

South Lopham Parish Council
Minutes of the 2018 APM and 17 May 2018 regular meeting held at Valley Farm,
Low Common.

Present:

Council Members: John Crisp (JC)
Sarah Martin (SM)
Anne Shipperlee (AM)
Jim Pursehouse (JP)
Rob Webb (RW)
Simon Puttock (SP)
Steve Reynolds (SR)

Parish Clerk: Gary Phillips (RFO) standing in for Clerk, S Askew (SA)

1. **Election of the Chairman.** J Crisp was unanimously approved.
2. **Election of the Vice Chairman** SM offered to stand on the same basis as in recent years i.e. there is no compulsion to become the next chair person. Unanimously approved.
3. **Chairman's opening remarks and Annual Report.** The Chairman gave his annual report. Thanks were given to the Councillors, the Clerk and Financial Officer for their commitment and time and for regularly attending meetings. Thanks also to Stephen Askew for attending meetings whenever possible and to Marion Chapman-Allen who, although she has been very ill, hopes to be with us shortly when she is permitted to drive again. The year has been quiet, the main focus being the acquisition of the SAM2 speed sign, Highways repairs/drainage, litter pick and the precept. The Chairman reported that our representative to the LOHP, Dr Helen Smith, is awaiting acceptance
4. **To record attendance and consider the acceptance of apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Caroline Phillips (CAP) and Marion Chapman-Allen.
5. **To record declarations of interests from members in any item to be discussed.** None declared.
6. **To approve the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (April 2017) and the last regular meeting March 2018.** Both sets of meeting notes were unanimously approved.
7. **To report on matters arising other than those listed separately on the agenda.** The RFO confirmed that the transition to online banking is now complete and operating smoothly
8. **Approve annual governance statement.** The meeting unanimously approved and the Chairman signed the statement. Clerk to sign on her return.
9. **Approve audit accounting statement.** Unanimously approved and signed by Chairman and RFO
10. **Approve and sign Certificate of Exemption.** Unanimously approved and signed by Chairman and RFO
11. **Update on GDPR.** SR reported on the impact of the GDPR regulations on the Council. The NALC has produced a template Data Protection Plan and SR will use this to prepare paperwork for review at the next meeting. This will include an action plan for approval by the Council.
12. **To receive the Financial Report, the statement of current balances, draft audit and accounts for approval or ratification;**
Opening balance of £3059.61 plus £211.00 residual in the old current account for a total of £3270.61. Total paid out £729.40, income received £1592.50

precept and grant £120.68 recycling income. Current balance as at 17 May 2018 £4279.39.

- i. Lophams' News April & May 2018 £60.40 (2x£30.20) – unanimously approved.
- ii. NALC subscription 2018/19 £146.26 – unanimously approved
- iii. Donation for upkeep of St Andrew's churchyard £250.00 – unanimously approved
- iv. Audit expenses for P Hodgson £22.00 – unanimously approved
- v. Clerk's expenses printer paper £5.75 - unanimously approved.
- vi. Website domain name £19.18 reimburse S Reynolds – unanimously approved
- vii. Annual insurance to BHIB £268.82 – this was advised following publication of agenda – unanimously approved

13. To receive reports from Councillors on the following;

SA joined the meeting and gave a report on activities during the year. The text of his report is included at the end of these minutes.

- i. **Planning Matters SM.** Pearces Farm – application for 2 stables and a 3 bay cart lodge. Piggery Barn – application to increase the size and curtilage, originally granted under Permitted Development. Flint Farm bungalow application approved. SM had received a report of tree cutting near Primrose Lane but reported that there were no TPOs in place.
- ii. **Highways AS.** Blo Norton Road – pothole reported and has been marked with white spray paint. Bridge Farm – pothole reported and Highways are already aware.
- iii. **Community Matters JP.** Successful litter pick thanks to those involved. It was suggested that a further litter pick will be scheduled for the autumn.
- iv. **Footpaths RW.** Three patches of nettles on Parish footpaths need clearing. Alston Estates have sprayed all the cross-field footpaths. Clerk to write to J. Alston to express Council's thanks. RW is progressing the Parish Footpath Map. It was suggested that J Alston should be invited to attend the meeting once these are received.
- v. **Works SP.** The bench has been restored, coated with teak oil and had new fixings fitted.
- vi. **Parish Website. SR** The website is now up to date with agendas and minutes. Clerk now has instructions on how to upload documents. SR suggested we continue to remain members of NALC because of the web support provided – unanimously approved
- vii. **SAM2 data, SR.** It was reported that some 40% of drivers exceed the 30MPH limit, with the most common speeds being in the 35 to 45 MPH range. Some very excessive speeds have been recorded on the A1066. It was also reported the Norfolk Camera Safety Partnership have a camera in the village recording data.

