

Full Meeting 19 March 2019

Posted on June 26, 2019 by Robin Johnson

Minutes of the **FULL HIGH KELLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** which was held on **Tuesday, 19th March 2019** in the Constance Gray Room at the Village Hall, High Kelling, commencing at 7.00 pm

Councillors Present: – Robin Johnson (Chairman) Bob Prescott (Vice Chairman), David Knowles, John Mangan, Gordon Lane, Jan Kemp and David Carter. Absent Val Moss

Clerk: – Harry Marks – Present Public: – 0

1. Administrative:

1. *To receive apologies for absence.*

Councillor Moss sent her apologies

2. *To receive declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.* There were no declarations of interest.
3. *To receive & approve the minutes* – The full council meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2019; the minutes of the planning EOM held on Tuesday 5th February 2019 and the minutes of the planning EOM held on 26th February 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

2. To adjourn the meeting for Public Participation and to receive external reports.

- 1.

A. To receive the crime report from the Police and permit members of the public to raise matters relating to High Kelling.

The police representative was absent from the meeting. The Chairman read out the officer's report which concerned the theft of farm equipment and trailers.

- 1.

B. To receive reports from the County and District Councillors relating to High Kelling and permit members to raise matters relating to High Kelling.

(b1) North Norfolk District Councillor – D. Young read out his report.

The Budget review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified an estimated surplus for the year 2019/20 of £224,000 but this turns into a possible deficit in 20/21 of £1.65m, increasing to £1.8m the following year. These figures assume that the District Council's Council Tax charge will increase by £4.95 pa for a Band D property. This is the maximum allowed without a local referendum and is assumed by Central Government to be applied by all District Councils in arriving at the amount of government support.

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The first draft of the new Local Plan, to cover the period up to 2036, is expected to be ready for consultation in the next month or so. Details should be available to be sent out with the new Council Tax demands issued during March.

In addition to discussing the Budget, the Cabinet in February received a report from the Enforcement Board, which oversees the Combined Enforcement Team. The team was set up in 2016 and inherited a large

backlog of planning enforcement cases. It has made good inroads into the backlog and new cases are responded to more quickly than previously. Its current caseload is just under 300 with around 170 cases closed and a similar number of new ones over the last 6 months. In the year to last October, the number of Long -Term Empty properties was reduced by 121. Compulsory Purchase is a long and difficult legal process, since depriving someone of their property is not taken lightly, so much of the progress made is through less formal means and encouragement to bring properties back into use.

Full Council took place a few weeks ago and was a lengthy meeting. Council was informed that the plans to establish a Cromer Sports Hub had suffered a setback in the last few weeks when the Lawn Tennis Association went back on its previous agreement to provide funding of £500,000. To complete the project and provide some upgrade to other tennis courts in the District, would cost an additional £672,000 and bring the costs to £3m. Three members of the Cromer Lawn Tennis and Squash Association attended and spoke at the meeting: one in favour of the project and two against. Council approved the possible extra funding, but subject to a review of the business case in the light of the changed circumstances.

Council was also addressed by two constituents asking for action on climate change. The Cabinet member for the Environment was able to advise that the Council had recently signed the Courtauld Commitment 2025, a voluntary agreement to make the production and consumption of food and drink more sustainable. He was also able to advise that after some four years, the Council has reached agreement with J D Wetherspoon for the acquisition of the old Town Council building in North Walsham and was "ready to exchange".

The main item on the agenda was the Budget for 2019/20 and the consequent setting of Council Tax. As previously reported the estimated surplus for 2019/20 is £224,000 but the current forecasted deficit in 20/21 onwards has increased to just over £2m This stems from the government's steady reduction in funding; effectively devolving austerity to local government. The estimated surplus is to be allocated to local projects, including £33,000 to Community Transport, £100,000 as match-funding towards the cost of a roundabout at the top of Holway Road and £30,000 to keep public conveniences open during the winter months. A further £20,000 would be contributed towards Operation Moonshot, installing automatic number-plate recognition along roads used in the carrying out of marine crime along this part of the coast. The proposals also involved moving £2m from other reserves to set up a property investment company. This is to enable the Council to address directly the shortage of local housing, while at the same time creating an income stream for the Council.

The redevelopment of the Splash facility, costing over £10m, is likely to require NNDC to borrow around £5m. This will be the first time that NNDC

has had to borrow since the transfer of its housing stock to Victory Housing in 2006.

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The Cabinet member for finance outlined a number of uncertainties looking into the near future. Gross car parking income is around £2.6m. In the government's Fair Funding Review, it is mooted that such income would be taken into account before the government's future funding is calculated. This would be disastrous for NNDC and other District Councils, but would be advantageous to the County Council who would therefore favour it. It has yet to be established how and to what extent NNDC will benefit from the retention of Business Rates and there is talk that the government might decide that local authorities might have to bear the costs of appeals against the 2017 rate revaluation. The New Homes Bonus has been cut back several times and its future is in some doubt. These are uncertainties that could amount to an additional deficit to the £2m that already needs to be addressed – and that's without Brexit.

This time last year the various political groups got together before the Budget and some Lib Dem proposals were incorporated into the Tory plans so that the Budget could be supported by all. This time, the Conservatives produced a list of amendments that they wanted and submitted it half way through the meeting. Some of their proposals involved sums that could be funded through other NNDC sources, such as the Communities Fund. Their main suggestion was that we should not increase Council Tax in this election year. The above uncertainties on top of the projected deficit were again pointed out. While the loss of some £200,000 could be coped with this year, the cumulative effect over the coming years would soon give rise to an additional deficit that was simply unaffordable. It is also the policy of the Conservative government that future funding would assume that local authorities would raise locally as much as they were allowed to do.

After many tedious recorded votes, the Budget was passed without amendment. On average, and in round terms, the overall increase for a Band D property will be £70. This is made up of £40 for the County Council, £24 for the Police & Crime Commissioner, £5 for NNDC and £1 for Town & Parish Councils. For High Kelling, the new Band D charge is £1,785.23

I have discussed the proposed redevelopment of Warren Farm Barns with the Senior Planning Officer involved. At present, I believe she is minded to recommend approval. It is intended that this case should be decided by the Development Committee at its 9.30 am meeting on Tuesday 23 April.

The Parish Council can send a spokesman to speak for 3 minutes.

Members of the public – one for and one against – may also speak for 3 minutes. To register an intention to speak, the Council must be contacted on 516150. Meetings are not usually held on Tuesdays: to follow the usual procedure registration should take place no later than 9am the previous Friday. I also intend to speak and if so, it will probably be my last action on behalf of High Kelling since, following the election on May

2nd, you will be represented by the two District Councillors for Holt ward. May I thank you for always making me feel welcome at your meetings. As the song says, "So long, it's been good to know you."

The full council thanked councilor Young for his contributions.

(b2) Norfolk County Council, Councillor Sarah Butikofer stated:

1. The budget setting meeting was lively with an 'invasion' of several climate change protestors. The protest was over a lengthy period which prevented several other groups from preventing their case. Unfortunately, several party amendments were lost which resulted in an increase for council tax by £39 for a band D property. The

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budget also included cuts of £30.6M this year across the whole council. This reduction will rise to £74M over the next three years and the impact being felt in both adult and children's services. There was confirmation of the locations of children's services to be closed. It was confirmed originally that Holt would not be affected but this was not the case for the future. However, there were plans being worked onto to save Holt.

2. On the issue of scams, there were two specific items currently circulating. One was an offer of council tax refunds and the other relating to BT. It appears that both have had their success and Sarah advised caution.

1.

C. Public participation.

There were no members of the public present.

3. To receive reports and announcement from the Council chairman

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A.

- i. The chairman announced that at the May election, he would be standing down as chairman of the Parish council and therefore a new chairman would have to be elected.
- ii. He showed the meeting a poster received from the Holt community centre regarding public consultation for ideas and opinions from the local populous.

4. Items for decision/discussion by the Parish Council:

1. Kelling hospital – update.

Councillor Young provided an update. A Chief Executive of the NNDC is the lead person regarding this estate. The current situation with the Kelling Hospital plan and the current children's centres and services, the availability of a grant appears not to have been considered.

2. Support network for High Kelling – update.

It was confirmed that the two scams mentioned in the NCC report would appear in the HK News.

3. Norfolk Big society fund.

Nothing to report.

4. Annual review of roads and paths.

A list of areas had been prepared and circulated. Each item was reviewed and a decision taken whether to continue the specific work areas or

cease. Problem areas were identified and the latest litter picking initiative was discussed. It was also confirmed that the NCC project, SAM2 had not attracted any invoices for the PC. The cleaning of the village gateway signs was raised and the clerk was requested to write to the current

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contractor responsible for the Voewood pathway and cycle path. The clerk was also requested to contact the NCC Highways department to identify if another drain cleaning on the A148 was imminent. A further suggestion was made that the PC should engage with the HK Gardening club to consider enhancing the village environment. Bus stops would continue with the original contractor. It was confirmed that the old bus stop by the post office was not in use and that a request to remove it had been raised.

5. PLANNING

1. *To ratify* decisions made by email consultation since the last meeting. The clerk confirmed that an application had been received just before the meeting. There was no objection raised by the council
2. *To receive and consider any late planning applications* (received after publication of this agenda).

See (a) above.

