

## **GREAT MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Great Moulton Parish Council Ordinary Meeting  
held in the Coronation Hall Carr Lane Great Moulton NR15 2LA  
on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs C Bailey (Chair), G Timms (Vice-Chair), M Negm & K Bailey  
Libby Alexander (Clerk)

No members of the public were in attendance

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr S Morgan due to work commitments were accepted.

2. To record Declarations of Interest from Council Members in any item to be discussed  
None.

3. To agree and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 21 September 2023

The minutes were duly agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 21 September 2023

None.

5. Public Participation including report from the District Councillor and County Councillor

No public participation required.

The District Councillor, Cllr Ridley reported that a District Council meeting had been held. The Long Stratton bypass now has planning permission and building should commence in the new year and take approximately nine months to complete. At the Finance, Resource, Audit and Governance meeting it was decided to have an independent person on the committee in an advisory role.

The County Councillor, Cllr Catherine Rowett reported the following (see Appendix for full report):

- Currently working with Parishes and the Highways Officer on schemes related to roads and road safety. This includes the Parish Partnership Scheme and making applications to the Road Safety Community Fund.
- A number of motions were presented at the full Council meeting in September including coastal erosion, nutrient neutrality regulations and ensuring the County is not investing in fossil fuel assets that will lose value in a carbon free future. The Transport Cabinet member was also asked about the lack of rural bus services.
- The Long Stratton bypass has now got planning permission from South Norfolk Council.

- Continuing to push for improved bus and other travel choices for all so life without a car remains an option.
- The Infrastructure and Development Committee discussed the first tranche of NCCs Climate Action Plan and the new Walking, wheeling and cycling strategy.
- The People and Communities Select Committee considered new strategies relating to special educational needs provision for children, the Integrated Winter Plan (health and wellbeing) on how to manage resources in the winter and also Children's Social Care.
- The Scrutiny Committee discussed the proposed budget for 2024/25 which is predicting a significant shortfall and a proposed increase in Council Tax.
- Blocked or broken drains on Norfolk highways can be reported to NCC via [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding).
- Public health at NCC is encouraging smokers to quit in October with tools and support available via Smokefree Norfolk.
- The Council is encouraging people to consider becoming foster carers.
- NCC is receiving funding from Central Government to which it is adding its own funding to meet the needs of vulnerable households over the winter.

## 6. Finances

### 6.1 To approve the attached schedule of payments

The schedule of payments was duly approved and forms part of these minutes.

### 6.2 To receive an update on the banking mandate of the Council

The Clerk reported that the new banking mandate had been signed by Councillors and returned to Barclays in order to update the banking mandate and provide access to Online Banking. No further correspondence had been received and the Clerk would contact Barclays again for an update.

## 7. Planning Applications

New – 2023/3017 | Outline Planning Permission - Outline planning permission for 2 dwellings and associated garages with all matters reserved except for access | Land to the North of Black Mill Lane Great Moulton Norfolk

Resolved for there to be no reason to support or object either way to the outline planning proposed.

Determined – None.

## 8. Maintenance of the old telephone box

Cllr K Bailey reported that he had contacted Chris Alden, the local carpenter about undertaking the restoration of the phone box and that due to current work commitments he would start work on it in the spring when the weather was also likely to be better. The Clerk confirmed she had also written to him confirming the Parish Council had agreed to the work. Cllr C Bailey suggested contacting Mr Alden regarding whether it would be

beneficial to purchase resources required for the project sooner rather than later to keep costs down.

9. Correspondence received:

Mr Rod Webster – Purchase of cutter and hedge trimmer

New information received since the September meeting identified confusion on the items owned by the Parish Council for footpath maintenance and the items wishing to be purchased by Mr Webster. Following clarification, it was unanimously agreed to sell the cutter and hedge trimmer to Mr Rod Webster for £300.

10. To approve the purchase of a poppy wreath from the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday under Section 137 at a cost of £27.49

Cllr Timms proposed the purchase of a poppy wreath from the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday under Section 137 at a cost of £27.49. This was seconded by Cllr Negm and all Councillors unanimously agreed.

11. Great Moulton Times Update

The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Hellen Hammond and informed her of the Parish Council decision to step away from the production of the Great Moulton Times. The Clerk had also delivered the printer to her to assist her with continued production.

12. To receive a report from the Coronation Hall

Cllr C Bailey reported that a successful Quiz Night was held on 7 October and a lot of money was raised. The Christmas Fayre will be held on 2 December. An application has been made to the British Heart Foundation for a grant for a Defibrillator for the outside of the hall.

