

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 21st October 2020
At 7.30 p.m. via Zoom/Conference Call

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 – one member of the public attended and raised the following two points:

- Throughout lock-down the speed of vehicles travelling through Nowton seemed to increase and this had not abated post lock-down. The parishioner was particularly concerned with the section of road between the bus shelter and the village hall, during the hours of 7.30-9 a.m.

Councillors advised that this was an issue regularly discussed. The police had informed that speed enforcement was not possible due to the insufficient length of straight road. Other methods of speed deterrent had been looked into, such as members of the community monitoring traffic etc., all of which had their limitations and associated costs. The parishioner, following his contact with the SNWA BSE Area B Network Coordinator, had received information from Sgt. Angela Puiy, Safer Neighbourhood Team Link Supervisor in Bury St. Edmunds, suggesting various avenues of help available. The Chairman asked if the parishioner would be kind enough to forward the information email to the Clerk, who was instructed to liaise with the police on behalf of the Council as to options for speeding deterrents in Nowton village. **Action: Clerk**

- The unacceptable large quantity of litter and dog excrement in Nowton Park, particularly at the Oakes end of the Park, which the parishioner thought might partly be attributed to the lack of litter/dog waste bins at that end of the Park.

The Chairman would make contact with the Head Ranger of Nowton Park, to discuss the issue and make a request for additional general and dog waste bins.
Action: Chairman

1. **Apologies for Absence** – none, all present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2020** – approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Councillor May, seconded by Councillor Green. The minutes would be signed by the Chairman when the Parish Council next physically met.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of 16th September meeting** –
4.1 (8) Cllr. May reported that there had been no progress with the replacement of the Victorian Post Box which had been stolen from High Green. A new post box would be provided, but a date for this was not forthcoming from the Post Office collection team who were making the necessary arrangements.

4.2 (7) The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the work recently undertaken on the website, to comply with Government legislation; the Clerk confirmed the Accessibility Statement had been put on the website.

4.3 (8) Cllr. May confirmed that two fallen trees, in Park Lane and the bridle path, had been cut up and removed.

4.4 (9.1) The Chairman reported that publication of the St Edmunds Way Benefice Newsletter was very likely to be resumed.

5. Vacancy for a Parish Councillor – Confirmation that a poll had not been requested had been received by West Suffolk Council; Councillors were now able to co-opt a parishioner to the Council, should they so wish. Councillors were unanimous in their wish to co-opt a fifth person, in order to have a full complement of Councillors.

5.1 A vacancy advert and application form, previously circulated to Councillors, was agreed and would be posted on the website; in addition the advert would be displayed on the village noticeboards. Closing date for applications to the Clerk, 20th November 2020.

Action: Clerk/Chairman

6. Finance – Account balances: Community £751.82; Business Premium £5,699.86.
Total: £6,451.68.

One cheque approved for signature:

100365 P. Stoddart (reimbursement of One Suffolk annual website hosting) £60.00

6.1 Budget Review, Q2 – a table showing figures budgeted and actual for Q2 had been previously circulated. Councillors agreed the budget was on track.

6.2 A third cheque signatory was now required; the decision to be carried forward to the 2nd December meeting. **Action: Clerk**

7. Planning - no planning applications had been received.

7.1 West Suffolk Local Plan, consultation 13 October – 22 December 2020. Details of the online consultation system and documents for reading had been previously circulated to Councillors. The Chairman briefly outlined the three options of the West Suffolk local plan:

- New settlement, minimum 3,000 houses to be viable
- Extend larger settlements
- Extend sustainable villages (based on an assessment of the services and facilities)

The Chairman advised that Nowton did not appear in any development plans. The aim was to build 16,000 houses in ten years; 13,400 plots/spaces had already been allocated, leaving 2,600 to find. The final scheme decision is due to be made in 2022. The Clerk was instructed to put together a brief paper for the next meeting, where a decision could be made as to whether Councillors wished to respond to the consultation. **Action: Clerk**

7.2 The Planning White Paper – the Government is consulting on a ‘new vision for England’s planning system.’ The website details for examining the changes to the existing planning system had been previously circulated to Councillors. The Chairman briefly outlined some of the important variances, which appeared to include ignoring local and neighbourhood views; the Chairman advised that NALC had produced an extensive

response and that SALC would also be producing one, which would be available to the Council in due course.

- 8. Road Safety, Crime/Public Nuisance** – Cllr. May reported a disappointing response – *does not warrant remedial action* - following an inspection from Highways with regards to the crumbling road edges and the 30MPH broken signs in Cooper Lane that the Council had reported. The Chairman advised that there was a sign beside the Village Hall corner had been put right and parishioners had reported overhanging branches in Fox and Pin Lane.

The meeting was adjourned briefly to allow the parishioner present to speak. He advised that he had seen the Highways official and noted that he had spray painted various road edge areas, so there was the possibility that they would eventually be repaired. He had also directed the official to the broken 30MPH signs and a blocked drain.

- 9. Correspondence** – The Clerk reported that a request for funds had been received from Headway Suffolk; this would be added to the precept meeting agenda. **Action: Clerk**

9.1 Remembrance Day - The Chairman confirmed that a Poppy Wreath would be placed at the base of the village sign. **Action: Chairman**

- 10. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday 2nd December 2020, 7.30 p.m. via Zoom or in the Village Hall, dependent upon Covid-19 guidelines. Venue to be confirmed nearer the meeting date.**

Future 2021 Meeting dates – to be decided at the December meeting.
All dates subject to change.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

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Signed

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Date