

OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 6.30PM ON MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2023
AT THE PAVILION, CHURCH STREET, OLD CATTON

Present: Mr B Sabberton-Coe (Chairman) Mr G Tingle (Vice-Chairman) Mr J Arnott
Mr M Callam Mr T Cooke Mr G Crouch

Ms S Vincent (Clerk)
Norfolk County and Broadland District Councillor K Vincent
Broadland District Councillor K Leggett
PC Graham Gill, Beat Manager
X6 Residents

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P Wilkin and B Leggett due to holiday commitments and Councillor M Vincent due to health reasons.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest.

48. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11.09.2023

It was AGREED that the Minutes, which had been circulated with the Agenda, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

49. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

50. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion and reports from the Police, County and District Councillors. Councillor B Sabberton-Coe proposed that members of the public were given opportunity to speak first.

A resident started by stating that they support Old Catton Junior Football Club 100% but that they were concerned that the proposed plans for the new pavilion include a bar and questioned why this was included in a facility for children. The resident also raised current parking issues as this was getting worse; attendees were inconsiderately parking on Austin Way, Ernest Drive and on the grass verge on Spixworth Road near the junction with The Paddocks. Resident asked why the Club were not using the Recreation Ground on Church Street for some of their matches/training. Resident also felt that traffic was entering the village too quickly from Buxton Road (from the direction of Spixworth, where the reduction was from 40mph to 30mph) and were concerned that people, especially children, crossing from the Lavaré Park entrance

towards The Paddocks were at risk of being hit by fast moving vehicles. Resident asked if traffic calming measures could be considered such as speed humps to reduce this risk.

A resident stated that “parking was horrendous” on Austin Way. Resident said that the Club had previously placed “resident only” parking signs at the entrance; these are not being used anymore. The resident acknowledged that there is signage on the streetlights but that these were being ignored. The resident stated that original plan for football at Lavaré Park was for x4 pitches and a small car park. The resident asked why the Parish Council were not speaking to developers of the land beyond Lavaré Park to increase parking.

A resident referred to historic information regarding Lavaré Park. A resident asked if leaflets could be placed on parked cars asking for considerate parking. A resident stated that number of residents had been subjected to verbal abuse from car owners. A resident offered to “steward” Austin Way. A resident highlighted that pavement parking of inconsiderate vehicle owners was forcing children, pushchairs and people to walk in the road and felt this was an accident waiting to happen. A resident stated that the inconsiderate parking was limiting access for emergency vehicles

A resident stated that the land had always been for public use but that it was unavailable for public use now; why were families no longer allowed to use the land? Resident felt that families were suffering by not being able to access the land.

Residents raised concerns and objections regarding provision of bar and the private hire of the meeting space of the proposed new Clubhouse. Residents were concerned there would be increased noise, ASB and increased vehicles particularly during unsociable hours. Residents were concerned venue was to be used as a wedding venue.

Beat Manager PC Graham Gill invited residents to discuss with him the current parking issues and stated he was happy to get more involved; he was available this weekend to monitor the parking situation and would also carry out speed checks of cars entering the village. PC Gill advised residents against “stewarding” Austin Way. Councillor B Sabberton-Coe expressed concern that there was an unfounded rumour regarding the new Clubhouse being used as a wedding venue. Ms S Vincent outlined current measures put in place by the Football Club and the Club’s intention to alter kick-off times from the forthcoming weekend – a resident felt that this would not provide a solution as arrival departure times would still clash. A resident questioned why the Club did not “get rid” of one of the pitches and create more parking spaces. Councillor B Sabberton-Coe stated that the Council and Football Club were aware of the current issues and were doing all they could to work towards a solution. After a lengthy discussion the matter was closed to further comments.

Norfolk County and Broadland Councillor Karen Vincent reported:

- Lavaré Park parking issues: It may be possible to reduce the speed limit. Councillor K Vincent offered to speak to Norfolk Highways about possible measures, however speed tables would probably not be considered; costs for speed reduction was around £6,000, cost of speed tables were considerably much more.

