



# Newton Flotman Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 26 January 2021  
(this meeting was held virtually using the GoToMeeting platform)

Present: David Gibbs (Chairman) Julie King (clerk)  
Bob Kelf (from item 5)  
Bob McKelvey  
Jeff Billings  
Paul Weeks

Members of the public – Florence Ellis, District Councillor and Colin Foulger, County Councillor.

- 1 Apologies for Absence  
None.
- 2 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations  
Paul Weeks declared an interest in item 9b as he is a trustee of the Village Centre Management Committee and item 9d as he is a member of the Long Stratton Medical Partnership's Patient Participation Group.
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2021  
**These were agreed as a true record of proceedings with no amendments.**
- 4 Councillor Vacancies  
There had been no interest.
- 5 Public Participation  
Florence Ellis spoke of the site that Ben Burgess were trying to secure planning permission for in Swainsthorpe including the recent digging on the site and the flooding of the area that is proposed to be used for a car park for workers and visitors. She also said that the Judicial Review brought against Norfolk County Council by Swainsthorpe Parish Council was due to be heard on 23 March.

Florence also spoke of the Long Stratton by-pass, it was hoped that a planning application for the housing would be submitted in April/May, the land necessary for the by-pass and new primary school would now be part of a section 106 agreement (as appose to a Compulsory Purchase Order) and most of the finance necessary for the by-pass had now been secured from the Department for Transport and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments.

Colin Foulger spoke of a letter he had received regarding a near-miss accident opposite the Ben Burgess site entrance, following investigation it appeared that Highways had not been informed. He too had attended a meeting regarding the Long Stratton by-pass and was pleased that the project was progressing.

6 Correspondence

There was nothing to be circulated.

7 Councillor Updates

Jeff Billings and the Clerk had attended South Norfolk Council's Parish Council Forum the previous week.

8 Matters Arising

None.

9 Regular Items

a Highway Issues

Nothing new to report.

b Newton Flotman Village Centre and Alan King Playing Field

The Village Centre Committee had asked that the Parish Council consider paying for the grounds maintenance of the playing field for 2021 at quoted cost of £2,523.97, **this was agreed.**

Paul Weeks spoke of a meeting that had been held to discuss the ditches. The Village Centre was trying to ascertain ownership of the ditch behind Grove Dale and Sewells Close before deciding on the action that needed to be taken and were to obtain quotes for the ditch that ran beside the access road.

The Clerk had received an invoice for the annual clearing of the section of ditch behind Sewells Close, it was not thought that this work had been authorised for this year and the Clerk was following this up with South Norfolk Council.

A small copse of trees had been planted at the playing field, organised by a group associated with the Church.

c Church Activities

Nothing to report.

d Patient Participation Group

Paul Weeks reported that the local surgeries had opened up a Covid-19 vaccination centre at Porringland and patient were being contacted to arrange appointments. At the same time, a centre had been opened at Castle Quarter and NHS were sending out letters of invitation. This had led to some confusion and patients were being told that if they already had an appointment booked at Porringland to ignore the invitation for Castle Quarter.

## 10 Matters Arising

### a Flordon Road/A140 Junction Improvements

The additional double-yellow lining along Flordon Road and the extended speed limit restriction on Flordon Road to the junction with the A140 had been carried out. Councillors were pleased to note that turning out of St Mary's Close was now safer. The 30mph signs on St Mary's Close were now redundant but it was acknowledged that these would serve as a reminder to motorists.

It was not anticipated that any further improvements to the junction would be able to be implemented until the developments in Long Stratton were approved.

### b Access to Smockmill Common and Land East off the A140

The planned meeting due to take place over the winter was awaited, it was likely that this would not be possible until the Covid restrictions were lifted.

It was noted that the development had been submitted as part of the South Norfolk Council's 'Village Cluster Plan'.

