

## NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Present:** Councillor - Mrs Carol Perry (Chairman)  
Councillor - Mr David Flatt  
Councillor - Mr Henry Hopking  
Councillor - Mr Mike May  
Councillor - Ms Abigail Smith  
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

Prior to the meeting commencing, 10 Minute Public Forum – two members of the public were present who wished to brief Councillors on possible future development plans within Nowton. Following the briefing the Chairman advised that no discussion or debate would be undertaken by the Parish Council at that time, but should a planning application be submitted Councillors would then be in the position to comment. Members of the public then left the meeting.

**In attendance:** County Councillor Karen Soons.

The Clerk had previously circulated to Councillors the latest report from Cllr. Soons, who highlighted a couple of points from her report, including the County Council's commitment to make Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030, advising that there was now a budget for finances and a budget for climate control.

Cllr. Soons also wished to make everyone aware that if a person's third Covid-19 booster vaccination was due, they could now go to a 'walk-in' session as, unfortunately, many invitations had not been sent out to those whose vaccinations were due, whilst others not yet due, had been sent.

The Chairman asked whether Cllr. Soons had any information concerning charging points for electrical vehicles in public places, Nowton Park, for example. Cllr. Hopking commented that resurfacing of the car park at Nowton Park was presently being undertaken and he had asked the contractors if any EV charging points were being installed, to which the response was 'not at this time.'

Cllr. Soons advised that she had no specific news on this and recommended writing to the Chief Executive, to ask for some EV charging points in Nowton Park. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Soons, who then left the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – all present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Approval of the draft Minutes from the meeting held 22 September 2021** – Approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. May, seconded by Cllr. Hopking; duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes 22 September –**
  - 4.1 (5) and (8.3) the Chairman advised that she was meeting with the Village Hall Chairman on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, where she would raise the points discussed for action from the previous Parish Council meeting.
  - 4.2 (10.3) the Chairman reported that the response from the authorities had been that the white lines were not sufficiently faint to justify re-painting.
5. **Finance** – Community Account £556.44; Business Premium Account £5,992.43  
Total: £6,548.87

One invoice approved for payment and cheque signed:  
100389 CAS, website hosting £60.00 (LA2011 SS 1-8)

- 5.1 Q2 Internal Control Report – Cllr. Smith submitted her second quarterly report for filing and confirmed she had not identified any issues.
- 5.2 Q2 Budget Review – the review had been previously circulated to Councillors; Cllr. Hopking commented on the overspend for stationery, ink and postage, associated with the production of the Emergency Plan and Information Leaflets. The Clerk advised that despite this overspend, previously highlighted, the overall budget was still on track as there was underspending within other headings.

## 6. **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**

Cllr. Hopking had investigated the possible purchase and placement of an AED for Nowton and reported as follows:

1. 100 AEDs placed in Norfolk, none had been vandalised.
2. Cost per unit, approximately £1,400; there were various grants available.
3. AEDs require a low power supply of electricity.
4. Maintenance costs are approximately £50 per annum.
5. Volunteers need to physically check the AED every two weeks.
6. Nearest AED is in the car park of Nowton Park.

Having considered where people mostly congregate Cllr. Hopking proposed that, rather than the Village Hall, a more suitable central position might be the Cricket Club. He also proposed that the Parish Council do not continue to explore the purchase of an AED, but rather let the Nowton Community Network take up this initiative, with the Parish Council perhaps being amenable to making a contribution towards the cost of purchase or running costs of the AED.

The Chairman recommended that this was well worth pursuing and thanked Cllr. Hopking for investigating the subject.

7. **Community led projects, funding opportunities** – Cllr. Hopking reported that there were funding opportunities for community led projects and he would be investigating these, outside of and not representing the Parish Council.
8. **Planning** – no planning applications had been received.
9. **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, 2-5 June 2022** – the Chairman had contacted West Suffolk Council who advised that there were no events planned at this stage, recommending that further contact be made early next year. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Hopking commented that he had made an informal approach to the Cricket Club for a combined village fete; the Chairman agreed it would be beneficial to have a combined event with all the local organisations.

9.1 Tree planting – Cllr. Hopking mentioned that there was a kink in the fence line of the old school cricket field within Nowton Park, which currently enclosed sheep, that he suggested might be suitable for a Parish Council funded tree to be planted, which he assured would be very visible.

10. **Nowton Village Website/Facebook Group** – Cllr. Hopking reported that this initiative was continuing to thrive and he would continue to keep the website up to date. He advised that the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator used the facility to report and, as a means of communication, the initiative was a success.

11. **Road Safety, Crime/Public Nuisance** – Cllr. May asked if pressure could be put on SCC Highways to re-paint the white lines at the junction near Low Green, A134/Hawstead Lane. **Action: Clerk**

12. **Correspondence** – relevant email correspondence had been circulated by the Clerk to Councillors as and when received.

12.1 The Chairman produced a letter of resignation, in respect of her role as Chairman, which she read to Councillors. Reluctantly, Councillors accepted Cllr. Perry's resignation as Chairman, and were pleased to hear that Cllr. Perry intended to continue to serve on the Parish Council, for as long as she felt it possible.

Councillors wished to record their thanks to Cllr. Perry for steering the Parish Council 'ably and steadily' for the past 15 years, and hoped that she would be able to continue to serve on the Council for many years to come.

13. **Next Meeting – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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