

OVERSTRAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2019 IN THE PARISH HALL

Present: Cllr P Partridge (Acting Chairman)
Cllrs J Begley, A Debbage, V Hastings, A Page, J Pelton and R Saunders, R Smith

Members of Public: - 2

Minutes taken by: June White (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Stratton (on holiday)

2. Members' Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Saunders declared an interest in agenda item 9.1, Cllr Page declared an interest in agenda item 14.1, Cllrs Smith and Hastings declared an interest in item 8.1 on the agenda. All Members were given a dispensation to speak and vote.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Members agreed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on Wednesday 2 January 2019 and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had nothing to report

5. County & District Councillor Reports

District Cllr A Fitch-Tillett sent her apologies, as she was on holiday. However, she reported via the Clerk that:

- Next Full Council at the end of February will focus on the Budget
- Locally, she has been monitoring a couple of Planning Applications which have been causing concern
- It is expected that the first public consultations of the New Local Plan proposals will take place imminently.

County Cllr E Maxfield also sent his apologies but sent the following report:

- County Hall has woken from its Christmas slumbers and sadly that means we are pitched straight back into debates about what services we will have to cut in order to balance our budget.
- *Children's Centre Services* - There has been lots of local media coverage of the plans to close most of Norfolk's Children's Centres. The centres were introduced originally as part of the Sure Start programme which aimed to improve the health, wellbeing and life chances of children by making it easy for families to access a whole range of services after the birth of a child. As I am a member of the Children's Services Committee at County Hall I have been heavily involved in the discussions. An eight hour committee meeting in mid January ended with a majority decision to go ahead with the revised plans which will see 38 of the county's Children's Centres close. I voted against the proposal because I am concerned it will take away really important support for families most in need. In a nutshell, this is what it means:
 - The annual budget for the service will be cut from £10 million to £5 million. As part of the new contract (which will start on 1 October) the Council is insisting that most of that cut is found from either savings on the costs of running the buildings or on other management and admin costs. Roughly £1 million will be cut from funding for front line service delivery, though.
 - The County Council wants more of the services to be delivered direct into the homes of those identified as most in need. They also want more of the services that are open to every family to be delivered by community groups and charities in a variety of local venues. To help with this, it has set up a fund that will make £200,000 per year available to community groups on top of the £5m budget. It has also set up a one-off £500,000 fund to pay for alterations to existing Children's Centres so that they can be used by their local community for other purposes. The County Council has a long history of trying to make savings by 'redesigning' services for children only to discover that demand for extra help goes up and it ends up spending more. I fear the same will happen again with this plan.
- *Cuts to the 'Minimum Income Guarantee'* - Another cut which has been widely criticised is the reduction in Minimum Income Guarantee. This is a payment to people who are in need of long term

care to help them meet the extra costs of living with a disability. The Council has voted through a reduction in 'MIG' payments to the minimum amount it can get away with in law.

- *Looking ahead* - The Council will have to find savings of around £35 million in each of the next two financial years so the pain is still not over. It has, apparently, 'plugged the funding gap' for the current year which doesn't mean there are no cuts - it just means they have found ways of covering the overspend by finding extra cash down the back of the proverbial sofa.
- *Reorganisation* - The administration is pressing ahead with its plans to introduce a 'cabinet' system which means that the existing committees will disappear in May. Instead, decisions will be made by a single 'cabinet member' for each area of service and then 'scrutiny committees' will be able to review those decisions after they have been made. Together with the decision not to replace the council's Chief Executive, this will lead to a considerable concentration of power in the hands of the Council's leadership.
- We have also just been told that there will be a review of boundaries ahead of the next elections in 2021. This does not mean a review of Norfolk's boundaries but the boundaries of each 'division' - the area that councillors represent. The division I represent covers 12 parishes and 7,500 voters. In recent years there has been a trend for reviews to reduce the overall number of councillors and if that is followed in Norfolk a reduction of the number of councillors by 10 (there are currently 84) will add around 1,000 voters to each division. This review, and the continued funding pressures facing local councils, are bound to kick off a wider debate about the structure of local government in Norfolk and whether we should get rid of one tier (either District Councils or the County Council) as has already begun to happen elsewhere.
- The weather - I'm writing this report as bad weather builds again. I get regular updates from Highways about the work they are doing to keep roads open in bad weather. Apparently they have already spread 8,000 tonnes of salt on the county's roads (most of it seems to be stuck to my car). As with last year, I am keen to get feedback from local people about how the gritting operation is working in your area. Please do let me know your views so I can pass them on to Highways.

6. Police Report

There were no crimes reported in Overstrand in December 2018.

7. Public Participation Time

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow members of the public and any Councillors with prejudicial interests to speak.

A member of the public reported the following from the recent SNAP meeting:

- The SNAP priorities have remained the same i.e. speeding and high visibility controls.
- The Panel is to write a letter to the school regarding speeding at school times.
- The public should be aware of people in the Felbrigg area who have been seen casing properties and to fraudsters offering garden services in Overstrand.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

8. Planning

8.1 To consider the following planning application:

PF/18/2243 Two storey side extension to care home with link to main existing building to provide additional bedrooms and facilities
Glendon House, 2 Carr Lane, Overstrand, Cromer, NR27 0PS

Members resolved to **support** this planning application but would like the planning department to take into consideration Highway issues i.e. traffic generation, vehicular access and highway safety.