14. To consider other items of correspondence. Nothing to report.

15. To transact Any Other Business and receive suggestions for items to be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting. Nothing to report

16. Date and time of next Meeting/s.

3 July 2018 – Tuesday, now amended to 10 July

11 September 2018 - Tuesday

6 November 2018 - Tuesday

8 January 2019 – Thursday

5 March 2019 – Tuesday

14 May 2019 – Tuesday

Signed.

Date

Report from S Askew:

South Lopham APM 2018

Locally, it has been my busiest year yet as your County Councillor. The hideous and prolonged winter has had a major impact on the state of the county's roads leading to a plethora of notifications from constituents regarding flooding, blocked drains and potholes. Highway repair teams have been stretched making it difficult to get to major repairs as soon as we would wish but in the main, if I've been told about specific incidents they have been rectified or temporarily fixed and marked for a more permanent solution when the conditions allow.

Just over a year later than projected, the 18tonnes HGV weight limit pilot scheme on the B1111 between the A1066 and the A11 at Larling finally went live last week on April 2nd. This has been a difficult project fraught with obstacles, mainly from Highways England which caused frustrating delays. It is in place for a year and we will see what the impact is over that time. In any event, it has been a major achievement to actually get this in place and has cost a considerable sum to do so. I applaud the work of Phil Reilly at NCC who has worked so hard to bring this together in very trying circumstances. 2017/18 saw County Councillors allocated a personal budget which they could spend on smaller highway related issues within their Division. This has been of great benefit and has actually allowed me to resolve, improve and enable situations without the fuss of continual backwards and forwards with officers and general red tape. I'm pleased to say that I managed to allocate all of the budget for the benefit of the Division including a donation toward the SAM 2 Speed awareness Cameras which your PC purchased taking advantage of the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme.

I continue to submit items for the parish newsletter on a monthly basis should the editor wish to use them.

Broadband – our Better Broadband for Norfolk programme has already transformed broadband speeds for many people in the county, including in some of our most rural areas. We're on course to increase superfast broadband access in Norfolk to 95 per cent by March 2020 but we need to do more to reach the final five per cent. So we're looking to invest an additional £13m into the programme to extend superfast broadband coverage and get us much closer to our goal of eliminating broadband inequality in the county.

Mobile coverage – The new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is leaving no stone unturned in the drive to improve the county's mobile coverage (with a target of 98%) – working with the big four mobile providers and identifying opportunities to work together to improve the quality and reach of mobile data and voice coverage in Norfolk. In February we kicked off a campaign to improve coverage, with our survey van scouring the county to identify areas of greatest need. We are also using our county council-owned buildings to help overcome 'not spots', by putting mast on top of them to improve phone signals.

Attleborough – following an award of £4.5m from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to support planned growth within Attleborough, to help the town grow as smoothly and successfully as possible, we held a public

consultation in summer 2017 to seek views on potential schemes and help us shape these significant transport improvements. As a result, we have prioritised work to create more parking spaces in the town centre's Queens Square car park and at the railway station, reduce queueing traffic and congestion by changing junctions and road layouts, encourage cycling and walking by improving and extending current facilities, and create a more attractive and usable space in front of the town hall – with the work due to start in Surrogate Street this year.

A47 – The council continues to actively work with the A47 Alliance, bringing together key stakeholders from Lowestoft to Peterborough to lobby for the A47 Throughout 2017 NCC worked with Highways England (HE) to develop proposals for sections of dualling and junction improvements to deliver the already funded projects (over £300m) as soon as possible. In Norfolk, this has seen the preferred scheme solutions announced by HE for dual carriageways between Easton and North Tuddenham, and from Blofield to Burlingham. It has also resulted in proposed junction improvement details being published for the A47/A11 Thickthorn junction, as well as the Vauxhall junction in Great Yarmouth. The County Council is currently delivering improvements to the rail station junction in Great Yarmouth, using funding provided by HE, which has also confirmed its commitment to complete the construction of all these projects between 2020 and 2023.

NCC is also actively engaging – with the A47 Alliance – in securing the next round of funding for further trunk road improvements due to be delivered between 2020 and 2025. Our two priorities in Norfolk remain unchanged: to see dualling of the Acle Straight and the Tilney to East Winch sections. This all builds towards the ultimate aim of seeing the A47 being a dual carriageway from Great Yarmouth through to Peterborough and the A1.

Third river crossing

Last year's Autumn Budget contained some great news for Norfolk as Chancellor Philip Hammond committed £98m of Government funding to create a third river crossing in Great Yarmouth. We made the third river crossing one of our infrastructure priorities,

Norwich Western Link – NCC has continued to develop the initial business case appraisal for a Norwich Western Link – to join the NDR to the Norwich southern bypass.

