

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILEHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor S Tooth (Chair)  
Councillor A Cutbill  
Councillor M Bergan  
Councillor M Harmer  
Councillor J Powell  
Councillor M Butler-Stoney

Eight parishioners

1. **Election of Chairman and signing of the declaration of acceptance of office**, Councillor Harmer proposed, and Councillor Butler-Stoney seconded the resolution that Councillor Cutbill is voted as Chairman.
2. **Election of Vice-Chairman and signing of the declaration of acceptance of office**, Councillor Butler-Stoney proposed, and Councillor Powell seconded the resolution that Councillor Harmer is voted as Vice Chairman.
3. **Apologies for Absence.**  
Apologies for absence was received from County Councillor Carter, who was unable to attend.
4. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.**  
There were no DPIs
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.**  
Councillor Powell proposed and Councillor Bergan seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting on 26th April 2019 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

## 6. Public Participation.

### 6.1 County and District Councillor Reports.

#### County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Annual Report 2018-2019.

Norfolk County Council agreed a net revenue budget of £409.293m on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property. The financial climate in which local government operates continues to be challenging with significant and ongoing reductions in core funding at the same time as substantial service cost pressures. The agreed council tax increase of 2.99% will enable the Council to protect vital services and will help to ensure a robust and sustainable financial position in future years. This year's budget is balanced, robust and allocates our resources across Norfolk's people and communities in the best way we can.

The Council has absorbed significant and ongoing cuts in government funding, a total of £204m between 2010-11 and 2018-19. There are significant cost pressures such as inflation, demographic changes, unfunded burdens such as the National Living Wage and the need of vulnerable social care users becoming increasingly complex. Despite those pressures the Council is continuing to deliver savings and has plans in place to deliver £79m of savings by 2021-22. This includes £32m of saving in this financial year.

The Council has also agreed a £549m, 3 year, capital programme which will pay for investment in infrastructure, property and equipment. £120m will be spent on new special schools and resource bases for children with special educational needs, £120m on the third river crossing at Yarmouth, £9m for extra care housing to help older people live independently as part of a total investment of £29m. Most of the expenditure for capital projects is borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board, a department of HM Treasury, and repaid from revenue over a long period.

Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and the Council has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. Although NCC were allowed to raise adult social care precept by 3% this was not done as all council tax rises from 2016-17 to 2018-19 are expected, by government, to be spent on adult social care. Thus, this year's council tax bill shows an adult social care precept of £96.05 for a band D property with no increase for this year. Additionally, government has awarded the Council a grant of £4.2m to help alleviate winter pressure on the Counties health and social care services. The money will go towards measures to avoid unnecessary delays in hospitals for people with mental health difficulties; bolster the short term capacity in the care market and to provide reablement support to enable people to regain their ability to live independently.

There are also substantial financial pressures on Children's Services. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities for children and the government has increased the top of the age range from 18 to 25. There are 1200 children in the care of the Council (the numbers have stabilised), 3000 children in special and complex needs schools, 2,900 children in need (590 with CP plans) and 20,000 children with special educational needs. The under 25 population of Norfolk is 243,00. As an example, home to school transport costs £27.7m pa, placements and support for looked after children costs £57m pa and education and care for children with SEN £56.4m pa out of a total budget of £186m.

The government awarded the Council £12.7m to fund pot hole repairs and highway improvement schemes. The highway team have been doing a good job over the summer and have largely caught up with the backlog of work. The extra cash must all be spent by the end of the financial year so some improvement schemes which have been shelved though lack of funding have been resurrected. In my area much needed resurfacing of 2 miles the B1145 was completed in February. Resurfacing work at 3 busy junctions will be carried out before the end of March. Norfolk has been ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 28 similar councils in a national highways and transport survey. The highest scores for the county were for traffic levels and congestion and the condition of roads and footpaths.

The Council continues to lobby government and the Highways Agency, through the A47 Alliance, to fund the dualling of the A47 from Peterborough to Yarmouth. The stretch of road between Tuddenham and Easton has been approved and work will start in 2021/22, this will provide a continuous dual carriageway link between Dereham and Norwich. Other schemes in Norfolk to 2020 include junction improvements at Thickthorn and at Yarmouth and dualling between Blofield and North Burlingham. Another top priority for the Council is the so-called western link, the construction of a road between the A1067 and the A47. This would link the newly completed Broadland Northway (the NDR) with the A47. The final account for the construction of the Broadland Northway has been settled in the sum of £205m.

Last May the Council took the decision to revert to the Cabinet system of governance from May 2019 (an earlier transition was not possible legally). The recent departure of the Managing Director has given rise to an opportunity to move to an Executive Leader model. This would mean that the Council would be run on a day to day basis through weekly meetings between Cabinet members and the Senior Management Team (the paid Directors) with the Leader as Chair with all decisions being put through Cabinet or promulgated for consideration by Members. A Scrutiny Committee chaired by a member of the opposition will monitor outcomes and will run a call-in system where decisions taken by the Executive Members and Cabinet can be called in by Members for discussion. 3 Select Committees will develop policies and make recommendations to Cabinet.

An additional £11m contract has been let to increase the superfast (>10mbps) broadband coverage from 92% to 95% in Norfolk. This will typically give coverage to properties and businesses that cannot be connected by Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) solutions and will use other technologies including Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The small improvement in coverage for a sizeable investment reflects the difficulty in reaching premises remote from the FTTC solution. NCC have secured a government grant of £8m to allow a full fibre broadband connection to 208 of Norfolk's schools, 108 of NCCs corporate buildings and 34 fire stations. This will allow broadband speeds of 1Gigabit (about 20 times faster than the average speed currently). Additionally, nearby businesses will be allowed to piggyback on to these connections and government grants will be available to cover part of the cost of the connection.

NCC has won praise for its approach to improving mobile phone coverage. A survey was carried out on mobile phone signals across the county and the results were used to create an interactive map and more than 200 council owned sites have been identified in areas of poor mobile phone reception. These sites are being offered to mobile operators as potential sites for new masts

#### **4.2 Public Comments.**

A parishioner stated that the bus shelter glass was broken, Clerk will check insurance excess and arrange for it to be repaired.

A parishioner had written a letter to the Parish Council with concerns of the Church graveyard and the lack of upkeep. The church graveyard is not the Parish Councils statutory responsibility to cut the grass, the Parish Council will consider a donation to the church if a request was made.

Councillor Butler-Stoney reported that no one had been employed this year to cut the grass. A request was made to cut the path as soon as possible.

### **7. Matters to report**

#### **7.1 Flooding to the West of Mileham.**

Mark Henderson has agreed to attend the next Parish meeting in June to discuss the flooding plan. The Mileham flooding liaison representative has written a report about the flooding in Mileham and it was agreed that the clerk will add the report to the planning application of the 6 houses on Litcham Road. The clerk will also add these comments to the Church and Village entry.

The Mileham flooding liaison representative is thinking of setting up a group in Mileham, it would be useful to discuss and circulate the information in the minutes and circulate around the village.

Members of the parish council would be welcome to join, and the two groups could help one another in trying to improve the situation in the village. The Clerk to write to District Councillor Kiddle-Morris about the flooding in west of Mileham, bring to his attention the road level and kerb level being lower, which is increasing the flooding risks.

#### **7.2 To Receive report on the purchase of a new notice board and update on Mileham Village Board**

The clerk obtain a quote to refurbish the Mileham Village Sign, the Councillors would like the clerk to obtain a further quote. The clerk circulated a few examples of new Parish Council Notice Boards, it was agreed to obtain a quote for a notice board that was low maintenance and the correct size to hold A4 sheets of paper.

#### **7.3 Defibrillator**

No update on the arrival of the unit.

#### **7.4 Mileham School and Land Sale**

District Councillor Kiddle-Morris attended a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May, no update on the sale.

#### **7.5 Insurance on Playing Field and forming a Sub-committee**

The clerk request for Councillor Butler-Stoney to bring in the Insurance certificate and this was agreed, so that the clerk can cancel the old insurance and add it onto the Parish Council Insurance policy but unfortunately the Insurance certificate was not presented. The Clerk reported that we now have 3 members who have volunteered to join the subcommittee and Councillor Powell agreed to join as the Parish Councillor representative.

#### **7.6 Speedwatch.**

Councillor Powell has compared the latest SAM2 results with the January 2019 and October 2018 results which indicates the level of speed through the village and the volume of traffic although fairly static had increased. It was reported that we have some excess speeds and a way needed to be found from the given data to try and target times of the frequent speeding. This would be looked at in the Community Speed Watch scheme, which a villager was in the process of setting up.

Councillor Powell suggested that the siting of white gates at either end of the village (as per other Norfolk Villages) might help reduce speed. The Parish Council have agreed to look at the feasibility of this and to potentially apply under the Local Partnership Scheme for a grant to contribute to the cost of these, they are approximately £650 each

## **7.7 Social Media**

Councillor Powell, would like this to be added to the Agenda each meeting for discussion. The clerk is not able to comment on the Mileham Facebook site unless she feels that the discussion should be discussed under the Parish Council Meeting.

