

Wreningham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Wreningham Parish Council
held virtually
on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7:30pm

In attendance: Cllr M Hill (Chairman), Cllr K Morris, Cllr J Lambourne, Cllr S Liddington

Parish Clerk: Nicky Allen

District Councillors: Nigel Legg, Gerald Francis, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

1 member of the public

1. To consider apologies for absence - Cllr H Graves
2. To receive declarations of interest - none reported
3. Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors - District Councillor reports received and circulated prior to meeting, any feedback to be given post meeting. No members of the public had any comments on the PDF

SNC Cllr Gerald Francis' report:

The last few weeks have seen a lot of activity to help shops and small businesses in several towns with road restructuring etc. Despite changes being introduced quickly and efficiently the response has been mixed. Changes in social behaviour with the lifting of some lockdown measures have also been met with similar mixed opinions. Unfortunately this is going to persist for quite some time but SNC are listening to public opinion and are doing their best to implement changes as can safely be allowed.

The Windfarm project has yet again been in the local news but despite some strong objections from various sources it seems that no particular agenda is expected to get the go ahead for several months.

SNC assets and funds are very strong and should hopefully see us through the coming months with spending and finding.

SNC Cllr Nigel Legg report:

South Norfolk Council continues to operate using video conferencing due to the Sars2 CV situation.

The possibility of holding a full Council meeting complying with the recommended safety measures is being considered at a suitable venue. At present it is difficult for members of the public to have access to the various meetings.

The Development Management Committee will continue to meet remotely at fortnightly intervals with a reduced number of members. The agenda is published on the Councils Website about a week beforehand. Those wishing to speak at the meetings should contact Democratic Services by the end of the preceding week, when suitable arrangements can be made.

Arrangements have been made in the Towns in the District to promote the local shops and businesses. The approach has been to encourage pedestrianisation with social distancing. This has meant that vehicular traffic has been restricted in the central areas.

The Councils finances have been severely affected due to loss of income from leisure centres, etc. The leisure centres will be reopened as soon as regulations

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permit. Any shortfall in revenue will be made good by transferring money from reserves for the current financial year. It is too early to know what the situation will be for the following years. There is no suggestion that any "cuts" will need to be made. The financial situation at The County Council is unclear. However it is unlikely to affect the functioning of South Norfolk Council.

SNC Cllr Vivienne Clifford-Jackson report:

Over the lockdown the Early Help Hub had access to key, previously unknown, information during lock down enabling a lot of knowledge to be gathered about the population. One example is new forms of homelessness including unregistered houses in multiple occupation, which the council hopes residents will report any they are aware of, as they are required to be licensed for the safety of the occupants.

The emergency committee that was making decisions during the crisis has now finished and usual practice of Cabinet and Full council as well as committee meetings are reinstated. The last member briefing was sent this week and the final stats of the help given were released. Over the period 2500 prescriptions were collected, 3000 shopping trips were done, 400 households in food poverty were fed and 20,000 Covid related calls were dealt with by the Help Hub. We are very fortunate to have many local examples of exemplary volunteering and support. Locally we had Rev Adrian Miller who coordinated over 100 volunteers who served 100 vulnerable people and has now been nominated as one of our community heroes. Nominations are still open until the 17th July to recognise these fine local residents.

All South Norfolk Council meetings are now on-line and open to the public. The planning Committee continues fortnightly on line with five members currently (reduced from the usual nine). So far the members have rejected the officers' recommendations on two applications since the committee went on line. The economic impact of Covid 19 is one of the considerations now due to the economic recovery imperative. A new commercial, trading, and customer focus policy committee had been formed to support this need. So far the council is stable financially having sufficient reserves at this time to maintain services. It is 25th in the national league tables in resilience and has less health needs and potential unemployment than elsewhere. So we are very privileged to live where we do. Churches are now open, as are pubs and restaurants and swimming pools from the end of the month so it appears we are over the worst of this phase of the infection.

I attended the Equinor webinar to discuss the next phase of sub-stations to be erected locally and all residents will have seen the consultation documents for this. The proposals for the Thickthorn extensions continue and consultations for the Western access road are also on-going. So there is plenty to be involved with!

Cllr Lambourne advised that the Coffee Morning at the Hall will resume on 29th July.

Cllr Legg responded to a question from the public about South Norfolk Housing Clusters -there have been some 350 expressions of interests from developers and SNC are reviewing which to include. No other information on this as the pandemic has slowed Council business.

4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting - approved, no amends – Chair signed in meeting.

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5. Administrative Issues

- Policy Review - Planning Procedure - approved, no amends
- Revised decision-making process (update to Standing Orders) - approved no amends
- Annual Village Meeting – postponed until situation allows public meetings
- Village Support Group – led by Dr Tony Wright - latest update very quiet, requests for help now are less, so good news.
- Defibrillator – Cllr Liddington arranged for the flat battery to be replaced.

