

## **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 7 February, 2017 at 7.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner  
Cllr Jane Kania

Cllr Michael Kaye  
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

**In Attendance:** Steve Altridge, Clerk.

Four members of the public were also present.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr G Jones, Cllr E Murray, Cllr Rob Kendrick, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), Cllr John Money, NKDC and Cllr Marianne Overton, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

#### **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 – 13 December, 2016 and 5 January, 2017**

The Minutes of (a) the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 December, 2016 and (b) the Extra Ordinary General meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 January, 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 on 3 February, 2017 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 been reported to the Police over the weekend of 4 and 5 February, 2017.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council noted a report from Cllr Williams, which had been circulated previously, summarising the discussions at the VHMC Annual General Meeting and January VHMC meeting held on 30 January, 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.

(d) **Parish Clerk**

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

1 Cllr Williams undertook to provide the Clerk with details of the BT Telephone Box to be included under the Street Furniture category of the Parish Council's insurance policy.

2 The Parish Council agreed to meet the Village Hall hire costs for the launch of the new and revised Village Trail leaflet on 1 April, 2017 if ArtsNK was not in a position to do so.

3 The Parish Council authorised the first payment to Simons Design Limited of £8,400 (including VAT) as reimbursement for its Village Hall redevelopment work.

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

Neither Cllr Kendrick or Money were present at the meeting.

(f) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

5 **NOCTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL – ROAD CROSSING**

Mr Steve Whaley, a Governor of the Spires Foundation, addressed the Parish Council on the concerns raised by Nocton Community Primary School about the lack of visibility at the designated crossing point on the corner of Potterhanworth Road, Nocton.

The Parish Council indicated that it had, in fact, previously raised the matter with the Highways Authority without success, and suggested that the School should raise its concerns with the Local Education Authority direct. The Parish Council also indicated its support for the action being taken by the School.

## 6 REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2017/18

The Parish Council received a report from the Chair (and Finance Portfolio Holder) regarding a proposed Revenue Budget and Precept for 2017/18. The report detailed suggestions for a Parish Council budget and provided comparative figures for the current year and an estimate of the projected outturn.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to set its budget at £22,980 (an increase of £5,110 over the previous year) as set out in the Appendix to the signed copy of these Minutes, resulting in a precept for the coming year of £19,482. It was noted, however, that even after this increase, the Parish would continue to have one of the lowest levels of expenditure amongst villages of a comparable size.

This increase in the budget would mean that a Band D Council Tax payer will pay an additional £9.30 a year i.e. 78p a month.

The key features of the Parish Council's budget for 2017/18 included:

- 1 An increase in the Parish Clerk's salary budget to reflect the revised rate of pay, an increase in the Village Keeper/Dog Warden's salary budget to reflect the additional hours worked and revised rate of pay, and the deletion of the budgets for the Youth Worker.
- 2 Although the Parish Council previously agreed to pass much of the future emptying of the Dog Waste Bins to the Village Keeper, NKDC has recently advised that the disposal of large quantities of such waste into "non-authorized" receptacles was an issue. The Parish Council has, therefore, been asked to delay making any changes pending a review of the service by NKDC. The cost of emptying dog waste bins in the current year was £895 and so a sum of £900 has been included in next year's budget. Should it prove possible for the Parish Council to provide this service at a reduced cost, this provision (or part thereof) can be used for other purposes.
- 3 NKDC has suggested that given the increasing costs of running contested Parish Council elections, consideration be given to begin establishing a budget for these elections in May 2019. Given past history, it is considered that the need for a contested election in Nocton is extremely unlikely and as such it is unnecessary to begin setting aside monies for this purpose in the coming financial year. The position will, however, be reviewed for 2018/19.
- 4 A reduction in the Village Hall Broadband contribution to reflect the fact that the Hall will not be available for a full year, the inclusion of a notional sum to allow for the Parish Council to hire alternative accommodation for its meetings whilst the Hall is being rebuilt, and a reduction in the budget for "Grants and Donations" to reflect the

fact that there will be fewer events whilst the Hall is being rebuilt.

