

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 14 July, 2015 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)
Cllr Elisabeth Murray (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner
Cllr Graham Jones
Cllr Jane Kania

Cllr Michael Kaye
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

In Attendance: Steve Altridge, Clerk, Cllr John Money ((North Kesteven District Council) (NKDC)) and Mr Alan Brown, Divisional Highways Engineer, Lincolnshire County Council.

Eight members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Rob Kendrick (NKDC).

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Agenda Item 11(c) – 23 Parklands Avenue, Nocton

Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business.

Agenda Item 16 – Nocton Village Keeper and Dog Warden

Cllr Faulkner declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business.

3 MINUTES – 16 June 2015

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 June, 2015 were taken as read and signed as correct.

4 LINCOLNSHIRE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY

The Parish Council received a brief update from Mr Alan Brown, Divisional Highways Engineer, about current developments and activities relating to the public highways and footpaths in Nocton.

Mr Brown explained that a restructuring of the Highways Authority had meant staff were now covering much wider areas of the County on a day to day basis and as a result, service levels were reducing. Mr Brown also tabled options for the provision of new signage at the Nocton Village Entry

Points. The Parish Council agreed to consider the signage options at its next meeting on 8 September 2015.

Mr Brown had been presented with a list of highways issues on which the Parish Council has asked for action and the response/outcome was as follows:

Mr Brown undertook to arrange for the white lines to be repainted at the junction of the B1188 and B1202. However, the poor road surface on the approach to the village from Potterhanworth would not be dealt with in the short to medium term because funds were not available.

The Parish Council noted that white lines could be painted by the bus stops in the village to help deal with the parking problems which had occurred, but parking restrictions would not be enforceable. Neither would the Highways Authority support the provision of mirrors on the public highway, although they could be placed on private property. The Parish Council agreed to consider the provision of mirrors at a future meeting.

Mr Brown explained that the adoption of the roads in Nocton Park was being taken forward. However, the road in Parklands Avenue had not been adopted and a S38 Agreement to fund the work was not in place. The Parish Council noted that the issue was being moved forward by residents of Parklands Avenue.

The banks by the railway bridge in Wellhead Lane and thus responsibility for dealing with overhanging trees, etc lay with Network Rail. The boundary of the road started at one metre from the side of it.

Councillors joined the Chair in thanking Mr Brown for his update on the highways position.

5 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(a) **Local Police**

PC Hanson informed the Parish Council that there had been two reported crimes in the village since its last meeting. An attempt had been made to enter a property on Old Sleaford Road, Nocton on two occasions between 5 - 9 July, 2015.

The Parish Council noted that the police had obtained two speed guns which could be deployed in the village. Cllr Jones was asked to liaise with PC Hanson accordingly.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council noted that the VHMC had met on 29 June, 2015. The Open Gardens weekend had raised £748.00 for Village Hall funds, and it had been suggested that a Casino night was held, possibly on New Year's Eve. The parish Council agreed to place on record its appreciation of the efforts made by Julie Partridge in co-ordinating this most successful event and agreed to write to her accordingly.

Cllr Kaye agreed to represent the Parish Council at the next meeting of the VHMC on 27 July, 2015.

(c) **Dog Warden**

The Parish Council received Mr Cummin's report, which had been circulated previously.

(d) **Village Keeper**

The Parish Council noted the Village Keeper's activities prior to Mr Fisher's employment ceasing at the end of June, 2015.

(e) **Clerk**

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

- 1 authorised the Clerk to agree expenditure of up to £200.00 + VAT for fitting the two new dog bins to be located at the Village Hall and Nocton Park, and the removal and disposal of the existing bin at the Village Hall, and the relocation of an existing bin at Nocton Park.
- 2 noted that a response from NKDC to the letter sent to it on 19 May, 2015 by the Parish Council and the All Saints Church Parochial Church Council regarding both parties' on-going planning concerns had been received by email on the afternoon of this meeting. The Parish Council noted the response with some disappointment.
- 3 noted that the Clerk had reported at the last meeting that the Nocton Gardening Club had withdrawn its grant application for a grant to meet the costs of the Nocton Open Gardens Event. In fact the application had been made and subsequently withdrawn by Julie Partridge, on behalf of Nocton Open Gardens.
- 4 approved retrospectively a request from Nocton Community School for it to hold the School Fete on the Village Green on 11 July, 2015.

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report.

(f) **District Councillor J Money**

Cllr Money informed the Parish Council that Alan Thomas, Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive, had left NKDC at the end of May, 2015. Mr Thomas had been succeeded in post by Karen Bradford.

The Parish Council noted that Mr Stephen Phillips, MP, had requested that he was informed about the views of local councils regarding the proposed wind farm at Nocton Fen. Cllr Money noted that it was proposed to undertake a poll of Nocton residents in the autumn to ascertain the views of parishioners regarding the proposals (see Minute No.6(a) below).

Cllr Money also undertook to follow up on the correspondence between the Parish Council and NKDC regarding the potential asbestos issues at Nocton Hall.

(g) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

6 PROPOSED WIND FARM AT NOCTON FEN

The Parish Council:

- (a) considered a proposal to consult parishioners about their views regarding the proposed wind farm in advance of the Parish Council submitting its formal response to any planning application which might be made. The Parish Council also considered a report from Cllr Jones about the proposed Village Poll, which was tabled.

The Parish Council agreed to carry out a ballot of all residents in the village to ascertain their views regarding the proposed wind farm. A ballot paper would be sent to all parishioners included on the current Electoral Register to invite a simple "In favour/Not in Favour/Don't Know" response. The ballot would be conducted in October, 2015 with the results being considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on 10th November, 2015. That would enable the Parish Council to be in a position to reflect fully the views of residents to any formal planning application which, it was understood, the developer intended to submit early in 2016. Subject to the outcome of the ballot, the Parish Council would, if necessary, consider carrying out a more formal Parish Poll. The Parish Council also agreed to encourage other parishes affected by the development to take action in order to ascertain the views of their residents.

- (b) agreed to postpone the allocation of the Windfarm Portfolio to a Parish Councillor until a future meeting of the Parish Council.

(The Parish Council agreed to pass a resolution under Standing Order 1(y) to extend the duration of the meeting by up to thirty minutes).

7 SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN NOCTON

The Parish Council noted that the Chair had been in regular email contact with Lincolnshire CC in an attempt to find out what had happened since Councillor Williams presented its petition to the County Council meeting on 15 May, 2015. Mr Mick Middleton, a Nocton resident and former BT Engineer, briefly outlined to Members the background to the provision of superfast broadband in the village, and the issue regarding the replacement of the old broadband infrastructure in Nocton.

The Parish Council noted with concern that it was anticipated that superfast broadband would not be available to the majority of premises in Nocton until the Spring, 2016 at the earliest, although a small number of properties in Nocton Park currently benefited from it.

The Parish Council noted the position.

8 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT TEAM

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Williams regarding the Village Hall refurbishment. A response from Mr Paul Clarke, the owner of the Village Hall Car Park, to the Parish Council's proposals regarding the refurbishment was awaited.

The Parish Council noted the position.

9 COMMEMORATIVE BRASS PLAQUES

The Parish Council agreed the following wording for the two brass plaques that it had previously agreed to purchase:

- (a) WW1 Trees (to be placed by the tree to be planted on the grass verge by the Village Green)

“This tree was one of thirty donated by the Woodland Trust and planted by Nocton Parish Council in 2015 to commemorate those Nocton residents who served and fell in the Great War 1914-18”

- (b) Bench on The Bridle Path

“This bench was kindly donated by Ralph and Mary Timms and erected by Beeswax Farming”

10 NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chair and Vice-Chair updated the Parish Council regarding the current position regarding the preparation of this Plan. The structures to move the Plan forward were now in place and the first of the public leaflets had been

drafted. A Neighbourhood Plan webpage would also be added to the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council noted the position.

11 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

(a) The Parish Council considered the following planning applications:

1 *Plots 66-70, Nocton Park, Potterhanworth Road, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on the application.

2 *47 Wellhead Lane, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on the application.

3 *23 Parklands Avenue, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on the application.

12 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Faulkner reported that all properties included in Phase 2 of the Nocton Park development had been sold, and the construction of the bridge was nearing completion.

Cllr Williams agreed to check whether the footpath from Nocton Park to the Nocton Hall woods remained in place.

Cllr Jones reported that he had joined the local Community Police Panel. The Speed Indicator Device was currently located on Potterhanworth Road.

Cllr Kania reported that arrangements for the new Headteacher and staff at Nocton Community School were being put in place.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

(a) The Parish Council agreed to cancel the provisional meeting scheduled for 11 August, 2015 and instead to meet next on Tuesday, 8 September, 2015 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.

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 YOUTH WORKER**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Clerk and Cllr Kania regarding the outcome of the interview held on 6 July, 2015.

The Parish Council confirmed the appointment of Sarah Logan to the post of Nocton Youth Worker, on the terms outlined at the meeting.

16 **NOCTON VILLAGE KEEPER AND DOG WARDEN**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Clerk and Cllr Jones regarding the outcome of the interviews held on 13 July, 2015.

The Parish Council confirmed the appointment of Colin Smith to the post of Nocton Village Keeper and Dog Warden, on the terms outlined at the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)

CHAIR