

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 9 February, 2016 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Graham Jones
Cllr Jane Kania
Cllr Michael Kaye

Cllr Elisabeth Murray
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

In Attendance: Steve Altridge, Clerk.

Eight members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Neil Faulkner.

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Debbie Wilson, a resident of Nocton Park, addressed the Parish Council and outlined to Councillors a number of serious problems she said were being experienced by residents as a consequence of the ongoing work associated with the last phase of the Nocton Park housing development, including the widening of Wegberg Road. NKDC and the Highways Authority had been unable to intervene in the matter.

The Chair emphasised that the Parish Council also had no powers to intervene, although he undertook to raise the matter with NKDC. PC Hanson was also present at the meeting and he agreed to meet Ms Wilson and the residents to see if the police could assist in mediating with the developer.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

3 MINUTES – 12 January 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 January, 2016 were taken as read and signed as correct.

4 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Local Police

PC Hanson reported that there had been no reported crimes in the village since the last meeting. However, he did ask villagers to contact him if they had any information about unregistered minibikes being ridden in the

vicinity of Khormaksar Drive.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council noted a report from Cllr Williams, which has been circulated previously.

The Parish Council agreed a request from the VHMC that the quorum for its meetings be reduced from five to three, and noted that the VHMC would also consider a suggestion that the number of meetings held each year was reduced.

(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) **Clerk**

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

The Clerk reported that the Village Keeper would be attending a Dog Warden training session arranged by NKDC on 15 February, 2016. He also informed the Parish Council that in response to his invitation to Mr Nick Jones, ArtsNK, to attend this meeting, Mr Jones had informed him that no additional art works were proposed for the village.

(e) **District Councillors**

Neither Cllr Money or Cllr Kendrick was present at the meeting.

(f) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

5 **REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2016/17**

The Parish Council received a report from Cllr Goldsworthy, Finance Portfolio Holder, regarding its Revenue Budget and Precept for 2016/17. The report detailed suggestions for a Parish Council budget for the forthcoming financial year, and provided comparative figures for the current year and an estimate of the projected outturn. In considering the budget the Parish Council had regard to the need to minimise the financial impact on Council Tax payers whilst at the same time wanting to continue with its limited programme of village improvements, etc, but also to increase the provision to support the renewal of the Village Hall.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to set its budget at £17,870 (an increase of £3,195 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 £16,672. It was noted, however, that even after this increase, the Parish would continue to have one of the lowest levels of expenditure amongst local villages of a comparable size.

This increase in the budget would mean that a Band “D” Council Tax payer will pay an additional £7.53p a year i.e. 63p a month.

The key features of the Parish Council’s budget for 2016/17 included:

- 1 Amalgamation of the former budgets for the Dog Warden and Village Keeper to reflect the current arrangement and establishment of a separate budget for equipment and expenses associated with this post (to include maintenance of the Parish Council lawnmower).
- 2 Provision of salary and equipment/expenses budgets to meet the cost of the Youth Club given that it will no longer be funded by the 200 Club. The costs are partially offset by income from subscriptions and sale of refreshments, etc. The Youth Club has been funded for 44 weeks as per the Contract of Employment of the Youth Leader. It will, therefore, be necessary to agree and publish dates for the coming year when the Club will be open.
- 3 Provision of a limited budget to support the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. Grant aid will be sought to meet the bulk of the costs associated with this initiative but these cannot be quantified at this stage of the process.
- 4 A small reduction in the budget for grants and donations to reflect past expenditure and the fact that local organisations and groups can now apply to the 200 Club for funding.
- 5 A reduction in the budget for village-based improvements, etc to accord with the actual amount spent in 2015/16 and to reflect the fact that in the coming year the Parish Council will be concentrating on securing the redevelopment of the Village Hall and producing the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6 Increasing the provision to support the renewal of the Village Hall by £1,000 to £4,000 – this being a critical year in the project’s development.
- 7 A small reduction in the Publicity and Entertainment budget to reflect last year’s actual expenditure.
- 8 Although NKDC has suggested that Parish Councils begin making provision for the next elections in 2019 (see reference in Appendix

1) given that Nocton has yet to be involved in a contested election, it was agreed that no such provision be made in the current year but that the matter be reviewed as part of the budget-setting for 2017/18.

The Clerk undertook to submit the necessary paperwork to NKDC.

6 NOCTON YOUTH CLUB

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Kania regarding the Youth Club. The Parish Council noted that Cllr Kania had contacted local schools to ask them to remind their pupils that the Youth Club had restarted following the school holidays because numbers remained low. An additional volunteer from Lincoln University had come forward to help once a month. However, more voluntary help would be most welcome.

The Clerk reported that Fran Porter from the Lincolnshire Voluntary Youth Service (LCVYS) had agreed to help with the volunteers' DBS checks. LCVYS charged £5.00 per check to help meet its administrative costs. The Parish Council agreed to meet those charges, and asked the Clerk to arrange for the checks to be made.

7 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS

The Parish Council considered a proposal to establish the Nocton Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee would oversee the day to day management of the Village Hall redevelopment, including the invitation to tender for the rebuilding work and VAT claims, etc. The letting of any contracts would remain with the Parish Council, and it would receive an update on progress, including any expenditure proposed or incurred, from the Sub-Committee at each Parish Council meeting. The current Village Hall Working Group would remain in place, and advisers would be invited to attend its meetings as appropriate.

