

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10 July 2019

At 7.30 p.m. in Nowton Village Hall, Nowton

Present: Councillor - Mrs Carol Perry (Chairman)
Councillor - Mr David Flatt
Councillor - Mr Mike May
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

Prior to the meeting commencing, 10 Minute Public Forum – three members of the public were present.

Bus Service 375 - A resident spoke of the affects the cancellation of bus service 375 would make to parishioners in Nowton, particularly the elderly, vulnerable, and those who did not have access to their own transport. The resident was concerned that it would also have 'unintentional consequences' in other areas, by taking away people's independence, of not being able to go shopping, pick up prescriptions, visit a Doctor, etc., and ultimately creating a feeling of isolation. The bus service was a life-line to many in the village and its cancellation would cause hardship and distress.

The frequency and schedule of service was discussed and it was felt that even a reduced service, with a daily school bus and an additional service 2-3 times a week would be acceptable; the suggestion of taxi buses would also be looked at. Cllr. Soons offered to find out whether it was a fully commercial or subsidised service, and would arrange a meeting at West Suffolk House to discuss. **Action: Cllr. Soons.**

Before leaving the meeting, the Chairman thanked the parishioner for her succinct and eloquent presentation to Councillors.

Planning – Owners of land within the curtilage of Nowton requested support from the Council with regards to a planning application submitted for the temporary siting (up to three years) of a mobile home. The Council had not received notification of this application and were, therefore, unaware of its submission. The landowners outlined their business proposals which included the keeping and breeding of alpacas, sheep, turkeys and Falabella ponies; there was already stock on the land which now required 24 hour on site supervision, without which the landowners said the development of their livestock enterprise would adversely affect the future development of their business. Councillors asked a number of questions, which were readily answered, concerning access, the number of heavy vehicles anticipated, density and housing of stock, storage, disposal of manure, etc.

Before leaving the meeting, the Chairman thanked the landowners for attending and advised that the Clerk would make contact with them to advise the date of the meeting when the planning application would be discussed. **Action: Clerk** *[Meeting subsequently arranged for Wednesday 25 September, 7.30pm, Nowton Village Hall]*

Report from County Cllr. Karen Soons: Cllr. Karen Soons, who gave her report prior to commencement of the meeting, highlighted several points contained within her previously circulated September newsletter. These included:

- GCSE success rates in the County were slightly better than last year.
- The UK had lost its measles free status, with only 87.2% of children now being vaccinated.
- Felixstowe Port - £23M of unsafe items had been prevented from entering the UK consumer market last year.
- Lorry Watch – more lorries were ignoring weight restrictions on country roads.

Buses - Councillors discussed possible ways in which Nowton might be able to be included in the new route from Rushbrooke, or the possibility of the route from Great Whelnetham being diverted through Nowton. Cllr. Soons would organise a meeting with SCC's Transport Development Manager which the Chairman would also attend. **Action: Cllr. Soons**

The Chairman wished to record the Council's thanks to Cllr. Soons for all her hard work and assistance, particularly in relation to the school bus problem. Councillor May echoed these thanks and added that Cllr. Soons had also been very helpful with regards to the repairs to Fox and Pin Lane. Cllr. Soons then left the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Councillors Farrow and Green.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 10 July 2019**
– approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Councillor May, seconded by Councillor Flatt and duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting** –
 - 4.1 The Chairman advised the bus pass situation was still ongoing, but that a lot of support had been received from Cllr. Soons.
 - 4.2 Resurfacing of Fox & Pin Lane had now been completed.
 - 4.3 Not all verges had been cut, despite several requests.
5. **Finance** – Business Premium Account £5,493.24; Community Account £649.70
Total: £6,142.94
Three cheques were approved for payment and signed:

100343	Business Services at CAS Ltd (insurance)	£154.28
100344	HMRC, tax re Clerks salary	60.00
100345	Clerk's salary July-September	£240.00
6. **Planning** – no planning applications had been received. In light of the application notified during the public forum, a meeting would be called to ensure that the application was considered by the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**
7. **Road Safety, Crime/Public Nuisance** – Cllr. May reported a car which had been abandoned and set on fire; this had since been removed.
8. **Correspondence** – Clerks & Councils Direct magazine, for circulation. The Chairman advised that a meeting had been called by Suffolk Local Authorities with Parish Councils in order to develop approaches to engagement on planning applications. The meeting would take place in Stowmarket commencing at 9am on the 15 October.
9. **Next meeting** – **Wednesday 25 September** (Agenda item: Planning)

Further meetings dates for 2019: 23 October; 4 December. All meeting dates are subject to change.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.22 p.m.

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Signed

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Date