

# Lessingham and Hempstead with Eccles Parish Council

## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

At Lessingham Village Hall

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - 7.30pm

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend. At item 5. the public will be invited to attend to give their views/questions to the Parish Council on issues on the Agenda or raise issues for consideration of inclusion at future meetings. This item will generally be limited to 15 mins duration. **WEARING OF MASKS WHILST MOVING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IN PLACE.**

Present: M Henderson (Chair), A Cull (minute taker), D Reynolds, J Holden, M Perry. NNDC L Shires, 2 members of the public

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

### 1. Apologies

NCC Richard Price – Accepted

Cllr S Bennett

Clerk C Hummel – personal reasons

### 2. Declaration of Interests

Members are invited to declare a previously undisclosed interest relating to items on the agenda - NONE

### 3. To approve as accurate minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the last meeting of the council on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were AGREED with 1 alteration. Proposed D Reynolds, seconded J Holden.

### 4. Co-option

Following a review of the application made to the parish council to fill the vacancy of a parish councillor. It was AGREED unanimously that Melanie Perry be accepted to the parish council.

### 5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

5.1 Sand at Eccles – Resident D Stannard gave a presentation regarding the issue at Eccles. NNDC Cllr L Shires agreed to write to the environment Agency to request a site meeting to discuss what solutions could be implemented. Cllr Shires will inform the Parish Council of any progress.

### 6. Public participation (15 minutes)

6.1 To receive reports from Police/Police Newsletter, County and District Councillor – See Appendix 1

6.2 To receive questions from the public relating to items on the agenda. NONE

### 7. Planning

PF/21/2330: Alterations to roof on west elevation to increase roof line; insertion of windows to first floor.

Pear Tree Farm, School Road, Lessingham, Norfolk, NR12 0DJ – NO OBJECTION

RV/21/2258: Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission PF/95/1038 to permit year-round holiday occupancy. Wayfarer, Sand Hills, Eccles-On-Sea, Norfolk, NR12 0SR – NO OBJECTION

RV/21/2257: Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission PF/95/1038 to permit year-round holiday occupancy. Field Crest, Sand Hills, Eccles-On-Sea, Norfolk, NR12 0SR – NO OBJECTION

### 8. Revision of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Review to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – deferred to the next meeting

### 9. Correspondence for information

9.1 Norfolk ALC – Certificate as a founding member of the association - NOTED

9.2 RSPB – Habitat work at Eccles for the Little Tern Colony – Alice Skehel from RSPB gave a short presentation regarding the little Tern colony at Eccles and an explanation why the removal of some Marram grass from the beach in order to extend their habitat and encourage nesting would be beneficial. This was well received by councillors and the RSPB representatives were thanked for the talk. Alice would keep the parish council updated on progress.

9.3 Resident – Antisocial behaviour on the beach at Eccles – Cllr Richard not present to give an update so will look to include this at future meeting

### 10. Finance

10.1 Community Account – As at 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 £3,727.42

Savings Account – As at 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 £1,117.21

10.2 To authorise the following payments for September 2021: AGREED. Proposed J Holden, Seconded M Perry  
C Hummel - Salary August & September 2021 £260.00

**11. Any Other Business for Future Meeting**

SAM2 – to return to Lessingham from Hickling

**12. Date of Next Meeting**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

**Appendix 1**

Cllr Lucy Shires, 07929301978 email: Lucy.shires@north-norfolk.gov.uk

**What's going on at North Norfolk District Council?**

As Property Services Portfolio Holder I was pleased to announce the contract to run the staff restaurant at the Cromer offices has been awarded to local charity About With Friends. The charity supports adults and children with learning difficulties to live the life they choose, and part of their extensive range of services includes their work skills programme designed to teach skills for life and work. Within this service AWF have their catering department where members not only learn to cook for themselves, but for outside events such as weddings and corporate hospitality. They also run a very successful café in Cromer town centre, as well as a recently re-launched shop, moving away from a typical charity shop to an outlet for upcycled furniture and items made by its members ranging from bird boxes and art, to t-shirts printed in their workshop with original artwork.

Meadow Walk, Fakenham, an extra care facility that has recently opened its doors, has welcomed its first residents. The facility, managed by Housing 21, was designed with care needs in mind, but keeping residents' independence at its core. Each level has a different colour scheme so residents can help identify which level they are on with ease, and each room as a "memory shelf," where they can leave objects outside their door to help them remember which room is theirs.

