

ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ashmanhaugh Parish Council meeting held on 02 November 2010, at 7.00pm in the Preston Rooms

Present: Councillors Councillor N Sharpe - Chair
 Councillor N Coleman – Vice Chair
 Councillor Mrs R Buxton
 Councillor Miss S Hewitt
 Councillor G Beales
 Councillor G Saunders

 Officer Mrs G Sharpe – Clerk to the Council

In Attendance - Cllr Nigel Dixon

1 Apologies

There were apologies from Cllr T Hannant, who was unwell and PCSO Lucy Collyer.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **resolved and agreed** to adopt the minutes of the meeting 07 September 2010 and they were signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr G Saunders.

There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda.

4 Public Speaking

4.1 Cllr Dixon announced “Norfolk’s Big Conversation” [He sent the paperwork to the Clerk on the evening of Monday 01 November. All Members received a copy at the meeting].

Cllr Dixon said that the main document outlined what the County Council sees as necessary for the next few years. The consultation period was short because of the urgency. The closing date will be 10 January 2011. The proposals are a high level of thinking of how the Council will operate.

1 making efficiencies,

2 redesigning services,

3 having fewer priorities and

4 a smaller Council and devolving to bigger community responsibility.

He illustrated the ideas with personal care budgets which can be used at the discretion of the recipient. Services are a long way from many villages and local organisation can be adjusted to suit this. Services are already changing because of demand. The idea is to get the views from people to help mould the future.

Cllr Sharpe said that, twelve months ago after two years working on it, the County Council bid for a unitary authority for the whole county. This was because of the economies of scale would lead to greater efficiencies and savings. It seems incredible that, a year later, it now is advocating small, local service provision is more efficient. Also, although it spoke of devolving the responsibility, there was nothing about devolving budgets and funding.

Cllr Miss Hewitt asked if the County Council receives more central government funding for residents over 85. Cllr Dixon said that was included in the formula for calculating the Revenue Support Grant, which was complex. She then asked if the Personal Care Allowance would be liable for VAT. She knew that Suffolk County Council had arranged expenditure so that VAT could be reclaimed but that Norfolk County Council had taken a different route. Cllr Dixon said that the budget would be overseen by NCC but the matter of VAT was unresolved.

Cllr Saunders raised the matter of lost money with Icelandic banks and that now the residents of Norfolk were having to pay for it. Cllr Dixon said that NCC could not be held responsible as it had acted on specialist advice, which turned out to be poor, supported by the treasury. NCC needed to keep considerable reserves to cover emergencies and, therefore, these could not be drawn upon.

Cllr Mrs Buxton asked how much of the responses would be considered as she was aware that much of the proposals were in process. She felt it was a foregone conclusion. She asked

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if the consultation would be in the next edition of "Your Norfolk" but Cllr Dixon was unable to tell her.

Cllr Sharpe said it appeared that the work previously carried out by paid officers was expected to be done by Local Councils and volunteers but with no funding. This would mean that Local Councils would need to fund these services through the precept.

Cllr Dixon said that, as a result of the County Council moving considerable expenditure from revenue income to capital borrowing, now revenue had been reduced and capital borrowing stopped, capital funded activities, such as highway maintenance, would be severely hit. However, although it was estimated that some 3000 posts will disappear, many will be relocated to service companies under the NORSE umbrella. He also suggested that, if the Parish Council does respond, it should minimise the amount of text and use a listing method where possible.

It was **agreed** that the members would consider the document and form a response at the meeting on 04 January 2011.

Cllr Dixon then left the meeting. Cllr Miss Hewitt thought that planning ahead should be one comment under "efficiencies".

4.2 PCSO Collyer (Safer Neighbourhood Team) was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report. There had been three reports since the meeting on 07 September. Two for mud on the road and one suspicious behaviour.

4.3 There were no questions from residents.

5 Correspondence

5.1 All Councillors confirmed that they had seen the correspondence shown on the 'Circulation list'.

5.2 Norfolk ALC members survey was discussed and completed.

5.3 The Chair read the letter from Active Norfolk about Village Games. Cllr Coleman said that the equipment in the village hall was not used so it would be unlikely to get much support. However, it was **agreed** that, due to her interest in sport, Paula Mayes should be approached.

5.4 Barnham Broom has been chosen to take part in the People's Millions 2010, which takes place on ITV Anglia evening regional news. There are five, £50,000 awards available in the region – one award for each night, for the project which receives the most telephone votes. As the only village in Norfolk, to be chosen Members were urged to give their support and tune into the Anglia news on November 22 and Vote. (see www.peoplesmillions.org.uk)

6 Financial Matters

6.1 It was **resolved and agreed** to approve the presented accounts for the period 01 April 2010 to 31 October 2010. Proposed Cllr Rachel Buxton. Cllr Mrs Buxton signed the bank statements confirming agreement with the accounts.

The revised draft five year budget (titled Revision 1 and dated 25 October 2010), was discussed and noted.

6.2 It was **resolved and agreed** to hold the precept at the 2010/11 value. The form was signed by the Chair, Cllr Coleman, Cllr Mrs Buxton and the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr Miss Sarah Hewitt.

6.3 Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club were thanked for their generous donation of £50, for the reporting and publicity in the Newsletter.

6.4 It was **resolved and agreed** to pay the following accounts. Proposed by Cllr Saunders

(a) Membership subscription Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) £72.00

(b) Reimbursement to the Clerk for stationary costs £69.50

6.6 Councillors were informed that the cost of the 'Election Training', agreed at the meeting on 07 September 2010, had been reduced in cost from £35.00 to £25.00.

7 Planning Matters

There were no planning matters to discuss.

8 Newsletter

The Chair informed the Members that the sponsorship he obtained, will run out in March 2011 and that the current sponsors will not be able to continue. It would be unlikely to get one sponsor, so roll up funding would need to be sought. Cllr Mrs Buxton suggested increasing the advertising charges and that she would approach a local business for support. The Chair thought that there could be some funding from NNDC or the Happing Partnership. It was agreed to pursue this.

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9 Reports on Training and Meetings

- 9.1 It was **resolved and agreed** that an open evening for prospective and current parish councillors, be held on 15 February 2011. Invitations will be sent to Neatishead, Tunstead and Worstead Parish Councils to try to have a joint session with assistance from NNDC. It was agreed Councillors would provide cheese, 'nibbles, wine, tea and coffee.
- 9.2 It was confirmed that Cllrs Coleman and Sharpe will attend the "Think Green" conference at Easton College on 10 November 2010.
- 9.3 Cllrs Mrs Buxton, Sharpe and Saunders will attend the "Planning in North Norfolk" conference at Blakeney on 15 November 2010.
- 9.4 Cllr Sharpe reported on the Stalham and Happening Partnership AGM and the Stalham Hub proposal. The Hub was discussed again and it was confirmed that the Council was not supportive. The Clerk was asked to respond to Richard Price.
- 9.5 It was confirmed that Cllr Sharpe will attend the North Norfolk Community Partnership conference on the 02 December 2010.

10 Preston Room

Cllr Noel Coleman said that there was little to report except that the Quiz Night had been cancelled due to lack of support.

11 Members Matters

There were no Members matters for future meetings.

The meeting closed at 21.10

The Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting is:-

Tuesday 04 January 2011

At 7.00pm

In the Preston Room, School Road, Ashmanhaugh