13. To consider appointing a new Footpath Warden

The Clerk reported that following the offer from Mr Barry Peacock volunteering to maintain the upkeep of footpaths FP13, FP14, FP15, FP18 and FP19, she had emailed him and invited him to this meeting to discuss the proposal but had not received a response.

The Clerk also reported she had contacted Norfolk ALC for advice on the situation with respect to Insurance and Health and Safety. Norfolk ALC advised that NCC is responsible for Footpaths but only has to maintain them every five years. Insurance usually covers the Council for tasks undertaken by volunteers. A volunteer should be competent to use any equipment and have certificates or undertake the task as a job. A risk assessment should be carried out to ensure all the risks have been covered eg providing goggles, equipment PPE, training etc.

Following discussion it was resolved to review options for maintenance of footpaths in the spring.

14. To receive the Wildlife Wardens report

The Wildlife Warden was not in attendance but had informed the Clerk that the bridge on the footpath in the wood behind the Coronation Hall requires repairing as it is unsafe. The Clerk confirmed she would find out from the Wildlife Warden which footpath number it is and report to Norfolk County Council.

15. To approve the date of the next ordinary Meeting of Great Moulton Parish Council and accept any items for the agenda

The next meeting date was set for Thursday 16 November 2023 at 19:00.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:39.

SIGNED:

DATED:

DRAFT

## Appendix

Councillor report October 2023, from Catherine Rowett

### Highways and road safety:

I have been busy working with Parishes and with the highways officer on schemes for improving things relating to roads and road safety. Some of these will be funded through the Parish Partnership scheme, from which you can get up to £25,000 contributed by NCC providing the Parish Council finds the funding to contribute half the costs. This scheme is for works that don't involve changes to any legal traffic order. Most urgent however has been work on the applications that I shall be making to the Road Safety Community Fund which is currently open to applications from this part of Norfolk. This one does allow us to apply to change Traffic Regulation Orders if our proposal meets the relevant criteria. I now have a spreadsheet of all the schemes that have been suggested, and I'm working with the Highways officer to see which ones are suitable for the RSCF scheme and how to make a convincing and effective case for them. We hope to have this work complete by the middle of October.

### September's Full Council meeting

Full Council met on Tuesday 26th September. I spoke on a number of important motions, including one on coastal erosion, one on the nutrient neutrality regulations that (thankfully) the House of Lords voted to keep in place when the government suddenly proposed to scrap them, and one on ensuring that the County is not investing its money in fossil fuel assets that will lose value as we move to a carbon-free future. We also asked a number of searching questions to the Leader and Cabinet. I asked the Transport Cabinet member (Graham Plant) about the lack of rural bus services, and got a pretty unsatisfactory answer from which it appeared that only his wife ever travels by bus in his family. We also pressed the administration to ensure that they continue with insulation programmes to end the problem of cold homes, despite the government's latest betrayal of its net zero commitments. I got featured in the EDP when it ridiculed the answer given by the Council Leader in response to my quoting Feargal Sharkey on the importance of protecting our rivers from pollution.

### Long Stratton Bypass:

The Long Stratton Bypass has now got planning permission from South Norfolk District Council. It includes huge numbers of new homes (I've heard it described as a housing estate rather than a bypass) and a new primary school. I requested a proper briefing on the scheme with the chief officer in charge of the scheme, in the hope of understanding the details of how it will affect access into and out of Long Stratton, and also how it will affect cyclists, businesses in Long Stratton who rely on passing trade, and bus routes. I'm having an on site visit to see where it is supposed to connect with the old road, and what route it will take across unspoiled land, next week. I would be interested to hear the views of West Depwade residents and parish councils.

### Buses and active travel

I'm continuing to push for choices for everyone, so that life without a car remains an option for everyone, young and old, and ideally a really convenient option since active modes of travel have been shown to massively improve community life and a sense of belonging and knowing your neighbours. Having been taken aback in September to find a council web page that implied that the Flexibus still existed in South Norfolk, I now find that this was not true, and that it has indeed been withdrawn, and so has the Border Hoppa service. This leaves many residents with no solution for the trips they used to do, since even where there is a bus to/from the village, it often goes at times that are not really compatible with appointments or even a half day shopping trip. It seems to coincide with a general sense that the cabinet member for highways and transport is promoting car travel to the exclusion of all other modes of transport. The Council does run a car scheme

with volunteer drivers, <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-andtransport/public-transport/travel-norfolk-car-scheme> but the eligibility criteria make it look as if almost no one would qualify for help.

