

## **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 14 June, 2016 at 7.15 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner  
Cllr Graham Jones  
Cllr Jane Kania

Cllr Michael Kaye  
Cllr Elisabeth Murray  
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

**In Attendance:** Steve Altridge, Clerk, Cllr Rob Kendrick, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and Ms Michelle Hoyles, NKDC,

Twenty-one members of the public were also present.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr John Money, NKDC and Cllr Marianne Overton, Lincolnshire County Council.

(The Parish Council agreed to consider agenda item 5 – Former RAF Nocton Hospital Site – Airsoft Event 22/23 October, 2016 – as the first item of business).

#### **1 FORMER RAF NOCTON HOSPITAL SITE – AIRSOFT EVENT 22/23 OCTOBER, 2016**

(Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business in her capacity as a resident of the Nocton Hall estate).

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Ms Hoyles regarding the proposed Ai 500 Airsoft event on 22/23 October, 2016. The following points were made:

- The NKDC Environmental Health Team had contacted the organisers to request information about the proposed event, following which legal advice would be sought. Any possible legal action would involve an injunction on planning grounds.
- NKDC had requested Ai500 to submit a planning application to hold the event, but it appeared that the company were declining to do so. NKDC would continue to monitor the position up to and including the event if it took place.
- Noise at the event, if it ultimately took place, would be monitored, and the organisers were aware that a Care Home was located close by to the site.

In response, members of the public said that some 40 residents lived in the Nocton Hall grounds who would be seriously inconvenienced and disturbed were the event to go ahead. There would also be significant traffic issues associated with access to the event.

In response, Ms Hoyles agreed to ask the event organisers to allow NKDC to share any information about the event with Nocton residents.

The Chair reminded the Parish Council that it had agreed to invite the Ai500 Airsoft organisers to attend its next meeting on 12 July, 2016 to discuss the matter further. However, in the circumstances, the Parish Council agreed that it would be more appropriate to hold a village meeting, chaired by an independent person.

(Clerk's Note: it was subsequently agreed to hold the village meeting in the All Saints Church, Nocton, on Monday, 18 July, 2016 at 7.30 pm)

## **2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A public question about Speed Indicators, and the response to it, was attached as an appendix to the agenda.

Cllr Jones also explained that the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership had informed him that the cost of a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign was approximately £2,400. The Partnership had confirmed that there had been three recorded road traffic accidents in the village over the past five years.

Whilst sympathising with the request to provide speed signs in the village, the Parish Council felt that the expenditure from its limited budget could not be justified at this time. In addition, it was felt that the main problem was not that of speed but rather the volume of larger vehicles coming through the village about which there appeared very little that could be done.

## **3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

On the motion of Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Jones, the Parish Council unanimously appointed Cllr Murray as its Vice-Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

## **4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Murray had previously declared an interest at agenda item 1 above. No other declarations of interest were made.

## **5 MINUTES – 10 May, 2016**

The Minutes of (a) the Annual General Parish Council meeting held on 10 May, 2016, and (b) the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 10

May, 2016 were taken as read and signed as correct.

**6 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**(a) Local Police**

PCSO Bell reported that there had been no reported crimes in the village since the last meeting but in response to a question from a member of the public undertook to seek guidance about the use of skateboards on the bridle path and other private roads on Nocton Estate.

In response to a question from Cllr Jones, PCSO Bell also undertook to ascertain whether the police would be in a position to undertake a speed survey as part of the 'action day' in late June, 2016.

**(b) Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Williams reported that the VHMC had not met since the last Parish Council meeting.

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

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

The Clerk undertook:

- 1 to ask Mr Smith to provide more detail about his Dog Warden activities in his future reports.
- 2 to inform Mr Smith that the Parish Council had agreed a request from the VHMC that he would cut the Village Hall grass as part of his Village Keeper role. Mr Smith would be paid an additional one hour's salary on each occasion the grass was cut, and the costs would be recharged to the VHMC accordingly.
- 3 together with the Chair, to produce a sign reminding dog walkers that the bridle path dog waste bags were provided for "emergency" use only.

**(d) Clerk**

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

The Clerk undertook to include an item on the next Parish Council agenda regarding the implications of Lincolnshire CC's decision to no longer fund or carry out 'amenity grass cutting' from the end of the current financial year.

The Parish Council also agreed to a request from Nocton Community School for it to hold the School Fete on the Village Green on 2 July, 2016.

(e) **District Councillor Kendrick**

Cllr Kendrick updated the Parish Council on recent developments in the District and reported that Cllr John Money had been elected as the Chairman of NKDC for the current municipal year.

7 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Parish Council considered the Accounting Statement for the financial year ended 31 March, 2016. The accounts had been audited and the statement produced by Mr Tom Holleran, the Parish Council's Accountant and Internal Auditor.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to

- (a) approve the Accounting Statement 2015/16, which was duly signed by the Chair.
- (b) authorise the Chair and the Clerk to complete the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16.

8 **NOCTON YOUTH CLUB**

Cllr Kania informed the Parish Council that nine young people had attended the Youth Club on 9 June, although that number usually tended to be a little higher. The Youth Club had been entertained by a most interesting talk on beekeeping by Mr Jim Eagle, and more speakers at the club would be most welcome.

The Parish Council noted the position.