Great Yarmouth – work is well under way on £9m (from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership) of transport improvements to make it easier to get into and around Great Yarmouth and which will have long-term benefits for local people, visitors and for the borough's economy

Long Stratton bypass – getting a bypass built around Long Stratton is one of the County Council's top infrastructure priorities for Norfolk, and something we have long been pressing for. There was good news in February, as developers submitted a planning application to South Norfolk Council which included plans for a bypass. There's a long way to go before any decisions are reached but this is an important step in the right direction,

Transport for Norwich - last summer saw the launch of the flagship Westgate pedestrianisation scheme. This has created a thriving new public space that is pedestrian and cycle-friendly and has increased trade to local

businesses. Other projects included new cycle facilities along key routes to the city centre and university, as well as the start of works to reduce congestion on the Dereham Road/outer ring road junction. Forthcoming projects include improvements to traffic flow and pedestrian/cyclist provision around Prince of Wales Road, completion of the Wymondham to Hethersett cycle link, a new crossing on St Crispin's Road and a new transport interchange in Cringleford.

Recycling Norfolk's disused railways

As part of NCC's vision for a cycling and walking network for the county, a feasibility study is looking at bringing disused railways and other underused parts of the transport network back into use as cycling and walking routes. The initial feasibility study focusses on three disused railways, Weaver's Way – which is owned in part by Norfolk County Council - King's Lynn to Fakenham and King's Lynn to Hunstanton.

Education

In July for the first time, Norfolk reached or exceeded the national average for the proportion of good and outstanding schools, with 90% of Norfolk's school now judged as good or better by Ofsted.

£35m boost for adult social care – this welcome one-off funding from the Government helped address pressures in the health and social care system and followed extensive national lobbying by local authorities, including Norfolk. The money has helped us recruit 50 social workers, as well as contributing to new preventative activities to reduce and delay the need for formal care and support the safe discharge of people from hospital.

Caring for carers – with the five Clinical Commissioning Groups, we've commissioned a new carer-led service, Carers Matter Norfolk, to support the county's 100,000 unpaid carers.

Investing in home support – in the next financial year the council will be investing an extra £2.1m to help home support providers. It's developed a new model to improve the coverage and quality of home support countywide with a collaborative approach from providers –The ambition is that providers can respond to the majority of requests quickly and is reliable, providing continuity of well-trained personnel working to agreed professional standards, and people using these services to be able to remain in their own homes for as long as they wish.

Open Library – we are continuing to extend Open Library to more branches, giving customers access to libraries beyond staffed opening hours, by using their membership cards to access library buildings. This initiative ran successfully as a pilot project and the aim is to offer this service at all libraries.

Norfolk Reading Pathway – following a grant of £98,000 from Arts Council England, we have supported almost 600 Norfolk residents aged 8 and above to learn to read. Using a phonics-based reading programme, learners are supported by library volunteer coaches, who are given full training. A large part of this project has involved supporting schools with children who struggle to read. Reading sessions take place at libraries across Norfolk and we are continuing to recruit new learners and volunteers.

Digital libraries – as well as launching of the Libby app, enabling customers to access books from anywhere, the Library Service has been running a

range of digital clubs. This includes everything from helping people learn to log on to the internet or use a tablet computer, through to a number of successful coding clubs. In the Autumn of 2017, Norfolk libraries were given 500 BBC micro:bits which can be borrowed for free. They are tiny codeable computers that help people get to grips with digital devices and learn about coding.

Libraries as community hubs are helping break down social isolation and bringing services to the people – whether it's baby-weighing scales, Knit and Natter or Just a Cuppa drop-in sessions. There are some excellent volunteers doing amazing work at our libraries, making a huge difference to people's lives by fundraising, knitting, cooking, helping people with IT, running craft sessions, literacy sessions and activities for people with dementia. .

Outstanding exhibitions at our museums – two home-grown exhibitions at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery pulled in the crowds in the summer and autumn of 2017. Nelson & Norfolk and Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness shone a spotlight on extraordinary objects in the Castle collections. The exhibition, which also featured major loans from Royal Museums Greenwich and the Royal Collections, attracted 57,527 visitors and received regional, national and international coverage.

Fire and Rescue – councillors from our Communities Committee voted unanimously in January that the Fire and Rescue Service should continue to be governed by the county council. In 2016/17 (latest stats available), our Fire and Rescue Service attended 7,340 incidents and rescued over 700 people. Following the devastating Grenfell Tower blaze in London, our Fire and Rescue Service did a great deal of public reassurance work and inspected all domestic Norfolk high-rise flats, mid-rise blocks and many commercial premises to check safety compliance.

Domestic abuse – we continue to tackle domestic abuse in Norfolk head-on, with our programme to train 'champions' – people in professions who deal with the public and who are taught to spot signs of abuse and offer support. Domestic abuse is not always physical and can take many forms, including coercion and control, and our aim is to raise awareness about this and focus on the safety of people at risk. Our domestic abuse change coordinators have exceeded all expectations by training 925 champions so far since 2015, keeping an estimated 1,500 people in the county safer.

One low point is that I haven't managed to frequent The Fox as much as I would have liked during the past year but I congratulate the community for the effort put in to make the pub a success and I wish you well moving forward.

Steve Askew