The Parish Council also considered a progress report from Cllr Williams about the proposed Village Hall rebuild. Discussions had been held regarding obtaining legal advice about the Village Hall conveyance, and advice regarding the VAT implications of the rebuild. In addition, visits had been made to Cranwell Village Hall and North Kyme Village Hall, and funding sources investigated.

The Parish Council agreed:

- (a) to establish the Nocton Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee, and to appoint Cllrs Williams, Kaye and Jones (and the Parish Council Chair in an ex-officio capacity) to serve on it. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held in the Village Hall on Monday, 22 February, 2016 at 6.00 pm.
- (b) to authorise a Nocton Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee budget of

£1,600.00 + VAT to meet its appropriate costs.

8 **NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair and the Vice-Chair regarding the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met recently to consider the next steps. The second draft of the Plan would be produced by Cllrs Goldsworthy and Murray for consultation. Following that, professional advice would be obtained and grants sought to meet those costs. The second consultation on the draft Plan would take place in late March and early April, 2016.

The Parish Council noted the position.

9 **DUNSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

The Parish Council received the draft Dunston Neighbourhood Plan, and agreed not to comment on its contents.

The Parish Council also asked the Clerk to pass on its congratulations to the Dunston Neighbourhood Plan Team on its production of an excellent document.

10 **NOCTON HALL – CURRENT ISSUES**

The Chair informed the Parish Council that it had become apparent that discussions had taken place between NKDC, LEDA and Historic England regarding Nocton Hall as the developer continued its work on its planning application for a development on the site. The Parish Council had not been not involved in those discussions.

The Parish Council noted that, accordingly, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr Jones had requested a meeting with NKDC for a full update on the current position. At that time, it was intended to also explore the implications of seeking a “de-listing” of the Hall because it appeared from the recent Neighbourhood Plan consultations that there was no longer a desire by residents to preserve the building as a ruin at all costs; especially if it could result in significantly fewer houses being built on the site. It was also noted that the way forward under the Options Appraisal, which all relevant parties had agreed, was now some four years old and the figures considerably out of date. Given residents’ overwhelming opposition to a large development on the Nocton Hall site, NKDC would be asked to advise on how that could best be reflected in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council also asked the Clerk to invite Mr Steven Sensecall, the LEDA Properties Planning Consultant, to attend a future meeting to

update it on the current development proposals.

11 **VILLAGE KEEPER – WHEELED BARROW**

The Parish Council agreed to purchase a Glasdon 'Skipper Multi-Purpose Cleaning Trolley' at a cost of £307.96 + VAT for the Village Keeper to use when cleaning the village.

The Clerk undertook to order the trolley accordingly.

12 **NOCTON VILLAGE ENTRANCES - SIGNAGE**

Cllr Williams informed the Parish Council that she had obtained two quotes for the erection of two white picket panels at the entrance to the village on Wellhead Lane. It was hoped that making the entrance look like a gateway would highlight the approach to the village and, hopefully, deter cars from speeding.

The Parish Council agreed a quote of £140.00 for the provision and installation work. If the panels proved to be successful, consideration would be given to their installation at the other entrances to the village.

The Clerk undertook to inform the Highways Authority that the installation was being made.

13 **SHEEPWASH TIMES**

The Parish Council considered a suggestion from Cllr Kaye that it should pursue an opportunity to obtain grant aid from the Central England Co-Op 'Making a Difference Fund' to extend the distribution of the Sheepwash Times to Nocton.

The Parish Council agreed to ask Cllrs Kania and Kaye to discuss the potential cost of distributing the magazine to the village with the publisher, and if appropriate, to request the Clerk to make an application for grant aid accordingly.

14 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

The Parish Council considered the following planning application:

- (a) *31 Wegberg Road, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on this application.

- (b) The Parish Council noted the decision by NKDC to grant planning permission in respect of the following application:

Shopfield House, The Avenue, Nocton

15 PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Kania reported that, together with the Chair, she would be visiting Nocton School on 10 February, 2016.

Cllr Williams informed the Parish Council that the hedge overhanging the pavement in Potterhanworth Road had been cut back. The Clerk was asked to inform the Highways Authority that straw dropped by lorries passing through the village was blocking drains and thereby adversely affecting water drainage.

Cllr Jones reported that the Speed Indicator Device would be deployed in Nocton in the near future. The data collected from it would be available in due course.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 8 March, 2016 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 by the members of the public present.

17 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.

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

18 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS

In confidential session, the Parish Council:

- (a) agreed an Architects Brief for the Village Hall rebuild, together with a covering letter inviting the following selected companies to tender for the build of a new Nocton Village Hall. The tender would include the design, and design leadership throughout, Project and Contract Management, and construction. The companies being invited to tender were:

Gusto Homes, Newark
Beckside Buildings and Installations Ltd, Lincoln
Stonewell Homes Ltd, Woodall Spa
William Saunders, Newark
Sylva, Carlbury
XL Architects, Potterhanworth

- (b) agreed to instruct Mr Jonathan Dawson, Solicitor, to act on its behalf with regard to the Conveyance dated 13 July, 1981 between British Field Products and the Parish Council relating to Nocton Village Hall.

(The meeting ended at 9.15 pm)

CHAIR

18 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REBUILDING – NEXT STEPS

In confidential session, the Parish Council endorsed a number of proposals in relation to the Village Hall redevelopment.

(The meeting ended at 9.15 pm)

CHAIR