Nacton Parish Council

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 27 September 2017 in Nacton village hall

Present: Cllr B Hunt (Chairman), Cllr G Bence-Jones, Cllr R Eaton, Cllr R Giles, Cllr J Leeder, Cllr A Slater, Cllr P Warner, Cllr J Wyndham, Ms S Brown (Clerk)

44. Apologies for absence
   Cllr M Robson (holiday)

45. Declarations of interest
   Councillors Leeder and Warner declared an interest in item 51.8.

46. Invitation to public to comment on agenda items
   None present.

47. Minutes of the last meeting
   Councillors agreed the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 July 2017. The Chairman signed them.

48. Matters arising from the minutes
   48.1 Land at Paupers’ Wood and The Pound – Cllr Giles is applying to register three pieces of land in the name of the Parish Council. He is doing these separately and the first application is still ongoing.
   48.2 Priory Park road signage – SCC agrees that the signage is inadequate and has suggested some ways to improve this. Cllr O’Brien has offered this year’s Locality Budget towards the cost of a new sign and a “Keep clear” box at the junction with the lane. Councillors would wish to have a say about the message on the sign. Cllr Giles suggested painting “30” on both lanes might be better than the keep clear box. **Action: Cllr Hunt and Clerk to pursue obtaining locality budget.**
   48.3 BT phone box – the Parish Council cannot adopt the phone box, as BT wishes to retain it for emergency use. BT has installed a new phone and signage inside the box. Painting the outside may not happen for some time.
   48.4 Highways matters – mirrors on The Street – Highways don’t seem interested in doing anything about these, although they are a hazard to drivers when reflecting sunlight at certain times of the day. **Action: Clerk to contact SCDC Planning to find out if these should have received planning permission.**
   Grasscutting – has been completed for some parts of the village but not all.
   Ipswich Road/Levington Road – SCC Highways has agreed to look at installing some warning signs near the bend.

49. Reports
   County Councillor
   Cllr O’Brien could not attend due to illness, but had already sent her
report. This included information on the new Strategic Priorities document and the results of an Independent Remuneration Panel. Cllr O’Brien has been re-elected as Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel. Highways team has been re-structured and there is now a new way to report defects. Free school travel will now only be given to pupils attending their nearest school, unless there are special circumstances.

District Councillor
Cllr Yeo attended the meeting. Parish Councils should e-mail their comments on the Local Issues and Options consultation document to SCDC. The council has modified its proposals on beach hut following comments during the consultation period. SCDC is now proposing to bring in controls on dogs when introducing Public Space Protection Orders.

Tree Warden
No report received. The tree warden is attending a seminar on 30 September.

Village hall
No report received. The AGM is next week.

Suffolk Constabulary – crime reports for May, June and July are on the police.uk website. Four crimes were reported in May – two anti-social behaviour, one criminal damage and one arson. Four crimes were reported in June – three anti-social behaviour and one drugs crime. In July, only one crime of violence and sexual offences was reported.

50. Finances
50.1 Councillors agreed the following payments to be made
Village hall hire (July) £26.00
Clerk’s salary (August and Sept) £574.81
Clerk’s expenses (August and Sept) £51.70
Came and Co (annual insurance of assets) £459.73
BDO (external audit) £120.00
Contribution to village hall £500.00
Contribution to Community Council £500.00
Clr Hunt (wood preservative) £11.00
W Cook (tree warden seminar) £40.20
British Legion (poppy wreath) £25.00
Pierrot (toner cartridge) £69.36

50.2 Receipts
VAT refund £217.65

50.3 Financial update
50.3.1 Expenditure v budget – councillors noted the current balances:
Current account bank statement balance at 30 August £4,513.54
Reconciled balance at 27 September £2,120.74
Deposit account balance at 30 June £6,867.77
50.3.2 Revised budget for this year – councillors agreed the changes. Training budget to be discussed at next Finance meeting. 
50.3.3 External audit report – councillors noted the report, which made no recommendations for improvement.
50.3.4 New external audit arrangements – councillors noted that these come into effect at the end of this financial year. The Clerk had circulated a report based on information given by SALC at a recent networking day. 
**Action:** Clerk to attend SALC training on this when available.

51. Correspondence
51.1 East Suffolk Partnership Forum – 10 November, Trinity Park. Cllr Eaton will attend.
51.2 Flooding at George Court – SCC Highways has admitted its responsibility for the flooding but will not rectify the problem. The Trustees are considering taking legal action under the Land Drainage Act.
51.3 Invitation to SALC AGM – 7 November, Elmswell. Cllr Hunt and the Clerk will attend.
51.4 Suffolk Coast Forum – 6 October at Trinity Park. No-one is available to attend.
51.5 Temporary closure of Straight Road – councillors noted that the road will be closed for two weeks.
51.6 Temporary closure of Ipswich Road – closed yesterday for one day.
51.7 Orwell bridge overnight closures – councillors noted overnight closures until 8 October from 9pm to 5pm weekdays only.
51.8 Village hall chestnut tree – this needs some work to prevent its loss. The village hall trustees have asked for financial assistance from the Parish Council towards the cost of the work needed. Councillors agreed to offer £250 towards the cost in this financial year.
51.9 Lorries in lay-bys – Cllr Hunt has written to Dr Coffey about this, particularly regarding the lay-by on the old A45. No reply received to date.
51.10 Precept consultation – ends 26 October. There is still the possibility of capping future precept increases to two per cent or triggering a referendum. **Action: councillors to forward comments to the Clerk by 20 October.**

52. Planning
52.1 Decisions received
DC/17/2141/FUL – Little Shrublands. Erect two houses to replace existing bungalow – **granted.**

52.2 New applications
DC/17/3999/FUL – Linden House, Broke Hall Park
Proposal: conversion of loft space with addition of two new dormers to create bedroom and en-suite and internal configuration of stairwell

Councillors agreed to support with no comments.

52.3 Planning consultations
52.3.1 Suffolk Coastal Issues and Options consultation – public consultation closes 30 October 2017. Cllrs Warner and Leeder will go to
the drop-in at Kirton on Monday and will then decide whether to book an appointment with SCDC.

52.3.2 Ipswich BC’s Issues and Options consultation – public consultation closes 30 October 2017.

Action: councillors to send any comments to the Clerk before the deadline.

53. Parish matters

53.1 Parish newsletter – councillors agreed the next issue should be March.
53.2 Clerk’s year – councillors agreed the latest version
53.3 List of possible infrastructure needs – councillors agreed to prioritise three items.
53.4 Invites to Remembrance Day ceremony - Cllr Hunt has invited Orwell Park School and will invite Nacton primary if any pupils living in the village would like to attend. Action: Clerk to produce poster to advertise event.
53.5 Neighbourhood Plan – councillors have the latest information. Levington is not interested in producing a plan. This will be an agenda item again next year.

54. Matters raised by and reports by Councillors

Meeting dates for next year – will be similar to those for this year, as the Clerk’s absence in April won’t affect the date of the Annual Parish Meeting. To be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr Hunt has discussed with Cllr Yeo the possibility of buying a speed sign to try to reduce traffic speeding along The Street. Cllr Yeo has agreed to fund this up to £3,000. Action: Clerk to contact Purdis Farm clerk for information about their sign.

Cllr Hunt will arrange a visit to Nacton CEVC school for any councillors who’d like to go.

55. Public question time

None present.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Signed…………………………………………… Dated………………………….