- 5 An increase in the Village Hall Rebuilding/Refurbishment Contingency Budget to £8,400. This would enable the Parish Council to draw down from a maximum Public Works Loan of £500,000 in 2017/18 (at current interest rates) given a building start in September. A slight increase in the provision has been made to allow for a potential increase in interest rates.
- 6 The deletion of the budget for “Members’ Training” since any training required can be obtained free of charge from LALC, as well as the deletion of the specific budget for the production of a printed version of the Parish Council’s Annual Report. Preparation of such a report is not a legal requirement although should the Parish Council decide to produce one in the coming year, it can be made available on its website and other local media channels, including Nocton News. The budget for the Neighbourhood Plan has also been deleted as the Parish Council’s involvement in the process has now been completed.
- 7 Since the “200 Club” has now ceased to fund Nocton News, the Parish Council will need to meet the full costs of production if the publication is to continue. A budget has, therefore, been provided which will enable ten editions to be prepared in 2017/18.
- 8 A significant reduction in the budget for “Village Improvements” since the main expenditure priority in the coming year will be the rebuilding of the Village Hall. The Village Hall Management Committee has agreed to make a revenue grant of £3,000 to the Parish Council in 2017/18 towards the costs of rebuilding the Village Hall.

The Clerk undertook to submit the necessary paperwork to NKDC.

## 7 **NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS – PART 1**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Williams about the Village Hall redevelopment and received the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee held on 5 January, 2017.

Cllr Williams reported that unfortunately it had not been possible to finalise the recommendations for the design of the new Village Hall at the meeting on 5 January, 2017. It was intended to finalise the design at a meeting of the Sub-Committee on 21 February, 2017. The Sub-Committee would then recommend a final design for consideration by the Parish Council at its meeting on 14 March, 2017, following which planning permission would be sought. The Clerk undertook to request Bridge McFarland Solicitors to

provide its opinion on the conveyance documents prior to the Sub-Committee meeting.

The Parish Council noted the position.

8 **NOCTON VILLAGE - CO-OP COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS APPLICATION**

The Parish Council requested the Clerk to submit an application to the Co-Op for Community Champions funding towards the costs of the Village Hall refurbishment.

9 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

The Parish Council noted that no planning applications or related applications had been received since its last meeting.

Cllr Kaye reported that he had attended the NKDC Planning Sub-Committee earlier in the evening prior to the Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council noted that the outline planning application at Wrays Barn, 3 Wrays Yard, Nocton had been refused by the Sub-Committee.

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Kaye for attending the Planning Sub-Committee meeting.

10 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Williams informed the Parish Council that she had been contacted by a resident of The Green regarding damage to the Village Green grass verges by lorries and other large vehicles, particularly along the section of the road leading to the Church and School where turning was extremely limited.

The Parish Council requested the Clerk to write to all residents whose properties bordered The Green, including the Church and School, to seek their co-operation in doing what they could to prevent such damage, and to make every effort to ensure that it was made good. The Parish Council also agreed to invite the Area Highways Engineer to attend a future meeting to discuss this and other highways issues in the village.

Cllr Kania reported that Nocton Community School was investigating the damage caused by tree roots to pathways on the village green by the school. The Parish Council passed on its thanks to Karen Flatters at the School for her ongoing help in producing the Nocton Newsletter.

Cllr Faulkner informed the Parish Council that building work at Nocton Park had stopped. The Highways Authority had approved the first phase of the development for highways completion, although Anglian Water was awaiting a request for a final inspection before the work took place.

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

- (a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 14 March, 2017 at 7.00 pm.
- (b) The Parish Council agreed to adjourn to allow members of the public to ask questions on matters relating to items discussed at the meeting.

No questions were asked.

12 **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:

Items 13 and 14 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information)

Item 15 - Information relating to any individual

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

In confidential session, the Clerk updated the Parish Council on discussions about the temporary building compound for the Village Hall redevelopment.

14 **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL – TREE MAINTENANCE**

In confidential session, the Parish Council approved a quotation for the tree works specified in the NKDC Tree Report dated June 2016.

15 **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL – STAFFING ISSUE**

In confidential session, the Clerk updated the Parish Council regarding the new Parish Clerk appointment process. The Parish Council appointed the Chair and Vice-Chair, and Cllr Kaye to the Interview Panel for the post.

(The meeting ended at 8.10 pm)

**CHAIR**