6. Planning

Applications received	2020/0571 Wrenlea Two storey side extension 2020/1583 Amended application for land adjacent to the village hall 2020/1112 Wrenlea Amended Two storey side extension – Councillors recognised that some changes had been made to the application. There were no further comments. Agreed no comment for this application.
Comments agreed between meetings	2020/0571 Wrenlea Two storey side extension 2020/1583 Amended planning application for land adjacent to the village hall
Decisions	2020/0571 Wrenlea application withdrawn 2020/0327 Chestnut Cottage Top Row single storey rear and two storey side extension - approved
Information	

7. Village Maintenance and Highways

- Litter – Litter had been reported, more than normal, in verges and other places. After discussion, Cllr Lambourne suggested an additional bin for recyclable materials on the playing field. This was agreed. The chair would comment on managing litter in his part of the Mardle.

Action NA to investigate sourcing and installing a recycling bin.

Action MH Mardle item.

- Bench in playing field – the ground in front of the bench nearest the main field entrance has become eroded and threatens the stability of the bench. Need to restore surface, level it and reseed such that the area can be mown by the contractor.

Action NA to investigate getting this repaired.

- Hedgerows & verges – Agreed to share with the Village Hall their engagement of a contractor to cut the hedges. In WPC's case this is the hedging on Mill Lane beside the playing field. Also remind villagers to maintain their hedges to avoid nuisance or injury.

Action NA to contact Village Hall Committee.

Action MH Mardle item.

- Playing field – rabbit holes – Agreed that a supply of topsoil held in the Northwest corner would be useful to repair the damage caused by rabbits and creating a potential trip hazard in the field. A few tonnes will be needed.

Action NA to arrange for a supply of topsoil.

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- Basketball hoop – the hoop has been sheared off by someone. Agreed to replace it. Cllr Morris will source and fit a new hoop and fit the net in place.

Action KM to get the hoop and fit it.

- Football goal nets – the one net I place has been damaged. Agreed to obtain a new one and install one already held. The Chair has already spoken to the contractor on “net awareness”

Action KM to source and fit goal nets.

- CIL support for projects – every payment has to be spent within 5 years or be returned to SNC. Hence we have to encourage villagers to consider this available funding for public-good projects within the village. Chair asked Cllrs for their ideas. Cllr Morris suggested maps on walking routes. Agreed in principle – noted that the Footpath Wardens are liaising with NCC on the new Ketts walks in the area (see under item 9).

8. Finance

- To approve the following, circulated prior to the meeting,:
 - receive the annual Internal Audit - all reviewed
 - Confirmation of prior agreement between meetings that WPC is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and confirm exemption for 2019/20
 - Annual Governance Statement approved
 - To consider and approve the Accounting Statements for 2019/20-approved
 - To review and agree the exercise of public rights - 30 working day period must start before September 1st 2020
- To receive the financial report - no comments
- Following budgeted Parish Council spend payments approved between meetings

Cheque	Payee	£
100299	South Norfolk Community Choir	500
100300	Norfolk ALC	149.40
DD	ICO	35
100301	HMRC - Clerk Employer Tax	43
100302	Clerk Training	20
100303	Clerk Salary April/May	332.96
100304	Mr T D Wadlow Internal Audit fee	55
100305	Came & Company Parish Annual Insurance	634.66

- To approve the following payments:

	Community Heartbeat - supply of new defibrillator battery	223.20
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	Clerk stationery expense - printer cartridge	22.64
	Clerk's Salary June/July	332.96

- Virtual meeting costs - minuted agreement that expenses to be claimed and be paid, for meeting headsets (Clerk on behalf of Chair).
- Fire/Safety door in Hall - To consider a request from Village Hall Committee for WPC to sponsor a project to replace the East fire doors for improved security and additional daylight. WPC to pay the bill; WVHMC to repay net cost, WPC to reclaim VAT. Approved.

Action NA

9. Correspondence

- Kett's Country Long Distance Path - Footpath wardens are aware and they are in touch with NCC. They will advise on this proposal. (Post meeting note – NCC have confirmed that one of two potential circular walks will centre on Wreningham). Cllr Morris's information signage/map proposal to be part of Footpath Wardens' brief.

Action Footpath Wardens

- NCC's Parish Partnership – As the threshold is generally 50% Parish Council funding and our precept is so small, it is unlikely that this Parish can benefit from this proposal, so agreed we would not bid.
- CPRE Green Space Benefits – Unclear how a monthly subscription may oblige the Parish Council to support or undertake actions relating to CPRE's own policies. Cllr Lambourne agreed to investigate on behalf of the Council

Action JL to review proposal for WPC.

- Ordnance Survey - Data Usage Survey (under Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA)) - member of public has been utilising this facility for History Group research. He has found it to be beneficial and generous with its large data set. Chair completed a survey on behalf of WPC indicating that we remain interested in this agreement and any future developments.

10. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 8th September 2020.

To hold the next meeting in the Village Hall exercising social distancing protocols

Meeting Concluded at 8:30 pm.