

Nacton Annual Parish Meeting

Draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 in Nacton village hall

Present: Cllr B Hunt (Chairman of Nacton Parish Council), C Adams, C J Adams, D Adams, K Baalham, S Baalham, E Baker (Nacton Cricket Club), A Bagert, R Bentley, R Brown, E Crampton, V Dangerfield, M Doshi, R Doshi, Cllr R Eaton, S Evans, G Forbes-Smith, A Greaves, L Fraser, J Hartill, J Harvey, Cllr S Harvey (East Suffolk District Council), J Henzel, R Hunt, A Jackson, S Keys, H Leeder, Cllr J Leeder, D Leighton, J Miles, H Modder, C Newby, S Newby, M Norris, Cllr P O'Brien (Suffolk County Council), D Pearce (Nacton village hall), L Pearce, E Pollington, L Pratt, N Richards, P Richards, C Richardson, A Riches, Cllr M Robson, G Ryan (Nacton CEVC School), C Scott, D Simmond (Nacton Cricket Club), A Sugg, J Sugg, C Tattersall (Nacton & Bucklesham under 5s), P Tattersall, G Vincent, V Vincent, Cllr P Warner, R Warner, C Watts, A Whybray, M Whybray, A Williams, J Williams, M Wright, Cllr J Wyndham, Ms S Brown (Clerk to Nacton Parish Council)

The Chairman of Nacton Parish Council read out a statement in response to a flyer delivered to some, but not all, households in Nacton. The statement was made to correct some misleading statements in the flyer.

Our speaker was Andrew Reynolds from East Suffolk's Environment Team. He talked about fly tipping and the Council's response to reports that come in about this offence. Suffolk Norse is responsible for responding to fly-tipping reports, but only has three officers to do this. These officers also have to respond to other environmental incidents throughout the whole of East Suffolk. The reporting form is on the East Suffolk website and people can also submit photos and any other information that might help to identify the offender. If found guilty of fly-tipping, an unlimited fine could be imposed, although this rarely happens. In fact, many fly tippers get away with community service or a relatively small fine. The District Council is responsible for removing litter from public land. Anything fly-tipped onto private land must be removed by the landowner.

Andrew then spoke about dog fouling and reminded everyone that not clearing up after your dog is a criminal offence. East Suffolk has a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place to enforce this throughout East Suffolk. He confirmed that landowners have the right to place restrictions on those who use their land, including banning dogs. Parish Councils can put their own PSPOs in place should they wish to. There is a form for reporting dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs. This form will be uploaded onto the Nacton Parish Council website. All district councils can now access owner information from the DVLA to trace offending dog owners, and others who commit environmental crimes, such as littering, from their cars.

There were several questions. The closure of Foxhall recycling centre seems to have made no difference to the number of fly-tipping incidents. A fixed

penalty notice for this offence is £200. The call centre number to report incidents is 0333 016200.

There was a discussion about the ban on dogs in Victoria Field. There was concern that the ban had been imposed due to a few inconsiderate dog owners. Most residents felt that a compromise should be sought, perhaps a designated, fenced-off area for people to walk their dogs through Victoria Field? The ban has increased the danger to pedestrians from traffic as there is no adequate footpath round the outside of Victoria Field.

It was also noted that some of the information in the flyer circulated to some households in the village was incorrect. The playgroup is a charity run by the parents and grandparents of the children who attend. It is not, and never has been, a commercial concern. The information about the percentage of local children attending Nacton school was also incorrect. The school has not divulged the percentage of local children. Also, Levington has no school, so all pupils from there must be counted as local.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr A Brown (Orwell Park School), Cllr R Giles, Cllr A Slater

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2018

These were agreed and the Chairman signed them.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

4. Chairman's report – Cllr Brian Hunt

Next month there will be parish council elections to select councillors for the next four years. Four of your councillors have decided not to stand for re-election. The four, Gillian Bence-Jones, Robert Giles, Andrew Slater and Malcolm Robson have given a great deal of their time over the last four years and in three cases, considerably longer than that, for the greater benefit of the parish of Nacton.

The remaining councillors, Jos Leeder, Paula Warner, Judith Wyndham, Ros Eaton and myself are all seeking re-election in May. I am also grateful to all of them, especially to my deputy Paula.

Throughout the last year the Parish Council has been supported both with advice and with finances by our two local councillors, Patricia O'Brien and Nicky Yeo. I am particularly grateful to Nicky, who has continued to offer guidance, despite her terminal illness. My thanks to both of them for their support over the past four years.

I know that many residents are concerned about the speed of traffic through the village. Cllr O'Brien has given money from her Locality Budget to fund a new sign on Levington Road to warn drivers to slow down. Cllr Yeo donated some of her Enabling Communities Budget for 2018-19 to buy a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign. Unfortunately, this can only be installed along a road with the permission of Suffolk County Council Highways team. They will put up posts on each of the roads into the village, to which the

moveable sign can be attached.

Cllr O'Brien has allocated part of her Locality Budget for a new sign on the road from the A14 towards Priory Park. This should make it easier for cars to move to the inside lane before turning left.

Cllr O'Brien has allocated her Locality Budget for the year 2018-19 so the parish council could appoint a solicitor to register itself as the owner of two pieces of land in the village. The parish council now has Paupers' Wood registered in its name. We are still awaiting news of Poors' Field.

In 2018, the parish council decided to ban all dogs from Victoria Field. This was because dog mess was left behind by their owners. As the Playgroup uses the field on a regular basis, the council felt that this was an appropriate action. Later in the year the village school sought permission to use the field whilst theirs was being reseeded. It has since become apparent that some people in the village did not agree with this decision and that the ban should be lifted. The parish council agreed that this matter should be discussed at this meeting so that residents could give their views. The new parish council should take note of these discussions at their first meeting following the elections and either confirm or scrap the ban.

The Parish Council again produced a newsletter. As before, this was very much a team effort. The council is very grateful to Orwell Park, for allowing us to print copies for free. The newsletter was delivered to all households in Nacton and Priory Park at the beginning of April.

The new Data Protection Act has meant that permission has been sought from anyone mentioned on the Nacton website or in any council documents to continue to use their personal information in these documents. The Emergency Plan, Welcome to Nacton document and the website will be updated later this year once all consent forms have been resolved.

On Saturday (27th April) there will be a litter pick morning. It is hoped that both Priory Court and Nacton Village will be able to raise enough volunteers, not only to remove litter, but also to clean the two bus stops and some of the road signs.

In 2016, Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk) set up the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers building new properties in the area. Nacton has a small amount of money from this levy for which to pay for new infrastructure projects. The new council may have some ideas about how to spend the money and one resident has already suggested installing traffic calming measures from Levington Road to beyond the school. I hope the new council will take this idea forward, with the help of Suffolk County Council's Highways team. Residents have already been asked for their ideas and any further suggestions should be forwarded to the Parish Clerk. East Suffolk Council has the final say about whether levy money can be spent on a particular project.

The village telephone has been smartened up. The outside has been painted and the inside refurbished. Whilst the signal for mobiles remains weak in Nacton, the public telephone box will remain in use. Once this situation changes, the Parish Council should be given the option of purchasing the box for one pound.

From May this year, Nacton will have two new district councillors who will hopefully have some money to spend on local projects. I hope that the new

parish council will consider requesting some of these funds to buy a second defibrillator for the village, which would be located outside the cricket pavilion, in the playing fields. Cllr Yeo has already allocated some of her Enabling Communities Budget to buy a defibrillator for Priory Court.

Victoria Field has had part of the hedge replaced. The plants were obtained through a charity and planted through the efforts of the Tree Warden, William Cook and Robert Giles. A piece of fence was also removed, which had sharp spikes at about a human chest height.

Commonwealth Day was celebrated again, with pupils from Orwell Park and Nacton School coming together to entertain those who attended with various readings. They then enjoyed raising the flag, which due to the strong wind, was on a shortened flagpole, and the pop-up café tea. I am grateful to both schools for allowing this to happen.

Several major planning proposals have come our way this year, all of which could seriously affect travel to and from the village and Priory Park. In particular, Sizewell C proposals, with the possibility of a Freight Management Area being built near here, is particularly concerning, as the number of lorries using it on a daily bases could be several hundreds. A representative from Sizewell C gave a talk at the village hall and answered numerous questions from the audience. We will know more about their plans next year.