PF/18/1315 Single storey rear extension; replacement roof with higher ridge level and rear dormer to provide additional habitable space
27 High Street, Overstrand, Cromer, NR27 0AB

Members resolved to have **no objection or comment** in respect of this application.

8.2 To report on planning decisions:

PF/18/1784 Conversion of stable to holiday unit, erection of detached car port and demolition and reconstruction of section of boundary wall and widening of site access
11 High Street, Overstrand, Cromer, NR27, 0AB

Approved

9. Finance

9.1 Members agreed the payments and receipts for January 2019

9.2 Members accepted the bank reconciliation up to 31 January 2019

9.3 Cllr Pelton informed members that he had carried out a spot check of the internal controls and found everything to be in order. He checked the accounts for December 2018.

10. General Purpose and Amenities

10.1 To receive reports from Members on subcommittees

- *Parish Hall* – Nothing to report.
- *Allotments* – The Clerk reported that the person who was going to clear plots 33 and 34 to re-let was now unable to do so due to ill health. It was agreed that the allotment subcommittee would meet in order to agree a way forward.
- *Web/IT* – Cllr Page reported that there had been 598 sessions on the website over the last month made up of 435 users of which 374 were new users. Of the 435 users, 42.66% of the visitors used desktops to visit the site, 26.83% tablets and 30.50% mobiles.
- *Events/Publicity* – nothing to report and it was agreed that subcommittee members would take an active role in managing the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

10.2 To report on faulty street lights

The Clerk reported that the new LED lantern had now been fitted in Bracken Avenue. The Clerk also expressed concerns regarding TT Jones, as she had reported two street lights as not working, the first one being reported on 19 December and TT Jones had still not repaired them. In addition TT Jones had tried to charge the Parish Council for adjusting the new lantern they had previously fitted on the corner of Thurst Road, however, removed the charge after many emails, stating it was an administration error. TT Jones are not responding to emails when questions are asked. It was agreed that the Clerk would monitor this and if it continues will report it back to Council for action.

11. Represented Groups

11.1 There was nothing to report from the North Norfolk Coastal Forum

11.2 Cllr Partridge reported that the North Norfolk Parish and Town Council Forum are still pursuing 2nd homes Council Tax; however now need to go through the National Association of Local Councils to deal with Central Government. 2nd home Council Tax has been raised to 95% by NNDC but none of this money goes back into the Parish where the 2nd homes are located. The Forum is looking at suggesting that the Council Tax is raised to 100%, allowing the extra 5% to go back into the Parishes. This would potentially raise an extra £24,522 per year for Overstrand.

12. Parish Council Letterheads

12.1 Members resolved to adopt the letterhead with the Overstrand sign on it but without the poppies. However it was agreed that the website needed to reflect the same image as the letterhead in order to maintain consistency.

13. Ideas to Improve either Overstrand or North Norfolk as a whole

13.1 Members agreed to ask NNDC about funding for electric vehicular charging points for Overstrand in order to encourage tourism and help with the environment.

14. Burial Ground Maintenance

14.1 Members resolved to pay St Martin's Parochial Church Council £500 towards the maintenance of the burial ground for the financial year 2019/20.

15. Information Points

Members agreed it was a good idea to put the names of Overstrand Groups and the days they meet on the bottom of the information points. They also agreed that the information points should refer interested parties to the website for contact details, as these can be changed easily on the website but cannot be changed on the information points. Cllr Begley agreed to help the Clerk collate all the information.

- 16. Bench on Cromer Road**
Members agreed that Cllr Partridge could remove the bench on Cromer Road next to the Golf Cottages as it has been vandalised and is beyond repair.
- 17. Annual Parish Meeting**
Members resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 10 April 2019.
- 18. To Report any other Business**
There was no other business to report
- 19. Correspondence**
19.1 The Clerk read out an email from “Carers Matter Norfolk” and informed Members that the information has been put on the website.
- 20. Date of Next Meeting**
The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

Overstrand Parish Council – Payments and Receipts for January 2019

Date: January 2019							
V No.	Payee	Detail	Pm't Method	Net (£)	VAT (£)	Gross (£)	Receipts (£)
Ex89	ASDA	Printer Paper	DC	6.88	1.38	8.25	
Ex90	Norfolk Parish Training	Essential Update Training - Clerk & Cllr Begley	BACS	72.00	0.00	72.00	
Ex91	NorfolkALC	Effective Cllr Training - Cllr Saunders	BACS	60.00	12.00	72.00	
Ex92	EON	Street Light Energy	DD	123.43	6.17	129.60	
Ex93	HMRC	PAYE	BACS	10.58	0.00	10.58	
Ex94	Clerk	Salary, Phone & Home Allowance	BACS	761.27	0.00	761.27	
Ex95	Cleaner	Parish Hall Cleaning	C150	65.00	0.00	65.00	
Ex96	J White	Travelling Expenses - Elections Training	BACS	20.70	0.00	20.70	
Ex97	TT Jones	Street Light Maintenance	BACS	348.90	69.78	418.68	
Ex98	Cllr Saunders	Travelling Expenses - Effective Cllr Training	BACS	48.20	0.00	48.20	
In42	Various	Parish Hall Rents & Info Point Advertising	BS97				345.00
In43	Kingswood	Info Point Advertising	BACS				125.00
In44	Railway Quilters	Parish Hall Rent	BS98				160.00
In45	HMRC	VAT Reclaim	BACS				563.80
In46	Lloyds Bank	Interest	BACS				2.56
TOTALS				1,516.96	89.33	1,606.28	1,196.36

Signed:

Date: