

North Creake Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of North Creake held at the Village Hall, North Creake on Thursday 11th July 2024 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors A. Bunkle (Chair) J Brettingham-Smith (Vice Chair), A Culshaw, J Robinson, S Sandell, S Baker and L Fletcher (Clerk/RFO).

Member of Public: 1

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Rocklin
3. Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items: None Declared
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June were circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that they were a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.
5. Parishioners Questions and Statements:
 - a. Willow tree on village green, parishioner stated that they would like to see it stay. The Chair was able to provide an update and reported that Althorp Estate have applied to KLWNBC to 'do works' to the tree as it is in a conservation area, their intention if permission is granted is to pollard the tree.
 - b. Parking along the bottom of West Street and junction with Burnham Road was discussed, whilst it was noted that this has become an issue it falls outside of the jurisdiction of the parish council, anyone experiencing problems with parking should report it to the appropriate authority, NCC Highways and/or Police if highway is obstructed
 - c. Anti-social behaviour - whilst this seems to have decreased recently it was noted that despite several enquiries to the police no response has been received. Cllr Sandell to continue to raise the issue with local police and potentially escalate to the Police and Crime Commissioner
6. Rural Housing Enabler - It was noted that Simon Swanson has left the role so was unable to attend the meeting, when the clerk is notified of his replacement, they will be invited to attend the next meeting
7. Reports from County and Borough Councillor:
Report and apologies received and noted from Cllr C Morley
8. Clerks Report / Matter arising from previous meeting.
The Clerk went through the Clerks report and updated the Council on matters from the May meeting:
 - a. Picnic Table on village green - Quote received from Grant Tooth of £500 to lay a concrete base for the table and assemble and instal it. It was agreed for this to go ahead.
 - b. Refund of credit from Npower - this has been requested and is being processed, should be received by end of next week
 - c. Willow on village green - Already discussed in Parishioners questions and statements - see item 5a.
9. Training – It was agreed for Cllr Baker to attend the fundraising training with Cllr Jocklin
10.
 - a. SAM2 / Speeding Offences update - the batteries for the sam2 signs have failed, it was agreed to replace all 4 batteries at £84 + VAT + delivery
 - b. Play area inspections - It was noted that there is a lot of mole activity on the playing field, it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the Pest Control Contractor to discuss and for the Clerk to invite other quotations for the service if necessary
 - c. Willow tree on village green - see item 5a

- d. Bench on village green - see item 8a
 - e. MUGA - it was noted that applications for CIL funding are now open, it was agreed to add the refund from Npower and the reserve funds for play equipment for the parish council to put £10,000 toward this project and apply for the balance through CIL. It was agreed to use the village facebook page to consult parishioners on the project and to generate support.
 - f. Grass cutting - It was agreed for the Clerk to circulate to councillors the grass cutting schedule/contract.
 - g. Stone Pit - It was noted that Acton Engineering have repaired the damage to the gate caused by the rave, it was agreed to not replace the padlock at this time as the gate is quite weak and replacing the padlock would encourage further damage to the gate should another attempt to break into the pit be made
11. Biodiversity - it was agreed for the Clerk to forward a model Biodiversity policy to Cllr Culshaw to examine and advise further
12. Bee Swarms - It was noted that there have been an abnormal number of swarms in the village which have caused considerable expense to parishioners, Cllr Brettingham-Smith to speak to local beekeeper regarding the problem
13. Footway Lighting - No issues reported prior to the meeting
14. Finance
- a. Late payments - None
 - b. Accounts for payment were approved
 - Glasdons - Picnic Bench £729.61
 - Grant Tooth - Installation of rubbish bin on playing field £200 + Second repair to phone box £36 (repair authorised using Clerks discretion to make safe)
 - Npower - Streetlighting £101.55 (credit £4419.48)
 - Acton Engineering - Repair to stone pit gate after rave £321.60
 - Unity Bank quarterly service charge £18
 - Clerks wages £254.84
 - c. Finances received - Interest £241.04
 - d. Financial Statement for June was approved
15. Correspondence
- a. It was noted that CIL applications are now open - see item 10e
 - b. Email from parishioner - email from parishioner regarding speeding in West Street and also potential development in the village, Clerk to update the parishioner on the councils discussion
16. Highways matters - None received prior to meeting. It was noted that Damien Jeffries is due to change his role at NCC so will no longer be our local Highways Engineer
17. Planning
- a. Applications received - None
 - b. Decisions made - None
18. Policy Reviews
- a. Standing Orders - Reviewed and agreed
 - b. Financial Regulations - Reviewed and agreed
 - c. FOI/Data Protection - Reviewed and agreed

Next scheduled meeting 12th September after the summer recess

Meeting closed 8:00pm

.....Chairman

.....Dated

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