The village school extends an annual invitation to parish councillors to visit. I hope that this will continue in the future. The pupils who have looked after us on previous visits were confident and, as always seems the case, proud of their school. All enjoyed their school lunch, which completed a good visit. Finally, some additional thanks. Firstly, to those who give time and effort for the benefit of the village, whether it be an organised event or something quietly undertaken. Lastly, my grateful thanks to the Parish Clerk, Sue Brown. She continues to attend numerous meetings for updates and to support the councillors at all their various and numerous meetings. The Parish Council remains financially sound and legally secure.

5. County and District Councillors' reports

Suffolk County Council – Cllr Patricia O'Brien presented her annual report, which included news about the new Light Rescue Pump fire engine, the new leader of SCC, upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres, an increase in Suffolk's tourism trade, a national award for the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, the importance of the Sport and Physical Activity sector to the Suffolk economy, the deployment of three thermal road repair machines to repair potholes, the improvement in education standards in Suffolk, the roll-out of the Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme and the increase in the SCC portion of council tax for 2019/20 by four per cent.

Suffolk Coastal District Council – Cllr Susan Harvey gave a snapshot of what has happened in the last 12 months.

May - There was a simultaneous Council Meeting attended by 90 councillors. Suggestions on re-warding of the area were presented to the Boundary Commission, including Waldringfield being joined to Martlesham Ward.

Brown bins were introduced and 37 per cent of people had signed up. June - Green bin subscribers were up to 46 per cent. SCDC elected its last Chairman, Nicky Yeo. July - 52 per cent green bin subscribers. Deben Leisure Centre in Woodbridge re-opened to the public after refurbishment. August - Suffolk successfully applied to be part of a pilot scheme whereby it kept £10.4 million worth of business rates from local businesses which normally goes to central government. This would be used to invest in projects that boost economic growth and support communities in Suffolk. September - 56 per cent green bin subscribers. It became apparent that by the 2030s at least 25 per cent of the country's electricity would be coming in through a small part of the Suffolk Coast. Sizewell C and Scottish Power with their converter/connector stations would dominate our coast. October - 57 per cent green bin take up. Responses to the Local Plan were being examined. By far the most contentious site was Innocence Farm as a storage and lorry facility - all 116 hectares of it. November - The state of the AONB report was being produced and a survey was launched. Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB follows 60km of some of the least developed coastline in southern England from Shotley peninsula to Kessingland. December - Our area was still under threat from Gladmans wanting to build 2,600 houses in Bucklesham/Purdis area. The Innocence farm site was reduced in response to comments received during the Local Plan consultation. January - The Local plan went before the full Council. Sizewell C consultation began until 29th March. Now it is estimated that 35 per cent of the country's electricity will come in at Sizewell and nearby, if consented. I attended the launch of the AONB Management Plan in December. It is the duty of every elected Parish, District and County councillor to conserve and enhance the AONB. February - I chaired a large meeting at University Suffolk for the Coast and Heaths AONB. This covered the use of colour in the landscape with regard to new buildings in the AONB, tranquility and landscape character assessment and evaluation. March - This was the month when I finished spending my Community Enabling Budget which I always enjoy. The Local Plan went off to the planning inspectorate on 29th March. The public hearing will be during the summer with a result expected later in the year. April - East Suffolk Council now exists.

I will finish by saying I have really enjoyed working with all the different villages and will miss this when I stand down at the May elections. I thank you for your support.

6. Reports from parish organisations

- Nacton & Bucklesham under 5s – presented by Mrs C Tattersall
- Nacton CEVC primary school – presented by Mrs G Ryan
- Nacton Community Council – presented by Cllr J Leeder
- Nacton Cricket Club – received from Mr E Baker
- Nacton village hall – received from Mr D Pearce
- Nacton Women's Institute – presented by Cllr P Warner
- Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich) – received from Mr A Gibbs
- Orwell Old People's Trust (George Court) – presented by Cllr J Wyndham
- Orwell Park School – received from Mr A Brown
- Poors' Land Trust – presented by Cllr P Warner
- Priory Court Residents' Association – presented by Mr A Sugg

St Martin's Church – presented by Cllr J Wyndham
Sir Robert Hitcham almshouses – presented by Mrs D Giles
Village recorder – presented by Cllr P Warner

No reports were received from Broke Hall Residents' Association,
Nacton Carpet Bowls Club, Orwell Park Estate or the Tree Warden.

7. Matters raised by parishioners
None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:53pm.

Signed..... Dated.....