

Nacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 10 January 2024 starting at 7.00 pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr. B. Hunt (Chairman), Cllr J Mumford, Cllr. A Eaton, Cllr. S Godden, Cllr. E Wilson, Cllr. J Leeder and Cllr. S Baalham

Mrs C Lucas (Clerk) Mr B Mansfield (RFO)

Agenda Item	Context/Discussion	Actions and Decisions
1. Apologies for absence	Cllr. P. Warner and Cllr. I. Hatfield. Both apologies were accepted by the councillors in attendance.	
2. Declarations of interest	None	
3. Invitation to public to comment on agenda items	None	
4. Minutes and actions of meetings	Previous minutes from the 29 th of November 2023 were agreed upon as a true and accurate reflection and signed by the Chairman.	
5. Chairman's update	The chairman said it had been brought to his attention that the village hall booking form on the website is not working as it is saying that the website is not authenticated. The chairman said that this issue would be investigated by the new website working group which are due to meet at the beginning of February. The defibrillator annual service has been booked. The war memorial has been cleaned but the black in the lettering is disappearing so	

	we may need to find a sign writer to update the lettering in the not-too-distant future. The Christmas tree was erected outside the village hall. There were issues with a broken plug which parishioner Paul Tattersall kindly assisted with. The Chairman stated he had circulated the design for the proposed Information Board which will be sited in Victoria Field to all councillors. The Chairman said he had met with Allan Sugg (AS) who has been re-elected as the Chairman of Priory Court Residents Association and he is keen to improve the communication between Priory Court and the Parish Council. AS gave the Chairman some information to include in the 'Welcome to Nacton' guide. AS invited parish councillors to a coffee morning at 10.30 am on the 7th of March at the clubhouse at Priory Court – the Chairman urged councillors to attend if they could. The Chairman raised a point that was made in an email sent to the clerk regarding keeping the email newsletter distribution list updated. It was agreed that: Allan Sugg would update the clerk on arrivals and departures at Priory Court and that parish councillors would either a) update the clerk when people move in or out of the village (or pass away) and b) put a note through doors when people move into the parish. The clerk offered to design a poster for the noticeboard to tell people how to sign up for the newsletter and do a post on Facebook. There is an option on every email for the recipient to unsubscribe at any time.	Action: Councillors to email the Chairman by the end of January on their thoughts of the design for the Information Board. Action: Clerk to create a poster and Facebook post regarding signing up for the newsletter
6. Planning applications	Ref. No: DC/23/4321/LBC Validated: Wed 08 Nov 2023 Status: Awaiting decision Ref. No: DC/23/4320/FUL Validated: Wed 08 Nov 2023 Status: Awaiting decision Ref. No: DC/23/3341/FUL Validated: Fri 08 Sep 2023 Status: Awaiting decision	

	Cllr. Reeve commented that when Nacton Parish Council neither supports nor objects to a planning application it makes it difficult when they go to appeal. Cllr. Wilson said that it is not the job of parish councillors to make objections unless they are against a planning policy.	
7. Reports	7.1 County Councillor Patti Mulcahy sent an email to the clerk on the morning of the meeting. She apologised for the lack of communication and said she had been ill since October. Councillors expressed their concern about the process and procedure of a County Councillor being on long-term sick and asked the clerk to find out what the process is. Cllr. Leeder opened up a discussion about what happens to Cllr. Mulcahy's locality budget whilst she is off sick. 7.2 District Councillor Reeves was in attendance and ran through a pre-circulated report. He highlighted to councillors the Outreach Project which is a mobile food and clothing bank that will be circulating the peninsula communities. He said that it would be arranged for it to come to Nacton and that they would need access to the village hall. It was said that this is not possible due to the playgroup using the village hall every day during the week. Cllr. Wilson said it might be possible to find an alternative location depending on the date and time. Cllr. Reeves to update us when he knows more information as funding was only agreed upon just before Christmas. Cllr. Reeves also spoke about the 'triple lock' for planning which is going to be trialled for 6 months. He also spoke about the severe weather emergency protocol and said that if anybody sees a 'rough' sleeper, sleeping outdoors in the middle of the night there is a 24-hour emergency number to call which is 0800 440 2516. Cllr. Leeder thanked Cllr Reeves and said on behalf of the councillors he appreciates Cllr Reeves and Cllr Ninmey's involvement with Nacton Parish Council.	Action: Clerk to email Matthew Hicks to ask what the procedure is and how parish councillors would get notified of such absence of county councillor and to ask about locality budget.
8. Finances	8.1 – Payments agreed: • Village Hall Hire 29-Nov-23 = £35.00 • Village Hall Hire 10-Jan-24 = £35.00	

	• R. Warner expenses – petrol for grass cutting of Victoria Field (21-Jun-23 to 20-Nov-23) = £55.16 • Christmas Tree = £60.00 • Clerk Salary Feb-24 (£281.78) and Mar-24 (£281.78) • RFO Salary Feb-24 (£94.50) and Mar-24 (£94.50) <u>Total £937.72</u> The RFO gave an update on the balance of the current account (£7197.73) and reserve account (£23267.67). Bank mandates are now in progress as are online banking registrations. A VAT reclaim of £151.33 was received in December for the period 1st April 2023 – 30th November 2023. The RFO reminded councillors that any expenses need to be claimed before the end of the financial year (31st March) The RFO had shared details about the proposed precept amount prior to the meeting. All councillors agreed to the precept of £11,500 an increase of £540 from last year. <u>RESOLVED</u> It was agreed to the purchase of not 1 but 2 new grit bins as it was noticed that another grit bin in the parish is full of water. The question was asked of whose responsibility it is to remove them. The Chairman commented that the wooden gate is warped at the entrance to Victoria Field. All agreed it could do with replacement.	<u>ACTION:</u> Clerk to purchase 2 new grit bins and get the old ones removed. <u>ACTION:</u> The Chairman to take measurements of the gate and get quotes.
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9. Parish documents	9.1 Emergency Plan – Cllr. Eaton said that he would need some input from Priory Court for the emergency plan. 9.2 Maintenance Plan – a meeting has taken place – to progress with the new farm manager. Cllr. Wilson said that she has emailed Vertas but has not had a reply to any of her emails.	<u>ACTION:</u> Clerk to send Cllr. Eaton Allan Suggs email address
10. Parish matters	10.1 – Nacton cricket club proposal - The proposal from Nacton cricket club was discussed but what they are asking for is not Nacton Parish Councils decision to make. An initial meeting has already taken place between Nacton Village Community Council and Nacton Cricket Club. Cllr. Hunt has spoken to Alex Brunt. 10.2 – Grit bin(s) - Discussed earlier in the agenda under finance. 10.3 – Parish matters arising - Cllr. Eaton said that at the sight line on the roundabout on the way out of the village to join the A14 is affected by the location of a sign on the roundabout. Cllr. Wilson said that this is a Highways issue. 10.4 – County Councillor - The absence of County Councillor Mulcahy was discussed earlier on in the agenda 10.5 – Village Sign - This is in progress and Cllr. Wilson will give an update when there is one.	
11. Matters raised by and reports by councillors	None	
12. Public question time	None	

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7 pm

