



WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Caroline Boyden

Chair: Nick Dyble

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MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2021 FROM 7.30PM ONLINE

PRESENT: Cllr Nick Dyble (ND) Chair), Cllr Hazel Dobson, Cllr Trevor Roberts (TR), Cllr G. Coates, Cllr Peter Brown (PB)- part time, Cllr Mark Day (MD), Cllr Rosie Dyble (RD), Cllr P Kunes (PK), Cllr Sandra Squire (SS) and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk.
One member of the public was in attendance.

Open Session for Parishioners Questions – none

1. **Welcome** – a formal welcome was given by the Chair, Cllr N Dyble.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. G. Roberts due to IT issues - this was accepted and approved by the council.

3. **COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none**

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 16th December 2020, having been previously distributed to all members, they were accepted as correct and signed. Proposed Cllr T Roberts, Seconded Cllr R Dyble. Unanimously accepted.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

a. School Crossing/Speed restriction update - ND had made contact regarding the replacement of the lollipop lady with her manager and was advised that a full survey had been carried out but there was a delay on a decision to replace. An update will provided to ND as soon as a decision has been made. The issue of the crossing lights not being turned on was raised and ND suggested someone from the school takes this over as they just require turning on each day, and he will ask the Manager if the former lollipop lady can continue to turn them on. ACTION ND

The parking by the school of the builders had improved slightly although the view from the junction was still impeded by vans. PK mentioned that parking on the zig zags was illegal and the enforcement officer was required to attend once the school re-opens. The 20mph if in effect when the flashing lights are on and this is also enforceable.

b. Market Land Survey update – The Clerk and SS had been in touch with the Highways following the email received on the 24th of December advising that 50mph had been agreed rather than the 40mph in the middle section. As this meeting had been held with no representation on our behalf, a formal complaint will be raised by SS and another meeting to be held to include full representation. ND raised the point of the money and time involved had been executed very badly. The survey took place during the first lockdown with limited vehicles on the road. Walpole Parish Council were in agreement with the 40mph being enforced but nothing had been received from Terrington Parish Council as yet. ACTION SS/CB

c. CIL project update – The additional dog bin was discussed following the requirements received from BCKLWN and it was decided to go ahead with the process including map location & photographs. Clerk to update the listing. ACTION CB/ND

6. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. New application - Conversion of integral garage and first floor extension at Ravensdene, 8 Little Holme Road was discussed and support of this was proposed by Cllr Coates, seconded by Cllr T Roberts and Reserved Matters, and unanimously accepted.
- b. The application for the storage unit at the Nursery on Station Road has been extended.
- c. MD raised the issue of builders at the site next to the school, working weekends and long hours. He has put in a complaint to BCKLWN and the possibility of enforcements was discussed with the original planning paperwork to be checked to see if working times were listed and can be enforced. PK & SS advised that such enforcement was very rare.

ACTION MD/ND

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To accept accounts:

- a. December 20 bank statements and bank reconciliation- acceptance proposed by Cllr N Dyble, seconded by Cllr R Dyble, and unanimously accepted.
- b. Financial Review for December including payments/receipts- acceptance proposed by Cllr. T Roberts, seconded by Cllr N Dyble, and unanimously accepted.
- c. Quarter 3 financial review discussed, and acceptance proposed by Cllr R Dyble, seconded by Cllr T Roberts, and unanimously accepted.
- d. Payments for January were reviewed, and acceptance proposed by Cllr N Dyble, seconded By Cllr Coates, and unanimously accepted.

Clerk Dec Salary	£252.86
Clerk Dec expenses	£ 25.00
HMRC	£ 63.00

- e. Discussions were held regarding the draft budget and it was agreed to accept £9426.64 with precept of £8419.00. Proposed RD, seconded GC and all in favour.

8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Sandra Squires reported as follows:

National Lockdown: Stay at Home - Go to GOV.UK for a full list of restrictions and when you can leave your home. You should always stay local if leaving home - unless it's necessary to go further, for example to go to work. Stay local means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

If you have any of the [coronavirus symptoms](#) you must self-isolate straightway and [get a test](#). You must continue to isolate if you test positive or are told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

You can be fined up to £10,000 if you do not isolate. [Get support to self-isolate](#).

The Government has also developed a [series of posters](#) to help display information about the national lockdown in England.

Norfolk Winter Covid Support Scheme – We continue to provide set up a special support scheme to help Norfolk residents get through winter. It's for anyone who is experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. Further details are available [here](#).

Covid cases are rising rapidly in all areas of Norfolk, there is no room for complacency. Levels of infection are high everywhere, including in rural areas. With 1 in 3 people not having any symptoms, and numbers of covid patients in our hospitals rising daily, it is so important everyone sticks to the rules. You really can't be too careful.

Since 1st July 2020 there have been 24, 142 cases in Norfolk. 7,889 of those occurred in the last 14 days.

There are 771 people in hospital (up 23 from last week) and 43 patients in critical care (down 4)

55 further deaths have been recorded to 12th January 2021, taking the cumulative total to 755.

142 Open Outbreaks in care settings, 57 in businesses, 34 in education settings and 56 in health & emergency settings.

Bed occupancy, as a combined figure across the Norfolk Trusts is 91.3% as of Tuesday 12th January.

NCC have launched a new campaign encouraging people to Stay Home, Stay Local & Shop Safely.

Council Service Updates

Schools – closed except for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. Early Years Childcare remains open

Libraries & Mobile Libraries – closed

Recycling Centres – Open but with social distancing measures in place. Reuse shops are closed

Museums – closed

Registration Office – no marriage ceremonies taking place except exceptional circumstances, births can still be registered by appointment only, registration of deaths is being conducted remotely by telephone.

Carbon reduction plans unveiled - Wide-ranging plans to reduce the County Council's carbon emissions from 11.6 million tonnes per year to zero by 2030 have been unveiled. Tree planting, support for green transport and the use of the Burlingham Estate to demonstrate environmental good practice are among the measures being taken by Norfolk County Council.

Last year, the Council adopted an environment policy. An update report to the Council's Cabinet reveals a series of measures are underway, including:

Plans to plant one million trees over five years, working with partners, communities and landowners

A £1.5m investment in active travel, including cycling and walking

Development of plans to demonstrate environmental best practice on the County Council's Burlingham Estate. Work with Norwich City Council and UK Power Networks on on-street electric car charging points.

Further work to install LED streetlights across Norfolk

The Council is also supporting development of a Norfolk and Suffolk 25-year Environment Plan to protect, conserve and enhance the region's environment.

Holt Hall

On 11th January a special council meeting was held to try to persuade the council not to close and dispose of Holt Hall. There is some discussion whether the idea to sell it, came before or after an approach by a party to purchase it. It is believed the party involved is Greshams School, although this can't be confirmed. Holt Hall has been providing outdoor education for generations of Norfolk schoolchildren for the last 70 years.

The situation we are in today shows how important being outdoors and in nature is to our mental and physical health. Holt Hall has now been declared an asset of community value, so it can't be sold until the Friends of Holt Hall have been given the opportunity to raise money to keep it.

Judicial Review

Following a change to care charges in July 2019, and the controversial introduction of the Minimum Income Guarantee which left many severely disabled people in Norfolk in financial hardship, a Judicial Review in December decided that NCC had discriminated against those severely disabled people who were unable to work. As a result, a new charging policy is to be developed in conjunction with those who receive care, all extra charges introduced the former policy are to be repaid. I'm pleased to know the claimant in the Judicial Review and to have been able to provide some small level of support. This decision affects severely disabled people right across Norfolk and in other councils around the Country. I am now in discussions with NCC over the refunds as the plan was to make payment back to care accounts, which to my mind is more of a credit note than a refund. Discussions are ongoing.

County Council Elections

With the country under lockdown and local elections due to take place in May, there have been lots of discussions over whether the election should be postponed. Currently there are no plans to postpone the election although both the LGA and Councils are requesting the Government delays until the Autumn. There are several reasons for this, firstly for safety and the belief that holding an election could potentially put people at risk. There is guidance for how to run a polling station and the count during a pandemic, although none of it has taken into account that volunteers at polling stations are less likely to want to help out and that it would make the count longer and also more expensive for the Districts.

Also, under lockdown rules there are exemptions from the rules to go to vote and to hold a count, but there are none for campaigning and leafletting and we have been told we are not allowed to leave our houses for those activities. Which would make getting signatures on the form and getting to talk to our electorate, much more difficult.

The Independent Group members at NCC emailed our local MP's to express our concerns and to highlight to the Government that a decision on this should be made sooner rather than later. I personally emailed both James Wild and Elizabeth Truss last week and to date have received no response.

The importance of the census in March was raised and all parishes are asked to promote where possible.

Cllr Kunes advised that the crematorium was busy and making additional cremations on behalf of Boston due to a fire at their crematorium. The Borough Council main budget had a large hole due to the lack of income from car parking fees and the situation was very concerning. Currently they have 2-3 years of reserves. The increase in electric cars has led to more charging points and a tree planting scheme will be announced shortly.

TR raised the issue of the dykes and ditches, especially on Station Road North, being full and pumping out onto fields. An onsite meeting is required with the landowner and relevant parties to look at flooding etc. PK will look to arrange this in line with the report. ACTION PK

9. Correspondence/Communications

- a. A parishioner had kindly offered to litter pick and RD to contact regarding using the litter pickers/bags that we have available. ACTION RD
- b. The new CIL funding was discussed and could be considered for help with any work on the dykes etc.
- c. NC and CB had attended a training session earlier today on Data Protection and our current Policy and Privacy Statement are in line with current regulations. However further discussions to be made with an information audit to take place. ACTION CB

10. Update on SAM: Figures from the Sutton Road North from the 30mph show an average speed in the 30.5 mph with average daily traffic is 131 with average speed of 26mph. The maximum speed was 40mph and the full report will be available on the website.

11. CRIME AND POLICE – none

12. HIGHWAYS: PB provided photographs to the clerk showing the destruction of the verges on Station Road North caused by lorries going into the Nursery and all the information was forwarded to Highways. A copy of this and the response to be forwarded to SS. ACTION CB
The flooding at Narrows Way in King's Lynn was raised by GC and SS will pass onto PK.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Concerns were raised by all councillors regarding the issues with the dykes and ditches becoming full and the potential flood risk. It was decided that a Drainage Audit was required with all the relevant departments and organisations involved and visiting all the locations. Help was requested from SS and PK and SS will find the portfolio holder and take this further on behalf of the parish. The polystyrene sheets from a building site which blocked a ditch were also discussed.
The waste/rubbish disposal issue was raised again and details to be forwarded to SS by TR. ACTION TR/SS

14. GARDENS MAINTENANCE: The request to highways by the clerk to cut the triangle of grass at the junction with Sutton Road and Little Holme Road was returned as not being owned by NCC and contact should be made to BCKLWN instead. Ownership needs to be identified and CB to forward the details to SS for checking. ACTION CB/SS

15. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS – Cllr Coates had requested information for the website, but nothing received to date.

The internal auditor was discussed, and CB advised a recommended auditor from NPTS would charge £50, giving a small saving on last year. This was proposed by Cllr Coates, seconded by Cllr N Dyble and unanimously accepted.

16. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Flooding Issues
- Administration of new dog waste bin
- School Crossing update including lights

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 17th February 2021

The meeting closed at 9.30pm