The County Council has launched a new website that enables you to check for any journey you need to make whether there is a suitable way to get there by bus, train, bicycle, walking, or some combination of these things, and compares the time, cost and carbon footprint of each mode of travel, including car travel, so that you can see if there is a better/quicker/cheaper or less damaging way to get to the place you need to go. It's interesting, though rather depressing when I ask it for public transport routes to the villages in my County division! Fun to play with and could be very interesting for children at the school to investigate the carbon footprint of their journeys and to work out how to manage them without emitting so much planet-killing stuff. Find it here: Journey Planner - Travel Norfolk.

#### Infrastructure and Development Committee

I attended a meeting on the morning of Wednesday 13th September, with several items of important business including (among other things) the first tranche of Norfolk County Council's Climate Action Plan, and the new Walking, wheeling and cycling strategy (which is good in general, but I was not satisfied with the fact that it fails to address the issue of speed limits and other measures to make walking and cycling safe in the country lanes). I hope to bring a motion to council to bring us into line with other councils that have a much better policy regarding rural speed limits, and will be interested in the response given that most of my parishes are keen to see reductions in speeds in their villages, and to be able to walk dogs and ride bicycles. I'm alarmed that the government seems determined to eliminate 20 mph limits, even though they have been shown to vastly reduce the risks of fatalities and severe injuries in road accidents-as well as reducing the risk of the accident occurring in the first place. I hope to prepare this motion for the December Council meeting.

#### People and Communities

On Friday 15th September I attended the People and Communities Select committee (substituting for a colleague who is on holiday) where we considered new strategies relating to Special Educational Needs provision for children, and also the "Integrated winter plan (health and wellbeing)" which is the Council's plan for how to manage resources over the winter and ensure that there are hospital beds and safe places for people to be discharged to etc. This latter document was very vague and lacking in detail, and the risk assessment was, in my view, wholly inadequate. The final item of business was on Children's Social Care, which is a new strategy to ensure that children who need intervention are raised in a family setting if at all possible.

#### County Council budget

The scrutiny committee 10am on Wednesday 18 October will scrutinise the proposed budget. The report to be considered says NCC faces a "significant challenge" to develop a budget for 2024/2025 given yet more expected cuts in what we get from government. A shortfall of £46 million is predicted. A 4.99% increase on council tax is proposed. There will be public consultation during the Autumn. Further details and a link to the report available here

#### Contact me

You can contact me on [Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) for Council-related business, and I look forward to helping with a range of issues that people have already brought to my attention. I'm always delighted to attend award ceremonies, events, centenaries, lectures, exhibitions, conferences, debates, litter picking parties, campaign events and protests, so don't hesitate to add me to your mailing lists! I also have a facebook page which includes updates on what I am working on, posts about events and opportunities relevant to residents, and a place where you can comment and leave your views on things I want to ask you about. The link is here.

## Other County Council news

A few items to mention from the County Council more generally:

### Preventing floods

Small, simple steps that ensure water can drain away from your home can cut down the likelihood of flooding: e.g. keeping drains, ditches, and watercourses clear. Many ditches and watercourses will benefit from clearing branches, and cutting back new undergrowth. Early autumn is a good moment for property owners to put in a little work to keep their properties safe. Outside the home, if you spot any blocked or broken drains on Norfolk's highways you can report it via [www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding), allowing Norfolk's Highways Team to clear them and keep our roads open. More information [here](#).

### Stop smoking in October? The Stoptober Campaign

Public Health at Norfolk County Council is urging smokers to quit this October, using the tools and support available via Smokefree Norfolk. The first step is to go to the Ready to Change website where you can find out more about your smoking behaviours and get help from "Smokefree Norfolk". More information at [www.readytochange.co.uk](http://www.readytochange.co.uk)

### Recruiting foster parents

The Council (in collaboration with other councils) has launched a new film to encourage people to consider becoming foster parents, to help ensure that all children in care get the best possible chances in life. Information about becoming a foster carer in Norfolk and a link to the film can be found [here](#).

### Household Support Fund winter support

Norfolk County Council is receiving £13.4m from central government, to which it is adding £400,000 of its own for support measures to meet the needs of vulnerable households over the winter. All of Norfolk's libraries will be offering free winter support items until the end of March 2024 (while stocks last). Find out more about help from the Household Support fund [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

16th October 2023