3. *To receive any update from the clerk on planning decisions.* Councillor Young provided an update on Warren Farm Barns. It was felt that the current proposal was not in keeping with the village. He advised that the reasons behind the current application was that to completely demolish the buildings and start again was not acceptable. The second option was to replace the external cladding which did not appeal. It was stated the national and local policies had changed with respect to this form of building. He stated that the NNDC planning officer had a dilemma and was seeking a way forward. The point of poor access was raised and challenged by the PC. It was felt that several of the questions raised under the objection(s) were still to be answered.

He further advised that a pre-planning document was in place regarding re-development of Pine Heath Care home. (VE21/18/0018)

4. *To discuss and agree amendments to the current HKPC planning procedure as presented by the planning working party.*

The revised document, together with an appendix explaining the method to adopt when using the document will be used by the council had been circulated. The council agreed to adopt the procedure unanimously.

6. TRANSPORT & REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members to report on any meeting they have attended as a **Representatives** of the Parish Council as follows:

1. A. High Kelling Village Hall Committee – David Carter

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Councillor Carter stated that both he and his wife would be stepping down from the HK Village hall committee. The hall was currently seeking additional trustees and general support to the hall management.

1.

B. Community Speed watch- Robin Johnson

Two dates were cancelled due to inclement weather but another was scheduled. A question was raised regarding the SAM2 data and was it able to identify the periods when speeding vehicles were detected. The clerk was requested to make enquiries.

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C. SNAP – Robin Johnson

The group had set some priorities for rural crime including fly tipping, hare coursing and diesel theft.

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D. Holt Area Patients Participation Group – Val Moss (Absent)

7. **FINANCE**

1. *To receive & consider the **Accounts to be paid** to date since the last meeting:*
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| Parish Clerk's salary (February, March 2019) 9 weeks | £ | |
| Cilca attendance Feb 13th & | | 283.50 |
| March 13th (8 hrs) | £ | 84.00 |
| | | |

Sub total

Clerk's Expenses –

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Broadband allowance @£9pm; | £ | |
| Home working allowance @ | | 367.50* |
| £17pm; | £ | 18.00 |
| Travel expenses @HMRC rate | £ | 34.00 |
| £0.45 -2 x Cilca – costessy | £ | 45.00 |
| (100m). | £ | 00.00 |
| 0 x Telephone calls () | £ | 10.00 |
| Use of clerk's printer. | £ | |
| | Sub total | 107.00* |

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|--|---|--------|
| Stuart Evans, Gardening contractor (Note** original cheque 400156 cancelled as payee's name incorrect.) | £ | |
| | | 195.00 |

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|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| NPTS 2019/20 annual subscription | £ | 60.00 |
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| Holt Medical Practice (Vodafone host) | £ | 25.00 |
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| High Kelling Village hall (Vodafone host) | £ | 25.00 |
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| Mr & Mrs J Kemp (Vodafone host) | £ 25.00 |
| Mr & Mrs J Nicholson (Vodafone host) | £ 25.00 |
| Norfolk ALC attendance at spring conference | £ 55.00 |
| Total | £ 884.50 |

*Cheques payable to H. Marks

2. *To receive and consider any further **Late Invoices** (received after publication of this agenda).*

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A late invoice was received from Village reference hire for meetings in 2018/19 – £114.64

3. *To receive the year end **Bank Reconciliation** for month end February 2019.*

The clerk handed round copies of the bank reconciliation, payments list, receipts list and the February 2019 bank statement.

4. *To consider selection of an internal auditor for year-end 2018/19.*
David Wright has agreed and the full council accepted.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- 14.1 CPRE Norfolk Alert Bulletin No.17
- 14.2 NN Open space, Sport and recreation study – Town and Parish council survey
- 14.3 NN Open space, Sport and Recreation study and Sports Pitch strategy
- 14.4 Speed watch updates – January 2019
- 14.5 Join Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean
- 14.6 Invitation to the candidates briefing – 4th March @ NNDC
- 14.7 Orstead and Vattenfall windfarm – a radical re-thinking?
- 14.8 An enquiry – Red Cross
- 14.9 Cluster 5 Police Newsletter
- 14.10 Orstead and Vattenfall windfarm – a radical re-thinking? – (George Freeman MP)
- 14.11 A Christmas Carol on Tour
- 14.12 Section 31 (6) Highways Act 1980 Deposit
- 14.13 Letter from Armstrong Rigg reference Planning Application Kelling Estate LLP
- 14.14 End of Day Adjournment debate – Location of National Grid substation for offshore wind energy in the East of England – 11th March.
- 14.15 Norfolk ALC Bulletin – 7th March 2019
- 14.16 Rural Services Network call on Government for a Rural Strategy
- 14.17 Local Plan Update: First Draft Public consultation
MEETING CLOSED 8.55pm