

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF CORPUSTY AND SAXTHORPE PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Waterson, Cllr Barnett, Cllr Brown, Cllr Buddle, Cllr Fenny, Cllr Oliver, Cllr G Hodgson and Cllr M Jacobs  
Melanie Eversfield (Clerk)  
Members of the public – 1  
County Cllr S Aquarone

**Open Forum**

The resident that attended the meeting thanked the Parish Council for all of its work over the past year. They stated that St. Peter's Church was in need of some volunteers to be key holders. It was noted that there are hopes to have a composting toilet in the grounds of the churchyard. It was also noted that some work is needed to be done gates.

**22/44. To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Waterson was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**22/45. To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Buddle was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**22/46. To consider accepting apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Hodgson.

**22/47. To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed.**

None.

**22/48. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

The Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting, as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed.

**22/49. To receive update from Steffan Aquarone, County Councillor.**

County Cllr Aquarone forwarded a report via the meeting, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes. It was noted that the legal issues with RB6 is now with the head of Highways to decided if a legal notice should be served. It was agreed that if nothing has been decided upon by 1<sup>st</sup> June then County Cllr Aquarone will inform the Parish Council otherwise.

**To receive update from Andrew Brown, District Councillor.**

**UKRAINIAN REFUGEE SUPPORT**

I am proud to report we have confirmed the appointment of a support worker to help people settling in our district from the Ukraine. Assistance will be given to help with accessing health, education, language, support and finding employment for those arriving via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. There will also be a welcome hub at the Council to provide immediate support on arrival. We have about 30 residences with families approved already spread around the district.

**SECOND HOMES AND HOLIDAY HOMES STUDY**

We have set up a call for evidence across all departments of the Council to collect statistics on the economic effects of holiday lets and second homes. It was announced in the media that outside London we have the highest concentration of second homes in the country. Corpusty and Saxthorpe have 9.7 % or 48 of 499 properties recorded as second homes in 2021. Salthouse in first place has 50.3 % but Thornage 26.3% Briningham 25% and Brinton 21.4 % have the highest concentration in Stody Ward. Obviously, holiday lettings do contribute to the tourist economy to a greater extent than second homes which are not let. The study will help to consider Council policy on the extent to which we should impose controls through council tax surcharges, planning restrictions, landlord tithes, second home registers and other measures adopted by Councils elsewhere with similar challenges.

**NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY**

In March, the Environment Secretary suddenly announced (via their consultants Natural England) an embargo on all new building across most of the district. Councils must evaluate whether a planning application will

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present a risk by increasing nitrate and phosphate discharges into watercourses feeding the River Wensum and the Broads. This is a serious setback to the local economy, meeting our building targets set by Government and calculating future housing need as part of the Local Development Plan. The Council in common with most district councils in Norfolk are seeking legal advice on whether this can be challenged. Significant pollution by water utility companies is not affected by the embargo which has caused some concern in national media. Only 12% of our watercourses meet purity standards and the Government require the Council to monitor pollution from development to avoid further environmental damage.

#### SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund replaced EU funding after Brexit and will provide DEFRA with additional funding for rural communities and provide resources to local partnership groups of people and businesses to have rural representation. There is concern that the £2.6 billion fund available up to March 2025 might not be sufficient to support rural areas to reach their full potential as part of the Government levelling-up agenda. The rural services network announced that rural communities has been historically underfunded and has lagged 33% or £105 per person behind the funding of urban areas in the Government's Settlement Funding Assessment for 2022/3.

#### PLANNING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Council has decided to survey a random selection of applicants across various types of domestic planning applications for feedback on the service provided by the planning department. This is part of a review to inform the Council as part of the launch of a new Planning Service Improvement Plan. Applicants will be asked to answer a series of survey questions on all aspects of the planning process. The survey will assist in reviewing peoples' experiences and will inform the planning department where improvements are most needed.

#### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS

Progress has been seriously interrupted by the guidelines from the Government on nutrient neutrality (outlined above) because there will need to be further policy amendments to take account of the required Habitats Regulations Assessment before building can begin again. Policies will need to be amended in the current draft to clarify how developers will need to keep nutrients neutral and if not, how a mitigation strategy will work. The calculation of the 5-year land supply and the housing delivery test will be affected which has the potential to increase the number of houses the Council are required to build in future.

#### CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL (CAA)

The final draft of the Village CAA circulated earlier this year was considered by the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party on the 25 April. Stody village will be confirmed as a new village conservation area in a single document and become separate from the Glaven Valley rural conservation designated area which will continue to surround both Stody and Hunworth. This will achieve consistency with other village appraisals having individual arrangements. Following some minor amendments, we expect to approve the appraisal in the next meeting later this month and the Council will then launch the Glaven Valley rural consultation. Dates will be confirmed later.

#### 2021-22 ANNUAL DISTRICT COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

It is a year of change in leadership with Cllr Tim Adams taking over from Sarah Butikofer.

Operationally, we have carried out a zero-budgeting exercise to ensure the Council's spending is more in line with its corporate priorities. We delivered a balanced budget in February to maintain services in a climate of cuts elsewhere in local authority spending. The Council's strong finances allow us to provide services that are good value for money to residents. Our increase in council tax was kept lower than the other components like County Council and PCC precepts.

During the year we have delivered the new Reef leisure complex at a cost of £12.7 million, planted 60,000 of the 110,000 trees pledged when elected back in 2019, installed 69 vehicle charging points (more than any other district Council in Norfolk), refurbishing beach chalets and invested £4million in new refuse trucks. None of this has been funded by borrowing money and incurring interest costs by Council taxpayers.

For next year, the Council will be providing new and refurbished toilets in Wells, Fakenham, North Walsham and Sheringham. In the autumn, the next phase of a £3.9 million Cromer Coastal management scheme will start which together with the previous £2.9 million Mundesley Scheme will protect 750 homes from coastal erosion. Investment is planned in Cromer pier and the purchase of at least 2 temporary homes to add to the 16 acquired since 2019 to reduce the expense of putting homeless people in unsuitable bed and breakfast facilities.

Investment of £900,000 in the Fakenham Urban Extension will allow a higher percentage of more affordable homes to be built across all new development phases.

All of this is being achieved despite the Government withdrawal of loans via the public works loan board for commercial investment. The Council is being forced instead to look at grant applications from Government, public bodies, and the private sector as well as business rates opportunities to support its initiatives.

We take the duty to make services more efficient and cost effective very seriously. Some examples of this are identifying three vanity projects of the previous administration which we needed to close because of their high risk; no longer outsourcing revenue and benefits enquiries; purchasing more temporary accommodation to save costs incurred by homeless families in bed and breakfast arrangements.

The Council sends out the demands for council tax but more than 90p in every pound goes elsewhere. This does not prevent the Council tax in our district being one of the lowest in England. The Government controls 58 % of the funding provided and continue still to make a one-off annual settlement which makes forward financial planning very difficult. Despite these challenges, we will strive to work in the best interests of our residents and the fact that the Council has won awards for its financial performance confirms that the strategy is successful.

**22/50. Matters arising from previous minutes for information only -**

**Manor Farm Barns** – This has now gone to appeal. It was agreed that the Clerk writes stating that the council's previous comments still stand.

**Empty properties in the village** – It was noted that not much has happened since the last meeting but they are still live cases. Cllr Brown to chase this up with NNDC.

**Feasibility study** – It was noted that the Clerk had received notification that this will now go ahead.

**Tree Survey** – The tree survey has been undertaken by Treecare Consultants and the council received a copy of the report. It was agreed that the Clerk shares the report with North Norfolk Tree Services and seeks their views.

**Village Gateways** – Following an email from an officer at NCC Highways in relation to the location of the village gateways it was agreed that a meeting should take place as soon as possible.

**22/51. Finances**

**(a) To receive the end of year accounts for 2021/2022.**

Noted.

**(b) To receive the accounts for 2022/2023 as at 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

Noted.

