

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 14 March, 2017 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr G Jones
Cllr Jane Kania
Cllr Michael Kaye

Cllr E Murray
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

In Attendance: Steve Altridge, Clerk, and Cllr Marianne Overton, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

Eight members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Neil Faulkner, Cllr Rob Kendrick, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and Cllr John Money, NKDC.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair presented Steve Altridge with two champagne flutes and a bottle of champagne upon his retirement as the Parish Clerk.

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked by the members of the public present.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

3 MINUTES – 7 February, 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 February, 2017 were taken as read and signed as correct.

4 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Local Police

The Clerk reported that he had been informed by the Police that there had been no reported crimes in the village since its last meeting. However, it was thought that an incident involving a dog had occurred over the weekend of 12 and 13 March, 2017.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Chair agreed to substitute for Cllr Williams at the next meeting of the VHMC on 28 March, 2017.

(c) **Village Keeper/Dog Warden**

The Parish Council noted the Village Keeper's report, which had been circulated previously, summarising his activities over the past month.

Cllr Jones agreed to ask Mr Smith to inspect and clear the new Village Trail prior to the launch of the revised Village Trail leaflet on 1 April, 2017.

(d) **Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report, which had been circulated previously.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a villager regarding some dog fouling issues in the village. Cllr Jones explained that the Dog Warden challenged dog owners if he was aware that dog waste had not been collected, and agreed to ask the Dog Warden to contact the villager, who was present at the Parish Council meeting, to discuss the matter further.

(e) **District Councillors R Kendrick/J Money**

Neither Cllr Kendrick nor Money was present at the meeting.

(f) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton updated the Parish Council on the recent changes to County Council Electoral Divisions, which meant that she would no longer be representing Nocton after the County Council elections in May, 2017. Councillors joined the Chair in thanking Cllr Overton for her support in the past and to wish her well for the future.

5 **NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Murray informed the Parish Council that the Neighbourhood Plan Examiner had amended the Plan by the removal of the entire policy regarding the Nocton Hall and former RAF Hospital site. A meeting had been arranged with NKDC Planning Officers to enable the Parish Council to better understand the implications of the decision and to recommend a way forward. A report on the matter would be made at the next Parish Council meeting on 11 April, 2017.

The Parish Council noted the position.

6 LINCOLNSHIRE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY – RESPONSE TO INVITATION

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Mr Rowan Smith, Local Highways Manager, Lincolnshire Highways Authority, had been unable to accept its invitation to attend the Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Williams explained that following the restructuring of the Highways Authority, a new system of reporting problems and contacting it had been introduced. It was no longer possible to contact officers directly, and instead it was necessary to telephone the helpline or email the service, at which point a case number would be allocated. It was anticipated that a response would be received within a week, but, if not, another call or email quoting the case number would be required.

The Parish Council agreed to continue to request the Highways Agency to address its ongoing concerns about the need for a 'Welcome to Nocton' sign at the Potterhanworth Road entrance, the need to address the road crossing on Potterhanworth Road, and the provision of a sign at the junction of School Road and Main Street highlighting the difficulties of vehicles turning, etc at the Village Green. The matter would be considered further at the next meeting.

7 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS – PART 1

The Parish Council:

- (a) noted the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee held on 21 February, 2017.
- (b) agreed that the Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee would be asked to finalise the internal layout of the new Village Hall at its meeting on 21 March, 2017.
- (c) agreed the final design for the external elevations of the new Village Hall, and to request Simons to proceed with the planning application.
- (d) noted that the final costs for the project still remained unavailable.

8 NOCTON HALL – ASBESTOS SURVEY

The Chair reported that LEDA Properties had provided NKDC with a copy of the most recent asbestos survey for the Nocton Hospital site. NKDC had been advised that contractors had been appointed to remove the high and medium risk materials identified, and was awaiting confirmation that the works had been completed.

The Parish Council noted the position.

9 **NOCTON VILLAGE GREEN**

(a) Damage to Village Green – Response to Letter to Residents

The Parish Council noted that there was generally a disappointing response to its recent letter to residents with a number feeling that action along the lines suggested was both unnecessary and disproportionate. The purpose of the letter seemed to have been misunderstood, and a response from the School was awaited. The Parish Council also noted that any permanent solution to the problem was likely to prove extremely costly (e.g. widening the road and laying a kerb) and from previous discussions with the Highways Authority it was most unlikely to be seen as a priority. However, given the continuing damage to the Council's asset, the Parish Council agreed to have further discussions with the Highways Authority to consider what lower cost actions, if any, may be possible including the possibility of improved signage at the junction of The Green with Main Street.

(b) Nocton Community Primary School – Maintenance of Trees

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Kania on the current position regarding the maintenance of trees within the grounds of Nocton School and the damage being done to the footpath on the Village Green.

The Parish Council noted that the request by the School to have two Norwegian Spruce trees removed as recommended by the NKDC Tree Officer had been refused by LCC, which instead suggested that the trees be retained and costly repairs be carried out to the footpath and raising of the Green and that the Parish Council should identify contractors to undertake the work. In the circumstances, the Parish Council agreed, in conjunction with the School, to request LCC to clarify the reasoning for its decision as it appeared to be in conflict with the advice the Parish Council had received.

10 **LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS –
MEMBERSHIP 2017/18**

The Parish Council agreed to affiliate to the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC) in 2017/18 at a subscription charge of £189.25 plus VAT.

11 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

The Parish Council considered the following planning application:

5 Lincoln Road, Lincoln

The Parish Council indicated its support for the application.

12 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Kania informed the Parish Council that Karen Flatters, who typeset the Nocton News, may need to step down due to other pressures on her time. Should that be the case, Cllr Kania offered to produce the newsletter instead.

Cllr Kania also drew the Parish Council's attention to the Christmas Tree display to be held in All Saints Church between 8 – 10 December, 2017. The Parish Council agreed to provide and decorate a tree for the event.

Cllr Jones reported that nine welcome packs had been provided for new residents of Holly Close, Nocton. The flyers in the packs had been updated prior to delivery.

13 **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

(a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 11 April, 2017 at 7.00 pm. The Parish Council also agreed to meet on 9 May, 2017 at 7.00 pm.

(b) The Parish Council agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Annual General Meeting would be held on 25 May, 2017 at 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm respectively.

The Parish Council agreed to adjourn to allow members of the public to ask questions on matters relating to items discussed at the meeting.

A villager addressed the Parish Council about dog fouling in the village. The response to the question is explained in minute 4(d) – Parish Clerk.

14 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Parish Council agreed to pass a resolution under Standing Order 1(d), that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, and they be instructed to withdraw.

If the press and public were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information of the following description:

Information relating to any individual

15 **NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS – PART 2**

In confidential session, the Parish Council discussed the storage

arrangements for the rebuilding of the Village Hall.

16 NOCTON PARISH CLERK – CONTRACTURAL AND OTHER ISSUES

In confidential session, the Parish Council agreed two recommendations regarding the review of the Clerk's salary, and the handover arrangements with the new Parish Clerk.

17 NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

In confidential session, the Parish Council agreed to appoint Ruth Keillar, to the post of Clerk to Nocton Parish Council with effect from 1 April, 2017, and approved revised payroll arrangements.

(The meeting ended at 9.00 pm)

CHAIR