- Parish Partnership Bid: A reminder that Councillor K Vincent would be willing to consider a joint project with the Parish Council.
- Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP): Attended meeting on 13th September 2023. There was a good resident turnout. Priorities were set as Speeding and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Road Safety Measures Funding: Measures for Church Street, Spixworth Road (George Hill end and Norman Drive) were being considered. Councillor K Vincent would be happy to host another public consultation to show residents the measures being considered.
- Highways:
 - St Faiths Road pathway resurfacing has been carried out.
 - St Faiths Road/Fifers Lane roundabout: works would be carried out 16th-27th October – junction would be closed during this time.
 - Church Street line marking: Councillor B Sabberton-Coe asked when these would be completed, Councillor K Vincent did not know at this time.
- Broadland Planning Committee: Next meeting would be held on 11th October 2023 – no Old Catton premises were included on the agenda.
- Annual Hazardous Waste Days will be held on 21st and 22nd October 2023 at Norwich North Recycling Centre.
- Norwich Western Link: Government are preparing to signal that funding for the Link will be available from the HS2 fund.
- Norfolk County Council Budget 2024/25 is being considered. Currently a £46million funding gap which includes price inflation of £12million and wage increases of £10million; Council are working to find ways to fill the gap. Public consultation on budget proposal will be held before Christmas.
- Childrens Services: Looking for more foster carers in the area, both short-break carers and full-time carers. Details of how to become a foster carer are available on the Norfolk County Council website.
- Travel Norfolk Car Scheme: Norfolk County Council are looking for volunteer drivers. More information available on the Norfolk County Council website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport/travel-norfolk-car-scheme> or by telephoning 0344 800 8020.

Broadland District Councillor K Leggett reported:

- Recycling: Councillor K Leggett confirmed that glass collection for August had raised funds of £116.00 net. Paper recycling bank at Morrisons remained full but assurances had been given this would be emptied on 11th October 2023. Installation of recycling banks at the Co-Operative Shop on Heyford Road was not possible – whilst the local Store Manager had agreed Head Office had turned down the request stating “our intention is to demonstrate fairness and clarity”. Councillor K Leggett thanked residents for continuing to support Catton Park through using the recycling banks.
- Nutrient Neutrality: Government have withdrawn any suggestion of relaxing current restrictions; planning applications continue to be delayed.

- Town & Parish Forum: Held on 9th October 2023. Forum highlighted Community Funding that is available that Parish and Town Councils can also apply for.
- Public Space Protection Orders and Environmental Issues Committees: Councillor K Leggett highlighted that District Council are not responsible for verge/pavement parking issues – these should be addressed to Norfolk County Council or the Police.
- Members Grant: Councillor K Leggett still has 50% of his grant unallocated if residents are aware of any clubs/societies who may need some additional funding.

Beat Manager, PC Graham Gill, provided crime statistics for Old Catton and Sprowston West for September 2023; incidents of assault (x4), public order offences (x2), criminal damage (x2) and shoplifting (x3) had been reported. Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel met on 13th September 2023 - community policing priorities for the next x3 months continue to be Speeding and Anti-Social Behaviour. Next meeting will be held on 8th December 2023 at the Diamond Centre, Sprowston at 7pm. PC Gill reiterated that he had noted residents' concerns regarding the football parking and would attend on Saturday morning. Resident asked if speed checks could be carried out, PC Gill confirmed he would carry out speed check of traffic entering the Parish on Saturday morning. Resident also asked about installation of double yellow lines on Austin Way/Ernest Road; unfortunately it was confirmed that these roads remain unadopted so these measures would not be considered by Highways. H-Bars were also raised but again would not be considered due to unadopted status of Austin Way and Ernest Drive.

Members of the public not wishing to remain for the remainder of the meeting were invited to leave.

The meeting resumed.

51. The Clerk's monthly report was received and noted, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes.
52. **FINANCE**
- 52.1. Bank balances as at 30th September 2023 were noted. Monthly bank account reconciliations were noted. List of payments and receipts with vouchers 209 to 241 on payments schedule up to 9th October 2023 with expenditure of £19,262.45 and income of £158,545.89. Ms S Vincent confirmed that second Precept payment had been received from District Council.
- 52.2. External Auditor's report for the 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 was noted. Matters arising were noted and discussed.
53. **PLANNING**
- 53.1. **20232675** – 46A Spixworth Road, Old Catton, NR6 7NF – Creation of new window in master bedroom, replacement of French doors with a combination unit consisting of one opening door and two windows.
NO OBJECTION.
- 20232925** – 43 The Warren, Old Catton, NR6 7NN – Single storey rear and side extension.
NO OBJECTION.
- 53.2. There were no other planning matters.

54. PROPERTY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 54.1. Proposal for further management of Cemetery and amendment to Cemetery Rules & Regulations (referred to as Terms & Conditions on Agenda) were AGREED.
- 54.2. There were no further written or verbal reports from Members with organisations or significant issues from their areas of responsibility.

55. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 55.1. Appointment of Councillors to Committee/Working Groups and outside bodies was agreed, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes.

56. CORRESPONDENCE

- 56.1. Email from resident of Austin Way regarding Lavaré Park, parking and development of site was noted. Resident has spoken during public speaking and reiterated email content. No further discussion was carried out.

Remaining members of the public, County and District Councillors were asked to leave the meeting at this time.

- 57. It is recommended that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

- 58. Verbal report was received from Chairman of Staffing Committee and AGREED.

59. NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting was noted as Monday 13th November 2023 at 6.30pm at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Church Street.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Chairman, 13th November 2023