

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 4 March 2020

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

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

Prior to the meeting commencing, 10 Minute Public Forum – Andrew Tucker, SNWA BSE Area B Network Coordinator, and Cllr. Terry Clements presented their reports prior to the commencement of the meeting proper.

Mr Tucker reported that the network had grown from strength to strength, with over 100 people signed up to receive alerts and monthly statistics via email. In addition, nearly 1,300 people were signed up to the social media *Nextdoor.com*, and three Parishes had Facebook pages. Mr Tucker could now electronically reach over 2,000 people in the local area. Mr Tucker went through the four year Area B crime figures comparing 2016 to 2019 and concluded his report by informing that this area was one of the safest to live in.

Finally, it was noted that news of the new Community Engagement Office would, hopefully, be known sometime next month.

Cllr. Clements gave a brief report highlighting points within the budget made by the new West Suffolk Council, previously Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. He advised that he would have liked to see more emphasis on housing, rather than retail, and that there would be funding for sports centres, which he approved of. There would be a small increase in Council Tax.

Cllr. Flatt drew attention to the flooding along Bury Road, due in part he felt by the fact that the ditches had not been cleared; Cllr. Clements advised that he would look into this and follow it up.

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr. Farrow.

2. Declarations of Interest – none.

3. Approval of the draft Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2020 – 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 15 January meeting –

4.1 The Chairman informed that no news had yet been received as to whether the general public would be allowed to use the school bus service.

5. Finance –

5.1 Balance of Accounts

Business Premium Account £4,497.57; Community Account £726.61 Total: £5,224.18

5.2 Four cheques were approved for payment and duly signed:

100352 St Edmunds Way Benefice Newsletter	£125.00
100353 Nowton PCC Churchyard Account	£100.00
100354 HMRC, tax re Clerk's salary	£60.00
100355 Clerk, quarterly salary (Jan-March)	£240.00

6. Planning – DC/20/0196/HH 2 Shrub Hill Cottages, Bury Road, Nowton, Suffolk IP29 5LT. Single storey front extension. After studying the plans the Parish Council had no objections and supported this application.

7. Road Safety, Crime/Public Nuisance – The Chairman reported that she had requested the footpath be cleared in July; parts had been cleared but it had not been completed.

8. Correspondence – The magazine Clerks & Councils Direct had been received and would be circulated to Councillors.

8.1 An email from SALC re the implications of the developing Coronavirus situation and its impact.

8.2 The February Newsletter from Cllr. Karen Soons had been received by the Clerk and duly circulated to Councillors.

8.3 The Chairman had informed the Clerk and Councillors that it was not her intention to stand for election as Chairman at the Annual Parish Council meeting. The Clerk informed Councillors that a Councillor needed to be appointed as Chairman at the meeting on the 20 May, or the Parish Council could not function.

9. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday 8 April, 7.30 p.m. Nowton Village Hall

9.1 Cllr. Green advised that it may not be possible for him to attend the next couple of meetings and gave his apologies.

Future 2020 Meeting dates –

20 May (Annual Parish Council and Annual Parish Assembly meetings); 8 July; 16 September; 21 October; 2 December. All dates are subject to change.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.05 p.m.

.....
Signed

.....
Date