After 7 years of uncertainty, the Council has confirmed the historic Cedars building in North Walsham is being refurbished by the District Council, aided by a grant from Historic England, to provide a flexible space for businesses or community organisations looking for a well-situated base in the town. Formerly the offices of North Walsham Town Council, The Cedars enjoys a prominent location in the centre of the market town - which is currently being rejuvenated by the £3.2million High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) scheme, led by North Norfolk District Council and supported financially with grant funding by Historic England and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

North Norfolk District Council has taken the decision to sell the residential mobile home site in Pudding Norton, known as Parklands. The 38-pitch site was retained by the Council when the adjacent housing was transferred to Victory Housing Trust in 2006. The decision was made to sell the site in March 2020, after a number of options were considered, but marketing the property was put on hold due to the COVID19 outbreak. As the restrictions are easing, the Council is preparing to progress the sale.

Stalham has come on board with hosting their first ever 'Community Fridge', supported by North Norfolk District Council and Hubbub UK, in a growing effort to tackle food waste. The fridge, which will be located at The Baptist Church, Stalham, will enable residents and businesses to share surplus food, which will be available for anyone to help themselves to. The scheme means that quality food that would otherwise be wasted, can be used within its edible lifetime by others perhaps more in need.

As part of the drive to find more sustainable solutions to support visitors to our beautiful coastline, North Norfolk District Council is pleased to be trialling an environmentally friendly facility as part of a series of green initiatives at Weybourne. This innovatively designed installation is enabling us to provide facilities in one of our more remote locations. A new public toilet is situated alongside the beach car park in Weybourne has been developed creating a low-cost option for human waste disposal. This free-standing toilet functions without water, electricity or chemicals and works by harnessing the natural energy from the sun and wind, making it a much more carbon efficient option than traditional toilets.

A motion calling on local MPs Duncan Baker and Jerome Mayhew and the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications was approved at the 21<sup>st</sup> of July full meeting of North Norfolk District Council. The motion was put forward by Councillor John Teye, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, in response to the Government's Planning Bill, which includes proposals to stop local opponents blocking development in designated "growth zones." The motion was passed by full council following a vote and reads: "North Norfolk District Council believes that planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on our local MPs – Duncan Baker and Jerome Mayhew and the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications."

The Council's most beloved employees were reintroduced to Cromer's cliffs to resume their summer occupation of advanced technical grazing. The Bagot Goats, who have been wintering in Salthouse, carry out an important habitat-management role which poses great difficulty and expense when carried out by machine-operated conservation; the goats are able to maintain the vegetation and encourage the ecological balance of the cliff, without destroying the local fauna through over-consumption.

North Norfolk District Council has buried a time capsule on the construction site at The Reef to reflect life at the present time. Local schools and organisations have all given their mementos for the future residents of Sheringham to see a reflection of what life was like in 2021. The children have provided every day or 'on-this-day' items, like a copy of the local newspapers and pieces of COVID PPE, such as face mask.

Following on from North Norfolk District Council's recent shortlisting for the 2021 Public Finance Awards, the Council is delighted to announce it has been shortlisted for an IRRV 2021 Performance Awards. The category is "Excellence in Innovation (Service Delivery)" for the delivery of business grants relief during the pandemic, and the IRRV (Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation) are assessing applicants for innovative approaches to implementing procedures. The submission was focused on the performance during April/May 2020, during which roughly £55m of grant money was distributed. This laid the foundation for the next year and we have now distributed over £120m across the various grant schemes, involving over 30,000 transactions. North Norfolk District Council has introduced beach wheelchairs to Cromer and Sheringham, allowing visitors with disabled access requirements to enjoy the award-winning Blue Flag beaches this summer. The wheelchairs are specially designed and fitted with large pneumatic wheels to make sure that everyone has the same opportunities to enjoy the sand and the sea. The wheelchairs are built to allow people with limited mobility to move across the beach with ease and without the fear of damaging wheelchair wheels or getting them stuck in the sand - the off-road wheels are designed to manoeuvre over the uneven coastal terrain.

