

NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 4th March 2015
at 7.30 p.m. in Nowton Village Hall, Nowton

Present: Councillor - Mrs Carol Perry (Chairman)
Councillor - Mrs Renee Forrow
Councillor - Mr David Flatt
Councillor - Dr Jonathan Masters
Councillor - Mr Mike May
Parish Clerk - Mrs Pauline Stoddart

No members of the public were present. Councillor Terry Clements joined the meeting for item 6.

1. **Apologies for absence** – All Councillors present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 14th January 2015** – a draft copy of the Minutes had been previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Forrow, seconded by Councillor Flatt as a true and accurate record, duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Approval of the Summary of the Parish Council meeting** - a summary of the main points from the meeting of the 14th January had been previously circulated. These were approved and the Chairman would display a copy on the Parish Council Notice Board.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th January, not already on the Agenda**
 - 5.1 (5.1) The Chairman advised that the markings at the end of the private road had not yet been completed, but the work had been allocated and would be undertaken when the weather improved.
 - 5.2 (5.3) Councillor Forrow advised that an appeal had not been received by SEBC Planning re the farm shop and that the area was now being tidied.
 - 5.3 Councillor May reported that the restricted parking sign near Nowton Court had not yet been repaired.

The meeting was adjourned to enable Councillor Clements to present his Country Council update, copies of which had been given to each Councillor. Councillor Clements went through his report expanding on several issues and highlighting useful website links given within the paper.

Questions raised by Councillors, for Councillor Clements to refer back to SEBC, included the unsightly litter on the A14, which Councillor Clements advised was the responsibility of either Forest Heath or SEBC, depending upon the particular stretch of road, and the felling of oak trees in the Rougham area, which Councillor Flatt brought to his attention.

The Chairman raised the increasing problem of the lack of parking in Bury St Edmunds, particularly for drivers arriving from the Nowton direction, advising that there was now no parking for The Records Office, The Theatre Royal and shortly there would also be no parking at Shire Hall. To park at Ram Meadow traffic needed to travel via Angel Hill and the Chairman questioned whether this was desirable.

Councillors raised their concerns with regard to the development of 1,250 homes to be built to the east of Bury St Edmunds. These included the lack of infrastructure, particularly with regards to the already busy road leading into Bury St Edmunds; the expected increase in traffic through Nowton village; the problems associated with building on a flood plain, and the loss of green land. Councillors felt frustrated that as a Parish Council they had little influence on such issues and that SEBC appeared to be concerned only with increasing tourist numbers and the people who were going to live in the new houses, rather than the people already living in the area.

6. **Bury Vision 2031** – this item was covered by above discussions with Councillor Clements. The Chairman advised that the next (Task & Finishing) meeting would be held on the 8th April; Councillors Masters and Forrow expressed an interest in attending with the Chairman.

7. **Finance** – Deposit Account: £5,823.00 Current Account: £1,161.83 Total: £6,984.83

6.1 Councillors agreed that the Clerk's quarterly salary cheque (Jan-Mar) could be signed between meetings, in order that it would clear before the year-end 31 March.

8. **Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities** – a paper issued by SALC had been previously circulated. The Clerk advised that a transparency code for parish councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 was being introduced and briefly outlined the practical issues.

9. **Parish Council Elections 2015** – The Clerk briefly ran through the significant dates leading up to the Election on the 7th May. She believed that the Returning Officer would forward the necessary nomination papers, which each Councillor would need to complete and hand return to the Returning Office no later than 4 p.m. on the 9th April.

The Chairman asked if all Councillors were willing to stand for election, which they were.

10. **Planning** – no planning applications to hand at the time of the meeting.

11. **Road Safety/Crime/Public Nuisances** – Councillor May briefly recounted the two Police reports received between meetings; it was pleasing to note that no crimes had been reported in Nowton. Councillor May advised that he would be attending a Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting the following week.

Councillor May reported that the pot holes, particularly in Cooper Lane, were very dangerous, especially for cyclists.

12. **Correspondence – to include any correspondence to hand at the time of the Meeting** – The Chairman had a letter of thanks from SCC on receipt of the Nowton Parish Council Minute book which she had deposited for safe keeping.

Remaining incidental mail would be circulated to Councillors in the usual way, to read at their leisure.

10. **Date of next meeting - Wednesday 15th April at 7.30 p.m.**

Further dates for 2015: May 20th (Annual Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting) July 8th; September 9th; October 28th; December 9th. These dates are subject to alteration.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.20 p.m.