**(c) To note that the Clerk has submitted a VAT return for 2021/2022, totalling £344.53.**

Noted.

**(d) To note receipt of 50% precept from NNDC totalling £8,860.00.**

Noted.

**(e) To approve payments to be made and made between meetings**

The following payments were authorised / paid between meetings:

M Eversfield – Salary for April & May 2022	£692.56
Countrystyle Recycling – Glass Recycling	£27.00
CGM Group – Grass Cutting	£137.74
Cozens UK Ltd – Street lighting maintenance	£648.00
Npower Business Solutions (DD) – Street lighting power	£294.54
Treecare Consultants Ltd – Tree Survey	£408.00

**22/52. To update on windfarm projects.**

It was noted that Vattenfall have a £15 million grant fund. Cllr Barnett to draft something for the Clerk to send to Vattenfall seeking information on the process for applying for a grant.

**22/53. To update on Highways issues, including footpaths**

It was noted that the feasibility study will go ahead shortly. Cllr G Hodgson will review the footpath audit and send it to councillors and County Councillor Steffan Aquarone.

**22/54. To receive an update on the meeting with Broadland Housing Association Matters.**

A commissioned report from Rossi Long is still awaited. It was agreed that this should be chased.

**22/55. To receive an update from the Village Hall Management Committee.**

Cllr Oliver gave a brief update on the Village Hall Management Committee. It was noted that the action list from the meeting in October 2020 needs updating. A letter to the Dukes Head in relation to the planning

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application and right of way access also needs to be done. Cllr Barnett and Cllr G Hodgson to compose the letter and send to the Management Committee for approval and action.

**22/56. To receive an update from the School Governors.**

Nothing to report.

**22/57. To receive an update on support for Ukrainian Refugees.**

Following some discussion, it was noted that the Parish would be welcoming some refugees. It was agreed to host an informal welcome party to all so that they can get acquainted with each other. It was agreed to use up to £500 of S137 money if needed for the gathering.

**22/58. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common.**

The Clerk stated that she had submitted the order as per the last meeting and was waiting to hear of a start date from the contractor. Cllr Barnett objected to the expenditure on this work because he believed that:

1. No clear plan of and diagram had been submitted to the parish council as part of its decision making
2. The parish council had not seen any competitive estimates for the work.

Therefore Cllr Barnett objected on the basis that the decision to go ahead with this project was based on both insufficient technical and financial information.

**22/59. To discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

It was noted that an event on the village green will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Cllr Barnett to produce some posters to advertise the event.

A brazier has been produced for the event and this will therefore be lit at 9.45pm that evening in line with the beacon lighting across the country. People can bring their own picnics and the Dukes Head will also be serving food. Cllr Jacobs to organise relocating some of the chairs from the village hall to the green for the event. A discussion took place in relation to the Parish Council contributing some funds to the Dukes Head so that on the night people can receive a free hot dog and drink. Cllr Waterson to liaise with the Dukes Head over this. It was agreed to alter the budget for the use of S137 to £1000.00 and therefore a budget of up to £500 could be used for this event.

**22/60. To consider report from Cllr Fenny in relation to car charging in the Parish**

It was noted that Cllr Fenny had not finalised his findings as yet to present a report. Once he is able to do this, he will bring it back to council for consideration.

**22/61. Planning –**

**To record planning decisions made between meetings – None**

**To consider planning applications:**

The pre-planning consultation application for a proposed telephone mast on Briston Road was received and noted that the Parish Council had no objections.

PF/22/1130 – Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension to dwelling – Thistledown Cottage, Irmingland Road, Corpusty, NR11 6QE– No objections.

**To receive decisions from North Norfolk District Council – None**

**22/62. Correspondence - None**

**22/63. To receive items for information**

It was agreed that the request from St. Peter's Church to host a BBQ on the village green on 5<sup>th</sup> September be given permission.

**22/64. To receive items for the next agenda**

Defibrillator, Grass Cutting Contract, Fencing of Play Area

**22/65. To close meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:16

An extraordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The next ordinary meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed .....

Dated .....

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