

**RUNTON PARISH COUNCIL****The Reading Room, East Runton Cromer NR27 9PE. Tel: 01263 512214****Email: [runtonpc@aol.com](mailto:runtonpc@aol.com) Website: [www.runton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.runton-pc.gov.uk)**

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the above Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at West Runton Church hall commencing at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors: Ms. C. Davidson – Chair. Mr. S. Gurney – Vice Chair.

Mr. R. Annis, Mr. C. Hawkins, Ms. T. Edwards, Mr. K. Jonas, Mr. M. Lerego, Mr. P. Nichols, Mrs. C. Rennison. Ms. A. Debacker.

Cllr. A. Debacker took the minutes in the absence of the Clerk.

**24/160. To agree open session for parishioners/guest speakers. Agreed.**

Rosemary Large thanked that council for the donation to church funds, which was used for the Garden Mower repairs

**24/161. To Receive and accept apologies for absence.** Clerk (due to family issues) Cllr Kim Toye (NNDC), Cllr Memish.

**24/162. To receive any declarations of interest in forthcoming items.** Cllr Gurney declared an interest in Agenda Item 12, as he had cut down some trees on the Common and had submitted an invoice for this work. **To agree as correct the minutes of meeting held 24th September 2024.** Cllr Annis stated that in minute 24/142 the reference to Wyndham Park should read Lugger Stile. Also minute 24/151(iii) should read that some plot numbering has taken place at Lugger Stile.

**24/163. Matters arising for information only.** The Chair informed Councillors that the £8,000 transfer referred to in 24/152 had in fact taken place.

**24/164. Clerk's report for information only.** Toad patrol request for signage total cost £103 proposed by Chair and seconded by Cllr Lerego - voted for unanimously.

The meeting was closed for the following item on the grounds that discussion may be prejudicial to public interest.

**24/165. To Co-opt a councillor to fill the vacancy on the East Ward**

One of the candidates attended and gave a short speech to support their application. A second candidate was unable to attend as they were attending a family funeral. After much discussion it was decided that the Council was unable to make a decision at this stage. Guidance will be sought from the Clerk as to the correct way forward.

The meeting was re-opened.

**24/166. Planning.** Nothing to report.

**24/167. Playing field. To consider a request for £650 donation towards a new door.**

Cllr Lerego proposed supporting this request, seconded by Cllr Nichols. Unanimous vote in favour..

**24/168. Allotments.** Cllr Annis Approval sought approval commissioning drone photos for Lugger Stile allotments. The Chair said that a quote would have to be obtained in order to get formal approval. Quote is to be given by Bev and will be a nominal sum.

Re work carried out by Dr Stump – some digging out of the bank on the drive down Wyndham Park has not been done, as it was not in the original quote. An additional quote will be obtained and a decision will be made regarding the priority of this work. Cllr. Annis has a full report details of which are available.

Invoice for work done by Cllr Gurney to be given to Clerk.

**24/169. To consider investigating the taking on of verge cutting.**

A unanimous decision was made to not take on verge cutting from North Norfolk County Council.

**24/170. Commons.** A request had been received from a parishioner to pollard the willow by Spring Pond West Runton. After some discussion it was agreed that as there were a number of trees in both East and West Runton requiring attention, that the members of the Commons group would make a list of all such trees to draw up a programme of work over the next few years.

The Retting pond in West Runton and Greens Common pond (East Runton) were visited by the pond contractors on Ponds in East and West Runton were visited by the contractors inspected and the contractors will come back with a quote that will be need to be approved by the parish council. Grant for East Runton has not come through. Probably only the Retting pond in West Runton will be done this year. Issue to be discussed by commons comity before the next council meeting in November.

**24/171. Hazelbury rent review.** The latest proposal by the District Valuer of £35,000per annum was discussed and it was considered acceptable according to all council members attending. (I didn't make a formal proposal, don't know if that's a problem).

**24/172. To consider provision of new waste bin at East Runton Cliff top.** Proposed by chair and seconded by Cllr Hawkins). Unanimously agreed.

**24/173. Recruitment of new clerk going forward.** The main suggestion by the Chair is that we have an interim clerk and then look at recruitment in January 2025. This received unanimous agreement.

**24/174. General finance.** The invoices for agreement were all approved. The budget/actual report had been received – the Chair will pick up some minor issues on this with the clerk on her return to work.

**24/175. Members reports.**

Cllr Gurney – the ditch running along Abbs Common needs to be dug out.

Cllr Lerego - reported an enormous number of rats on East Runton Gap. The Clerk to be requested to write to NNDC concerning this issue.

Cllr Nichols – the kissing gate by the bridge on Abbs common needs to be replaced. County Council need to be informed by Barbara.

Cllr Annis – requested the Clerk to chase the County Council regarding the speeding restriction. He also informed members that the Christmas event in West Runton is planned for Saturday 7 December outside the Corner House as per usual. The music has been booked. The Chair said that the Corner House had asked whether the Council would be willing to make a donation towards the cost of drinks and mince pies, as in previous years. Cllr Edwards to bring an estimate of costs to the November meeting.

The meeting was closed to the public on the grounds that discussion may be prejudicial to public interest.

**24/176. To discuss the future of the West Runton Toilets at the Gap.**

The Chair had circulated a paper setting out the current situation. In addition to this NNDC are now apparently looking at a potential model for the future that would involve the organisations that bring large numbers of (mainly) children for educational purposes contributing towards the cost of running the toilets. They would be taking a proposal to Cabinet in early December.

Following considerable discussion the conclusion was that the Council was not willing to take on ownership of the toilets as it would be leaving it open to future financial risks. Also, the toilets are not really a resource for parishioners, but much more so for visitors to the beach. There was also a view expressed that the Seaview cafe, as owners of the car park, were in more of a position to generate additional income to cover the costs of running the toilets going forward,

**24/177. To discuss the review of clerk's salary from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.**

The chair explained that the clerk would be due the 2024/25 cost of living award, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April. However, increasing the clerk's pay by awarding another incremental point to their pay scale was not agreed. This was because this award is discretionary, unlike in previous years, and it was deemed that as the clerk had never had an annual review or been set any objectives, this was not possible to do.

**24/178. Confirmation of date time and place of next meeting**

**Tuesday 26th November 2024 at East Runton Reading Room commencing at 7.15pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.45.

Signed.....Chair Date.....