9 **NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS**

The Parish Council received a progress report from Cllr Williams about the proposed Village Hall rebuild.

The Parish Council noted that a meeting of the Village Hall Rebuilding Sub-Committee would be convened when Simons Group, Lincoln had worked up the redevelopment proposals in more detail. The VHMC and Social Club had each been invited to appoint a non-voting adviser to assist the Sub-Committee in its work.

The Parish Council noted the position.

10 **NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

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

The Parish Council noted that the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to NKDC for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. It was anticipated that the response could take some time and, as such, the draft Plan would be made available for information in the meantime. The formal consultation would be held following the completion of the Assessment.

- (b) In view of the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan, and in its capacity as a partner in the planning process, the Parish Council agreed to support Potterhanworth Parish Council's objections to the proposal from a developer to erect 40 dwellings on a site within that village.

11 **ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS TO PARISH COUNCILLORS**

The Parish Council agreed to allocate the two vacant portfolios/areas of interest to individual Councillors as follows:

Nocton Park	Cllr Faulkner
Publicity and Promotion, and Environment (including wildlife)	Cllr Kania

12 **DOG WARDEN – NOCTON PARK**

- (a) The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that Nocton Park Management Limited had previously suggested that the Dog Warden service had not been provided in Nocton Park between 19 September, 2015, when the contract of the previous Dog Warden had ended, and 15 February, 2016, when Mr Smith, the Village Keeper and Dog Warden, had attended a NKDC Dog Warden training session.

The Parish Council had previously indicated that it was clear that Mr Smith had been fulfilling the Dog Warden service in the intervening period. However, Nocton Park Management Limited had again indicated that it felt that the service had not been provided.

In order to bring the matter to a close, the Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk to issue an amended invoice, not including the disputed period, to Nocton Park Management Limited.

- (b) The Parish Council considered a letter received from Wilkin Chapman LLP (Solicitors) regarding the Dog Warden's powers and duties when patrolling Nocton Park. The letter referred to a prospective enforcement of a policy whereby all dogs were to be kept on leads on Nocton Park.

The Parish Council agreed to respond in the following terms:

1. The Parish Council was unable to consider the contents of an email from Janet Williams at North Kesteven District Council which had apparently been attached to the letter because it had not been received.

2. Nocton Park is a private estate managed by Nocton Park Management Limited on behalf of the residents. The Parish Council, as a public body, has no powers to require the Dog Warden to enforce a 'dogs on leads' policy on private property. Indeed, it would be inappropriate for the Parish Council to do so.

3. The Dog Warden would, however, be reminded to request dog walkers to adhere to the Nocton Park 'dogs on leads' policy but, as stated above, the Dog Warden has no power to act if they dog owners refused to comply.

13 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES AND THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND 2016/17**

- (a) the Parish Council agreed to renew its annual membership of the Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services at a cost of £17.00 for 2016/17.
- (b) the Parish Council agreed to become a member of the Lincolnshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost of £36.00 for 2016/17.

14 **NOCTON CRICKET CLUB – APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID**

The Parish Council noted that this item of business had been withdrawn.

15 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

- (a) The Parish Council considered the following application for works to trees in a conservation area:

*21 Parklands Avenue, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on the application.

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

*18 and 19 Old Four Row, Nocton*

- (c) The Parish Council noted with considerable disappointment the decision by NKDC to consent to the following applications for work to trees in the conservation area:

1 *The Shieling, The Green, Nocton*

2 *1 Woodland Drive, Nocton*

16 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Williams reported that, together with Cllr Kaye, she had attended the NKDC inspection of the Parish Council trees. The report from the NKDC Tree Officer would be circulated in due course.

Cllr Kania reported that the Nocton Newsletter continued to be well received by villagers. The Parish Council agreed to consider a suggestion to set up a Facebook page at its next meeting.

Cllr Faulkner reported that Wegberg Road, Nocton Park had now been fully resurfaced.

Cllr Jones reported that 11 villagers had taken part in the 'Clean for the Queen' event and the Parish Council offered its thanks to them.

The Parish Council agreed to part-fund the costs of a replacement Speed Indicator (SID) Device Palm Reader at a cost of £78.00 to it. The other Parish Councils which part owned the SID had indicated that they would also meet their share of the replacement costs.

Councillors joined the Chair in thanking Mr John Kania and Cllr Williams for organising the 'Picnic on the Green' event on 12 June, 2016.

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

- (a) The Parish Council agreed to continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month but to review the matter when the redevelopment had been completed when, no doubt, it would become necessary to carry out a comprehensive review of all Hall bookings, etc. The Parish Council agreed, therefore, to meet on the following dates during the remainder of 2016 and in 2017:-

12 July, 9 August (provisional), 13 September, 11 October, 15 November and 13 December, 2016 and 10 January, 7 February, 14 March and 11 April, 2017.

- (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.

In response to a question from a villager, the Parish Council agreed to include an article reminding householders of their responsibility to maintain hedges in the next edition of the Nocton Newsletter. The Parish Council also agreed to publicise a request from Beeswax Farming that dogs were to be kept on leads whilst on the estate.

18            **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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

19            **NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS**

In confidential session, the Parish Council reaffirmed that the covenants on the Village Hall site precluded it from being moved elsewhere.

(The meeting ended at 9.20 pm)

**CHAIR**