Coronation tea party which has been credited to the Village Hall account.
 - b. Community Environment Initiative.
 - i. Nature Recovery.
 - Robin Twigge will send the Clerk the details of the Nature Recovery Scheme, details of the objectives of the scheme and any other information that is available.. **Action: Robin Twigge.**
6. Finances and Financial Support:
 - a. RFO's Report:
 - i. Unity Trust Bank account balance - parish council: £1768.62.
 - ii. Ns&i: £2,300.24p.
 - 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.

Needham Parish Council.

- 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: £362.66p
 - ii. HMRC: £78.40p
 - iii. The Link:
 - iv. SNC – Annual Charge for Dog Bins: £796.32p
 - v. ICO – Data Protection Renewal: £40.00p
 - It was agreed to pay the invoices listed above, proposed by Gary Cropley and seconded by Robin Twigge.
- c. Receipts: SNC – Grant for the Coronation: £200.00p.
- d. Request for financial support: none.
7. Waveney River Trust.
- Nothing to report.
8. Highway/footpath matters.
- a. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit on High Road, Needham.
- The police had visited the village on the morning of the Sunday before this meeting.
9. Planning:
- a. Application: none.
- b. Decision:
- i. No decision:
 - ii. Approved with Conditions: none.
- iii. Refused: none.
- iv. Discharge of condition: none.
- v. Withdrawn: none.
- 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.
10. Play area:
- a. To receive Play Area Inspection Report.
- Nothing to report and all is in order.
- b. The Nook.
- Nothing to report.
11. Correspondence.
- a. Correspondence circulated:
12. AOB - items for inclusion at next meeting.
- Councillors reminded that they should ensure that their nomination forms are submitted by the deadline if they intend to stand again as parish councillors.

Action Points from this Meeting:

- The Chairman will write to Cllr Wilby on behalf of the Parish Council to send him their best wishes for a quick recovery and to Cllr Savage to thank him for the support he has given the Parish Council. **Action: The Chair.**
- Robin Twigge will send the Clerk the details of the Nature Recovery Scheme, details of the objectives of the scheme and any other information that is available.. **Action: Robin Twigge.**

Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.