### c Removal of Dead Tree and Cutting back of Vegetation at the Allotments

Saffron had removed the dead tree, part of which had fallen on an allotment holder's shed, and had cut back some of the vegetation overhanging the same plot. This had left a gap in the boundary hedge between the allotments and Blunderville Manor. **It was agreed to suggest that tree/s or shrub/s could be planted to fill the gap and that the wire and concrete post could be reinstated.** The Clerk was to approach the Tree Warden to see if they were able to assist. **The Parish Council agreed to purchase the necessary tree/s or shrub/s.**

### d Bus Service to the Top of the Village

Konnectbus had drawn up a proposed timetable to serve the top of the village and Norfolk County Council had agreed in principle. A decision was awaited regarding implementation but this was being delayed due to the effects of Covid-19.

## 11 New Items

### a July Meeting

It was noted that the Village Centre was no longer available for the date set for the July meeting – 20 July. **It was agreed to retain the date of 20 July for the time being as it was not certain whether the Council would be holding face to face meetings by then or that the cinema night planned by the Village Centre would be going ahead.**

### b Laptop

Consideration was given to the purchase of a new laptop. **It was agreed that the clerk could spend up to £750 on a laptop and software.**

### c Flooding of the River Tas

Following the heavy rain on 23 December the River Tas had been only 6 to 7 inches from flooding at the old bridge. This was of concern, as well as the flooding of

homes it would also have affected the electrical substation. **It was agreed to ask South Norfolk Council for some sandbags and to continue to chase the Environment Agency with regard to the maintenance of the river.**

d Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that a Parish Plan was last carried out in 2008 and consideration was given to reviewing the actions identified at that time as well as updating the plan.

Consideration was also given to the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan but it was noted that this was a large piece of work and unless major development was planned there was little benefit.

**It was agreed to review the Parish Plan at the next meeting and to consider updating the plan, maybe with the assistance of the UEA or City College.**

e Twinning

Consideration was given to establishing a twinning arrangement with another European village, **it was agreed not to proceed.**

12 Periodic Items

a Clerk's Appraisal

**It was agreed to appoint David Gibbs and Bob Kelf to conduct the Clerk's appraisal**, this would be reported back at the March meeting.

13 Finance

a Requests for Donations

None.

b Receipts and Payments since the last meeting

The following receipts since the last meeting were noted:

Unity Trust Bank	Repayment of bank charges	£12.00
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The following payments since the last meeting were noted:

LMN Hedge and Treecare	Area at top of Alan Avenue	£200.00
Anglian Water	Allotment Water	£20.00
The CGM Group	Grounds maintenance	£285.87
The CGM Group	Grounds maintenance	£263.86
The CGM Group	Grounds maintenance	£131.93
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	£18.00
Anglian Water	Allotment Water	£20.00

c Invoices for Payment

The following were approved for payment:

J King	Salary & expenses (Dec & Jan)	£658.81
Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension contribution	£130.80
P Moyes	Bus shelter cleaning (Dec & Jan)	£50.00

14 Planning

a Bloy's Grove

Nothing to report.

b Long Stratton Applications 2018/0111 & 2018/0112

This had been covered under Public Participation.

c Swainsthorpe – Ben Burgess Application 2018/2631

This had been covered under Public Participation.

d Review of Planning Meeting Decisions

Those applications, along with the recommendations made at planning meeting/s were noted:

2020/2154 Grooming Parlour, Corner House, Mill Lane

It had been agreed to recommend approval

2020/2196 22 St Mary's Close

It had been agreed to recommend approval

2020/2303 Bridge End, Church road

It had been agreed to recommend approval

It was noted that the recently reopened shop was doing very well, was being well used and that the owner very pleased with the response.

e Planning Decisions taken by South Norfolk Council

2020/22061     1 Rosemary Cottages, Flordon Road     Approved with conditions

f Planning Appeals and Enforcements

A member of the public had raised concerns regarding the metal barns at New Cranes Farm, this had been referred to Planning Enforcement at South Norfolk Council.

15 Items for Next Agenda

Review of the Parish Plan.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 March 2021, 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.