Eastlaw, the Council's legal services providers, have benefited from the Kickstart Scheme launched earlier this year. The scheme, managed by the DWP, provides funding for the creation of job opportunities for 16 to 24 year-olds; the age group identified as most at risk of long-term unemployment as a result of the pandemic. NNDC acted as a "Gateway" employer, allowing 50 local businesses to access the scheme, and now welcomes Holly Gibbs, Legal Assistant, to the organisation. After struggling to find work on popular recruitment websites, she sought the help of her Work Coach where she discovered the position at Eastlaw.

North Norfolk District Council's new Housing Strategy for 2021 to 2025 has now been formally approved: <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/housing-strategy-community-support/view-housing-strategy-of-north-norfolk-district-council/>

North Norfolk District Council is delighted to announce that Greenbuild is back for 2021 in a new format and will take place online from 1st to 12th November. This year's Greenbuild will run in parallel with COP26 and provide opportunities to engage with some of the issues raised and reflect on them at a local level. The virtual festival will look at ways in which communities and local businesses can work together to build a greener, brighter and cleaner future for North Norfolk. It will feature a range of online workshops, seminars, debates and Q&A sessions.

#### **Mental Health Champion**

The advertisement of the contract for North Norfolk Wellbeing Hub is live, this will see CCG funded support in our community. In October a decision will be made to select the provider and the Hub is set to go live early January 2022.

The Anxiety Toolkit is now available to book every Wednesday evening:

<https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk/course/anxiety-toolkit/>

#### **Lessingham**

I have received numerous complaints about visitors walking in the dunes at Eccles, the primary concerns being damage to the dunes and wildlife. Having been sent from the NNDC Coastal Team to the Environment Agency to the Internal Drainage Board back to the Environment Agency to Norfolk Wildlife Trust, we are no further forward on who is responsible to ensure the dunes are undisturbed. The Environment Agency have written to Norfolk County Council to ask them to move a public footpath fingerpost from the ramp at Cart Gap, as it misinforms people as to where the footpath leads.

In early July, the NNDC coastal team attended the beach to remove debris from the sand that was thought to be from the yacht that had been abandoned a few years ago. The debris is unidentified and not thought to be part of the yacht.

During the summer, I received one complaint of anti-social behaviour on the 'promenade' nearest to seaside ramp, both the Beat Manager and the an NNDC Environmental Ranger are aware. The complaint primarily related to blocking the ramp to fish and littering.

I have looked at the data for holiday and second homes in Lessingham, this year they make up 19.7% of the homes in the parish, which is up by 1.19% on the year before. By comparison, in the Parish of Salhouse, 50.3% of homes are holiday or second homes.

Looking at the applications for the Sustainable Communities Fund, Happisburgh Ward does not seem to but forward many applications but I ask that you spread the word about the fund. You can find out more here: <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/community-grants-and-funding/north-norfolk-sustainable-communities-fund/>

Missed bins can now be reported online here: <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/environmental-services/report-a-missed-bin-collection/>

Norfolk County Councillor Richard Price:

County Report September 2021

1. Covid update. The total number of cases in North Norfolk is now 4,912. This is an increase of 95 in the last week and of 1,692 since your last meeting. The infection rate now stands at 179 per 100,000 people, down from 185 last week and 53 at your last meeting

2. Road Safety. This new £1m fund was discussed and passed at last week's County Cabinet meeting which can be viewed on the County uTube channel. It will now go to Full Council. North Norfolk will be in year 2. and will share £350,000 with Broadland and Great Yarmouth Councils. The maximum spend per project will be £10,000. Realistically this probably means that would be only finance available for one major project across the 13 Parishes in my Division, but I will campaign to get the largest share possible. I have asked that all ideas from communities are fully considered and it has been suggested that some projects can be completed in subsequent years using Parish Partnership funding with the Parish share being covered by the County Councillor.
3. Potholes. Cabinet also approved the £10m pothole funding initiative which should make our roads safer. I am pleased to confirm that the reporting system for potholes is being updated to allow the public to register locations using What3Words, which should make the process easier and more efficient.
4. With regard to item 9.3 on the agenda, I have been communicating with the resident but also using my experience as a previous beach fisherman which told me with the tide times last Friday there would be little likelihood of anyone being there. I will continue to communicate with the resident and endeavour to ensure that the appropriate resources from various agencies are in place when there is a higher chance of success.
5. If any other matters arise, please do not hesitate to contact me.