

# LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Andrew Parker

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## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF LEZIATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER 2021 FROM 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Parker (AP) (Chair), Cllr. Adrian Bramwell (AB), Cllr Jason Ess (JE), Cllr Jon Large (JL), and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk. County Councillor Jim Moriarty, Borough Cllr Michael de Whalley (MdW) and 1 member of the public.

1. **WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR**
2. **PARISHIONERS 15 MINUTE FORUM:**  
None
3. **a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**  
Cllrs Graham Mathias, Colin Manning, Andy Blatch and Stuart Dickerson
- b. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**  
None
4. **Approval of the Circulated minutes from the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2021**  
Acceptance proposed ABL, seconded AP and motion accepted by all present.

### Matters arising:

**4.1 Ashwicken Lakes –** AB discussed his report and is very conscious that the planning department are looking to us for a local view and the update from the planning officer and the NCC meeting re Highways modifications including footpaths etc., was discussed. AB will update his report and include the photograph of traffic at the school. Clerk to send out the report upon receipt and comments required by the 22<sup>nd</sup> if possible. ACTION AB/CB

**4.2 Anti-social behaviour,** parking, speeding etc., as discussed at the open meeting earlier.

**4.3 Village Hall playground** update – the clerk advised that the earmarked funds would cover the costs and the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance. It was agreed to go ahead with the quote for maintenance and painting but removing mending the gate. Proposed AP, seconded JE and accepted by all present.

### 5. PLANNING:

**Planning to consider: -**

No new applications

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Date

## 6. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

### **Cllr. de Whalley –**

Advised that Cllr Manning would be taking time off. The CIL funding spending panel were meeting again on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September with £1m remaining in the fund. Advised that the parish council start thinking of applications now. Applications had included playgrounds, leisure sports, footpaths, trods, community centres, parking, bus shelters and LED lights.

Borough Councillors had been given a grant fund of £1000 per annum. Hybrid meetings continue and the town deal fund for the Guildhall project under discussion along with the Carnegie Library. Cllr de Whalley keen to find out who own the building and plans a trip to Edinburgh. A full time Monitoring Officer has been appointed

### **Cllr. Moriarty –**

Re open evening meeting – we need the funds to start the study.

## **Flood fund spending to be agreed**

**Norfolk's Cabinet will consider the allocation of the council's £1.5m Flood Reserve Fund to support urgent works, repairs and to enable recommendations from flood investigation reports.**

The Reserve Fund was set up in the annual budget for 2021/22 agreed by the County Council in their budget meeting in February.

The Cabinet meeting, due to be held 6 September, will discuss the proposed allocation of the funding, including £695k for additional highway and ditch maintenance and £365k for drainage asset improvements.

This funding will be used for work on the 285,864 metres of drainage grips and 31,037 metres of kerb drains on Norfolk's highways, as well as operations to clear some of the county's 145,305 gullies that help drain rain water.

Also included in the allocation are the costs of setting up and maintaining the single phone number set up by the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) to give Norfolk residents one point of contact to report flooding. To report flooding anywhere in the county simply call 0344 800 8013.

Norfolk's Cabinet will also be asked to endorse the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance Strategy and action plan, which includes a clear definition of the vision, objectives and principles of the Norfolk-wide partnership, as well as laying out the current action plan of the Alliance. This plan includes previously announced work on finding and costing solutions for 16 flood sites across the county, which is currently ongoing.

The NSFA Board will meet in September to review whether all partners have endorsed the Strategy. Norfolk County Council will make a decision on their endorsement at the Cabinet Meeting of 6 September.

## **Cabinet considers £11m highways boost**

Millions of pounds of extra funding to fill and prevent potholes, and £1m for 100 locally important road safety schemes, are set for discussion by Norfolk County Council Cabinet members on Monday 6 September.

The £1m Road Safety Community Fund would provide up to £10,000 each for smaller road safety schemes, such as lowering speed limits or making changes to road signs and markings, to help address local issues and concerns.