## **7.8 Previous Clerks Laptop**

The clerk reported that no-one has shown any interest in the sale of the Laptop, therefore all Councillors agree to sell it on a selling site.

## **7.9 White Gates**

This item was previously discussed under speedwatch

## **8. Highways .**

### **8.1 To receive a report on highways matters raised at the previous meeting.**

The Clerk reported the “children playing sign” to be considered with Breckland. The drop down kerbs in the west of Litcham are on road level and Clerk is to email District Councillor to ask for his help.

### **8.2 To note any new problems within the Parish**

Councillor Harmer reported that the grass verges are not being cut, the previous clerk reported that the rangers are now working their way around and should be in Mileham soon. Councillor Harmer reported that overhanging hedges on back lane are covering the 30mph sign, this was established that this was a private hedge and Councillor Butler-Stoney will arrange for this to be cut. The Clerk reported that the playing field bin was reported twice to Breckland, but this had now be established that this bin is privately owned and not owned by Breckland, Councillor Butler-Stoney will empty this bin as soon as possible.

### **8.3 Dog Fouling**

Dog fouling is still happening on the pathways on Litcham Road. To be aware of owners that are not clearing up after their dog can be reported to the dog warden.

## **9. Planning**

9.1.1 3PL/2018?1564/0-Litcham Road, construction of 6 new dwellings including 2 affordable units- plans re-submitted with amendments.

### **9.2 Decisions**

9.2.1 3PL/2019/0324/0-Mimosa, 62 Litcham road, Mileham, erection of one and a half storey dwelling and garage.refused due to flooding risk

9.2.2 TPO 2019-06 Land adjacent Firs Bungalow, stanfield road, Mileham. Tree Preservation Scheme was implemented. The Clerk will request new hard copy plans.

## **10. Finance**

### **10.1 To approve the exemption certificate for the accounts for 2018/2019.**

Councillor Harmer proposed and Councillor Powell to seconded the resolution that the certificate be approved.

### **10.2 To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2018/2019**

Councillor Bergan proposed and Councillor Harmer seconded the resolution that the statement be approved.

### **10.3 To approve the Accounting Statement for the financial year 2018/2019**

Councillor Powell proposed and Councillor Harmer seconded the resolution that the Accounting statement to be approved and were duly signed by the chairman.

### **10.4 Budgets as Circulated.**

The previous clerk will update the new clerk with the New agreed Budgets. Councillor Butler-Stoney proposed the budgets and Councillor Powell seconded the resolution.

### **10.5 Balances and cheques for authorisation.**

Councillor Powell proposed and Councillor Bergan seconded the resolution that the balances and cheques for authorisation which had been circulated be approved. All were in favour.

Balances:

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### Business Premium Account.

Balance at 31.12.18	£8,598.34
Interest 04.03.19	<u>£4.29</u>
Balance at 31.03.19	<b>£8,602.63</b>

### Community Account.

Balance at 30.03.19			£3,788.52
Less Cheques authorised	681	£290.99	
	680	£71.00	£361.99
			£3,426.53
PLUS DIRECT DEBIT FROM BRECKLAND			<u>£3,500.00</u>

Balance at 30.04.19 **£6,926.53**

Less unpresented

Cheques

682,683,684,685,686	£809.44	£809.44
687,688,689,690	£2,412.96	<u>£2,412.96</u>

Balance at 30.04.19 **£3,702.13**

Cheques for  
authorisation

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
691	B J Leigh, salary	Salary for April 12 hours at £15.00 less HMRC £36.00	£144.00
692	D. K. Secker, Salary	Salary for May, 16 hours at £10.16 less HMRC £32.60	£129.00
693	HMRC	PAYE	£68.60
694	Mr M Bergin	Internal Auditor	£20.00

**10.6 To consider joining Norfolk Parish Training and Support.**

It was agreed that Mileham Parish Council will become a member of Norfolk PTS and the Clerk will arrange for an invoice to be sent and arrange payment.

**11. Correspondence.**

Councillor Butler-Stoney requested an invoice to be raised to a tenant of land. The Clerk will open a new account for Mileham allotment survey land and the income and expenditure will be noted.

**12. Matters for the next meeting.**

The co-option of two vacancies for the council and invite the New Playing field sub-committee to attend.

**11. Date of next meeting.**

This was confirmed as Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21:23