

## SMALLBURGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the village hall, commencing at 7:45p.m.

Present: Councillors Mr. A D Urwin (Chairman), Mr. C Dean (Vice Chairman), Mr R Debbage, Mr. K Wilby, Mr. T Coleman, Mr. T Hardingham & Mrs. A Cousins.

In attendance: J Butler, Parish Clerk, three members of the public & Councillor Dixon (NCC) (for part of the meeting).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Cllr S. Shaw (North Norfolk DC).
2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING  
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as being a true record of the business of the meeting.
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF THE CURRENT AGENDA  
Item 6. Cllr A D Urwin. Item 12. Cllr T. Hardingham.
4. MATTERS ARISING
  - a. Public rights of way – Highways response confirms the land owner can drive on the footpath. The mud has been cleared away in the direction towards the landowners property but it is muddy in the other direction. **Action: Clerk to report to the Highway Ranger to clear.**
5. BROADS AUTHORITY FUTURE PLANS
  - a. Expanding the Broads area – Cllr Cousins reported that the Broads Authority plan to extend their boundary to include all parishes that are currently half and half (BA and NNDC areas). Smallburgh is one of the 90 parishes that would be affected.
  - b. Broads Authority also are changing their governance structure in May by taking off elected members, leaving only BA members appointed by the Secretary of State. It was agreed that the Council needs to talk to parishioners and neighbouring parishes well in advance of a consultation to form the Councils views and response to these proposals. Some early views include concerns over what BA Local Plan may look like and whether it will differ with the NNDC Local Plan, the impact on housing and planning and that it should be an elected body otherwise there will not be a timescale on BA Members term of office.
6. DILHAM CANAL  
An honesty box has been erected by the landowner at the slipway of Dilham Canal charging £4 for use of the section of the canal from the river junction at Wayford Bridge to Tonnage Bridge. The fees are supposed to help with the upkeep of the slipway. There is an 1812 Act which contains a special provision preventing the original canal company from charging any tolls or dues "For any Boat, Barge, or Vessel which shall be navigated or pass upon any part of the river Ant which at the Time of passing this Act is navigable to Dilham". It is unclear whether this Act has been repealed. **Action: Clerk to find out if Dilham PC or East Ruston PC have received any complaints or enquiries regarding this and to contact the Broads Authority for their views regarding this and whether charging this way should be permitted bearing in mind the 1812 Act.**
7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS/POLICE REPORT  
Public – nothing raised. Police – nothing raised but there have been two accidents and a white van was broken into and damaged since the last meeting.  
Cllr. Dixon was asked about Broads Authority Membership and confirmed some Members are appointed by the Secretary of State because of their enhanced skills and knowledge in

this specialist area and some are appointed by the Leader of the Local Authority (where Cabinet systems are operated) and therefore have been elected by local people. Cllr Dixon believes this is the best way to elect them as not everybody within each ward or parish lives within the BA boundary however the selection process could be improved by holding a joint interview with the respective Leader and BA. This would prevent appointments becoming political.

Cllr Dixon reported that the roundabout proposal at the A149 and A1151 junction at Smallburgh is unlikely to be progressed. This is because the landowner is unwilling to engage with NCC Highways and therefore the pragmatic decision has been made to progress with other proposed sites, of the same priority, where landowners are cooperating. A compulsory purchase order would be required to progress the Smallburgh site which is very time consuming to achieve. Unless the PC is aware of a way the current impasse can be relieved Cllr Dixon is unsure of progress in the future. The land is needed to re-route the road on approach to the roundabout to allow for filter lanes which are required where 50mph zones approach a roundabout.

Cllr Dixon reported that NCC budget for 2019/20 will be discussed at a meeting in mid-February. Cllr Dixon expects an increase in the precept similar to that of last year but he is unsure government will sanction a 3% increase in adult social services budget as they have done in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Cllr Dixon reported changes at NNDC as a result of a vote of no confidence in the Conservative led administration. This administration was removed by the constitution and replaced by a cross party administration led by Liberal Democrats. There is a Cabinet of 7 Cllrs; 4 are Lib Dem; 2 Conservative (including Cllr Dixon) and 1 Independent. This administration will run until the May elections. The May elections will result in different ward configurations to those currently in place. Cllrs will reduce from 48 to 40. In May Smallburgh will be part of the new Hoveton & Tunstead Ward which will have 2 Cllrs. Cllr Dixon intends to stand.

## 8. CORRESPONDANCE

- a. NNDC email from new Leader for the PC priorities/ideas – Due to concerns over changes in BA Members, it was agreed to email the priority that planning matters are returned to the local community and not with an unelected body in the future – **Clerk to feedback.**
- b. NCC Norwich Western Link consultation – agreed unanimously on option C – **Clerk to feedback.**
- c. NNDC – Open space, sport and recreation study - noted.
- d. Letter from student at Stalham High School regarding funding for plants. It was agreed that cuttings from parishioners would be offered as donations rather than funding – **Clerk to feedback.**

## 9. HIGHWAYS

- a. Ranger visit – Clerk to report muddy footpath that needs clearing as per Item 4a. Dirty sign – **Cllr Cousins to confirm location.**

## 10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. Budget report to date – nothing raised.
- b. Successful bursary - £50 has been awarded by SLCC to be split with Dilham.

## 11. INVOICES TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT

	£
a) Parish Clerk's salary – mileage and office expenses	356.35
b) HMR&C – income tax deducted	74.00
c) CGM Playing field (Nov and Dec invoices)	167.00
d) SLCC 11 <sup>th</sup> edition Local Council Administration	134.79
e) NPTS – election course	17.50
f) Town & Country – January insert	11.30

**Resolved: to make all payments as listed above.**

Income: Slipway fees and donations	£TBC
Mooring fees	All paid

12. PLANNING MATTERS
- a. Applications for consideration: PF/18/1855 revised plans - Members discussed the revised plans and unanimously agreed they had no objections.
  - b. Notifications: PF/18/0464 Smallburgh Hall decision: refused – noted.

13. ITEMS FOR REPORTING FOR FUTURE AGENDA
- a. Dilham Canal update
  - b. Broads Authority future plans

14. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING  
12th February 2019 7.45pm Smallburgh Village Hall.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM  
Consider quotes for grounds maintenance at The Staithe – it was unanimously agreed to appoint Norse to carry out this work for the next 3 years. **Action: Clerk to seek quotes for grounds maintenance at the playing field.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

**Signed:**

**Chairman**

**Date:**