West Norfolk would be first to benefit if the new fund gets the backing of councillors. The cash would be spent on improvements right across Norfolk over the next four years, with work focused on one area of the county each year to help maximise efficiencies and allow as many schemes as possible to be funded. The focus would initially be West Norfolk, then North and East Norfolk, South Norfolk and finally Norwich. The first safety improvements could be in place about a year from now.

And a new £10m Highways Maintenance Pothole Fund would see an extra £2,500,000 spent each year for the next four years on resurfacing, surface dressing, drainage improvements, bridge maintenance and pothole repairs. This financial year, the extra money would include an extra £400,000 spent on fixing potholes, and an additional 54 miles of existing road surfaces given a new seal at a cost of £1.1m to prevent potholes opening up.

The extra £11m would be in addition to the £42 million budget for roads and infrastructure that was agreed in February 2021.

## **Norfolk to get faster broadband thanks to new Government funding**

Hard to reach premises in Norfolk are to receive between £115m and £195m of funding as part of the Government's Project Gigabit to provide 1GB per second broadband to up to 119,000 premises. Contracts will be awarded from February 2022.

Rural homes and businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk will get next-generation gigabit broadband brought to them under a £5 billion plan to level up internet access across the UK.

New details published today from Project Gigabit reveal that up to 210,000 rural homes and businesses in the region and surrounding areas are in line to be connected with lightning-fast speeds.

This is in addition to the roll-out of broadband by commercial providers, which is seeing gigabit broadband being deployed rapidly across the country - from one in ten households in the UK in 2019 to more than two in five today. The country is also on track for one of the fastest roll-outs in Europe and for 60 per cent of all households to have access to gigabit speeds by the end of this year.

The Project Gigabit programme targets properties that would otherwise have been left behind in broadband companies' roll-out plans, prioritising those that currently have the slowest connections.

Their available speeds will rocket to more than 1,000 megabits or one gigabit per second - enough to download a High Definition movie in less than 30 seconds and to lay the foundations for tomorrow's tech, such as 8K-quality video streaming.

It means families no longer having to battle over bandwidth and will give people in rural areas the freedom to live and work more flexibly, with the speed and reliability needed to start and run businesses.

Project Gigabit has announced that more investment is planned for the East of England, and more details to be shared in due course.

### **Resettling Afghan Refugees:**

As part of the Government's scheme to welcome up to 5,000 vulnerable Afghans to the UK in its first year with up to a total of 20,000 in the long-term; Norfolk County Council will work closely with the Government and partners to ensure that Norfolk accommodates a share of these refugees.

The council will be ensuring new arrivals get the support they need to settle into their new communities as well as taking into account pressures from other existing schemes. Details of the Afghan resettlement scheme [are now available](#).

Norfolk has a proud record of offering support to refugees. Along with our supporting city, district and borough councils, Norfolk was among the first localities to offer to support the resettlement of Afghan nationals under the government's Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), launched on 1 April this year, and a number of Afghan nationals are already receiving support right here in the county.

The council has already assisted over 150 Syrian refugees to successfully settle in Norfolk since 2017 and will use the skills and experience this provided to make the transition for arriving Afghan nationals as smooth as possible. Norfolk County Council will also continue its work with unaccompanied child asylum seekers, which was praised recently by Vicky Ford, the Minister for Children, who visited Norwich earlier this month to learn more. She highlighted the 'moral leadership' of the council in this area.

We've already started resettling Afghan families with more set to arrive in the coming days and weeks. If you would like to donate or volunteer your time to help, you can visit [www.gov.uk/help-refugees](http://www.gov.uk/help-refugees). If you want to help in other ways visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/afghanresettlement](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/afghanresettlement) which details items urgently needed and how to donate money, clothes and accommodation. Thank you. The situation in Afghanistan is very distressing and some of you will have connections with the country and its people. Remember, [Norfolk Support Line offers support](#) if you, a colleague or someone you are working with needs it.

For those who have previously served in the Armed Forces or if you work with members of Norfolk's Armed Forces community - including veterans - [details about specific support is available here](#). Please note "Op COURAGE" - the NHS Mental Health and Wellbeing service for veterans and their families is an amalgamation of existing services that have been brought under one banner.

### **Electric Vehicles:**

[A new electric vehicle strategy is set for discussion next week](#) as county councillors consider practical ways to help boost the uptake of carbon-cutting electric vehicles

In April there were already 2,631 electric vehicles registered across Norfolk, however there are big differences between parts of the county with 22% of those in South Norfolk and only 5% in Great Yarmouth. There are also relatively few public chargers, with Norwich home to 44 of the 198 currently across Norfolk as a whole.

The electric vehicle strategy is one part of the work underway by the county council to achieve its ambitious target of net zero carbon by 2030. The strategy will complement other sustainable transport initiatives to boost active travel and cut carbon outputs, such as the hire schemes for e-scooters and e-bikes and new zero

emission buses. The report to be considered by the committee highlights that the county council can play an important role in helping to increase the uptake of electric vehicles by not only ensuring that the necessary charging infrastructure is in place but also by setting a good example to local businesses and organisations as a result of electrifying its own fleet.

The strategy also proposes placing a requirement on developers to ensure every new home with a parking space has access to an electric vehicle charge point.

The new Electric Vehicle Strategy will be discussed by the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee when they meet on Wednesday, 15 September.

### **Free trees available for planting across Norfolk**

Our 1 Million Tree team are encouraging everyone to get planting trees and hedges this autumn and are calling on communities and schools get involved in finding tree planting opportunities in their local area.

The County Council is one of five local authorities in England taking part in a £2.5m Defra funded pilot project looking at the best ways to increase tree numbers. And we're delighted to announce that free tree packs are now available part of this project.

Individuals, community groups, schools and landowners can apply for bundles of 10 or 20 trees ahead of this planting season, selected to suit the area they intend to plant them. The bundles include biodegradable guards and stakes. Applicants will need the space to plant or landowner's permission, and time to plant and maintain their trees to ensure they thrive.

Trees will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis up till 30 September, and successful applicants will need to be able to collect their trees from designated collection points across Norfolk.

So, if you'd like to get involved and help to make a lasting, positive impact on your community and environment [you can find more information, guidance on the scheme and apply on the Free tree packs pages of the NCC website.](#)

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

**7.1 Village Sign** – repairs on hold awaiting oak post delivery

**7.2 The Voice** – clerk to send a report on the open meeting for inclusion. ACTION CB

**7.3 Parish Partnership Scheme 21/22** – councillors to review and discuss options at the October meeting. ACTION:ALL

**7.4 Village Hall Car Park** – discussions on ideas and it was agreed difficulty with manning gates etc. Resident to pass on details of car parking companies to JE.

**7.5** Advised that a tree in the churchyard requires trimming back and the fence at the front entrance requires repair/replacing. Quotes are being sought.

## **8. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:**

**8.1** JE - SAM Warden: Brow of the Hill reports sent out and on the website. 81mph monitored at 16.05 but the 85% percentile was 41.7mph.

**8.2** JE – Village Hall – more bookings coming through.

**8.3** JE/ABL- Play Areas: nothing to add.

**8.4** GM – Bus Shelters: no problems

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Signature

Date

- 8.5 AP – Fen & Brands Wood: no problems.
- 8.6 AB – Neighbourhood Watch – communication changes advised and AB looking to pass this on. Clerk to discuss further. ACTION AB/CB
- 8.7 JL – Footpaths – JL had sent out an updated comprehensive report on footpaths.
- 8.8 JL – Highways –still issues with poor pot hole repairing as patching has no foundations.
- 8.9 CB – Clerk update – All policies and procedures up to date and signed minutes to be sent to NCC archives.
- 8.10 Maintaining and protecting our public rights of way 2021 conference discussed and clerk to book any councillors wishing to attend.

## 9. FINANCE

- 9.1 The July & August Bank Reconciliation, payments & receipts, bank statements had been sent out to all councillors. Approval proposed by AB and seconded by JE. Motion accepted.  
Statement of Account: Current balance was £15,638.22 as at 31.08.21 as on bank reconciliation.
- 9.2 Payments for August & September proposed AP, seconded AB and accepted by all present.

## 10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- a. Receive updates on Ashwicken Lakes planning application.
- b. Receive updates on the open meeting / working party set up
- c. Speedwatch update.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting scheduled would take place on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October from 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm