

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 7 April, 2015 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner
Cllr Graham Jones

Cllr Jane Kania
Cllr Elisabeth Murray

In Attendance: Steve Altridge, Clerk, and Cllr Rob Kendrick (North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)).

Eight members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Michael Kaye, Cllr MaryAnn Williams and Cllr John Money (North Kesteven District Council).

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Agenda Item 9 – Planning Issues – The Old Vicarage, The Green, Nocton

Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business in her capacity as a member of the All Saints' Church PCC.

3 MINUTES – 24 February, 2015

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 February, 2015 were taken as read and signed as correct, subject to it being confirmed that a report regarding the right of access to the Nocton bridlepath would be submitted to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

4 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES – PART 1

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(a) Local Police

PCSO Flannigan informed the Parish Council that there had been two recorded crimes of burglary in the village since the last meeting.

Cllr Jones informed the Parish Council that the occupants of two vehicles had been seen acting in a suspicious manner nearby to the All Saints'

Church, Nocton on the evening of 2 April, 2015. The incident had been reported to the Police, but nothing more had been heard about it. PCSO Flannigan agreed to look into the matter and respond to the Parish Council.

(b) **Nocton Community School**

Mr Mark Cunningham, Chairman of Governors, informed the Parish Council that Mr Andrew Canadine, the Headteacher, would be leaving the school at the end of the summer term due to a promotion. The Parish Council noted that the Governing Body was looking at a range of options to secure his replacement.

(c) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council noted that the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) held funds of approximately £5,000 which would be put towards the Village Hall refurbishment.

The Parish Council thanked the VHMC for its fund raising activities, which would be invaluable in helping to meet any matched-funding refurbishment requirements.

(d) **Dog Warden**

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

The Parish Council agreed to include an article in the Nocton Doodle to remind dog owners that the bags provided in the bridle path bag dispenser were intended for "emergency" use only.

The Parish Council noted the Dog Warden's report.

(e) **Village Keeper**

The Parish Council noted the Village Keeper's activities during the past month.

(f) **Clerk**

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

- 1 subscribe to the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils' Annual Training Scheme 2015/16 at a cost of £75.00.
- 2 a villager's suggestion that it provide a plaque to be positioned on the Village Green next to the WW1 tree to commemorate the outbreak of that

war. Councillors were asked to suggest a form of words that could be inscribed on the plaque.

- 3 join the Lincolnshire Heritage Group Network.
- 4 note the Clerk's verbal report regarding the availability of the DBS service provided by NKDC (the service used to carry out background checks on people working with children and young people). NKDC had agreed to provide the service on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Kendrick also agreed to provide additional information about the DBS scheme.
- 5 to ask the Clerk to investigate whether a more advantageous tariff for street lighting electricity was available following the increase in the E.ON Deemed Contract Rate from 8.24p per kwh to 12.40p per kwh with effect from 1 May, 2015.

(The Parish Council noted that the Nocton Park street light costs would become its responsibility when those roads were adopted).

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report.

(g) **District Councillor R Kendrick**

Cllr Kendrick updated the Parish Council regarding the work being undertaken by NKDC in relation to the forthcoming elections on 7 May, 2015. He also explained that garden waste would no longer be collected from black wheelie bins after the end of April, 2015.

(h) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

5 **NOCTON HALL AND HOSPITAL SITE**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Jones regarding his suggestion that it should write again to LEDA Properties regarding the Parish Council's ongoing concerns about the condition of, and the development proposals for, the Nocton Hall and former Hospital Site. A copy of a suggested draft letter to LEDA Properties was also received.

The Parish Council agreed to write to LEDA Properties accordingly, and to contact NKDC again to ask it to address the concerns of Nocton Park residents about the potential for the release of asbestos from the former hospital site.

6 **REPLACEMENT NOCTON VILLAGE HALL – FURTHER CONSULTATION**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair regarding the

Village Hall refurbishment proposals. The Parish Council noted that following advice from Community Lincs, it was proposed to carry out a more comprehensive consultation on the provision of a new Village Hall. A questionnaire would be sent to all Nocton residents and user groups and the results would help inform its design and facilities. Copies of the proposed questionnaires were also received. It was also proposed that all returned questionnaires were entered into a prize draw for a “High Street” voucher to a value of £50.00. The draw would take place at the Picnic on the Green on 31 May, 2015.

The Parish Council was informed that a suggestion had been made that it approach Mr Clarke, the Village Hall car park owner, to ascertain whether he would be prepared to sell a small portion of the land to the rear of the Hall so that it could be extended along the full length of the building adjacent to the car park itself.

The Parish Council agreed to:

- 1 endorse the Village Hall questionnaires, subject to minor amendment, for distribution to all residents and user groups, and to authorise a questionnaire printing budget of up to £100.00 accordingly.
- 2 authorise a questionnaire draw prize of £50.00, as proposed above.
- 3 request the Clerk to write to Mr Clarke to ascertain whether he would be prepared to consider selling land to the Parish Council to enable an extension to be made to the Village Hall when it was redeveloped.

7 **NAMING OF ROADS AND PROPERTIES IN NOCTON**

The Parish Council considered a report regarding the apparent lack of consultation by NKDC over the naming of roads and properties in the village, which had led to confusion and an inconsistency of approach.

The Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk to ask NKDC to clarify its policy with regard to the issue.

8 **DOG CONTROL - NOCTON PARK**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Faulkner regarding advice received from NKDC about new dog control legislation due to come into force.

Cllr Kendrick agreed to follow up the matter with Cllr Faulkner.

9 PLANNING ISSUES – THE OLD VICARAGE, THE GREEN, NOCTON

The Parish Council considered a report regarding planning issues relating to the Old Vicarage, The Green, Nocton. The Parish Council noted that the outline planning permission application for the construction of a dwelling house in the grounds of the Old Vicarage, The Green, had been refused.

The Parish Council was reminded that it had not objected previously to a planning application for the construction of a garage block at the Old Vicarage. However, following a decision by NKDC to allow the garage to be relocated to a different part of the site and its resultant effect on the Church, the Chair had written to NKDC expressing concern at the lack of consultation with the Parish Council and others about the changes. The NKDC Planning Officer had written to apologise for the lack of consultation, and indicated that a review of procedures was taking place to ensure that such a situation did not occur again.

The Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk, in consultation with the All Saints' PCC, to raise its ongoing concerns about the impact of the garage block on the Church, and the nature of the consultations relating thereto.

10 NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair regarding the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council noted that further constructive discussions had taken place with Potterhanworth Parish Council, and it was hoped to be able to continue with the provision of a joint Neighbourhood Plan as originally intended.

The Parish Council agreed to launch the Neighbourhood Plan at the Nocton Annual Parish Meeting on 19 May, 2015. It was hoped that as many residents as possible would be able to attend to begin the important process of deciding where and how future housing and other developments should take place in the parish.

11 COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GRANT

The Parish Council asked the Clerk to circulate details about the availability of the Community Wildlife Grant to any potentially interested parties in the parish.

12 NOCTON CRICKET CLUB – APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID

The Parish Council approved a grant to Nocton Cricket Club to a maximum of £337.00 to meet any shortfall in the funds required to purchase a mobile cricket net, subject to it being unable to raise the funds from other sources.

13 **VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair regarding a village newsletter.

The Parish Council was pleased to note that Jilly Burr, the editor of the Nocton Doodle, had indicated that she intended to continue with the production of the magazine, albeit in an electronic format only. However, it was apparent that some residents preferred to receive information relating to the Parish Council, etc, in hard copy. The Sheepwash Times, a free local newspaper, had indicated that it would be prepared to extend its distribution to include Nocton. That would in turn complement the Nocton Doodle, and offer residents information in both an electronic and hard copy format.

The Parish Council agreed to ask Cllr Kania to investigate whether it would be possible to include relevant articles in the Sheepwash Times.

14 **OBSTRUCTIONS TO PAVEMENTS AND PATHS, ETC**

The Chair informed the Parish Council that a resident had again drawn the Parish Council's attention to the problems caused to pedestrians (particularly to mothers with pushchairs/prams and disabled people) by boundary hedges, etc extending on to pavements. The problem was particularly acute on certain sections of Main Street and Potterhanworth Road, Nocton.

The Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk to raise the matter again with the Highways Authority.

15 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

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

The Retreat, Nocton Hall, Nocton

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on the application, other than to inform NKDC that it was presumed that the work had been authorised by the tree owner.

- (b) The Parish Council noted the decision by NKDC to consent to works on trees located at Embsay House, Main Street, Nocton.

16 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Kania reported that, together with the Chair, she would be visiting Nocton School during the forthcoming school term.

Cllr Kania also informed the Parish Council that the Youth Club continued to go well, although numbers attending it had fallen recently. Parents would be asked to volunteer at the Club to ensure that statutory adult to children supervision ratios were met. Without more volunteers, the future of the Youth Club could not be guaranteed.

Cllr Jones reported that the Speed Indicator Device was being deployed in Nocton during April, and it was available for use elsewhere in May, June, August and December, 2015.

The Parish Council also noted that the Village Green had been mown on 7 April.

Cllr Faulkner emphasised the need for NKDC to address concerns about potential asbestos issues at the Nocton Hall and Hospital site. Work on phase three of the Nocton Park development had started.

Cllr Faulkner also informed the Parish Council that the new waste bin at Nocton Park had been emptied by the Village Keeper. The Nocton Park Management Company would also purchase a further dog waste bin for Nocton Park in due course.

The Clerk was asked to request the Highways Authority to clarify the position regarding the adoption of the Nocton Park roads.

The Chair reported that residents of some fifty seven properties had signed the petition to bring superfast broadband to Nocton. The petition would be forwarded to Cllr Overton for her to raise the matter with Lincolnshire CC and BT.

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

- (a) The Parish Council agreed that the Annual General Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 12 May, 2015 at 7.00 pm. That meeting would be followed by an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.
- (b) The Parish Council agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 19 May, 2015 at 7.00 pm.
- (c) The Parish Council agreed to adjourn to allow members of the public to ask questions on matters relating to items discussed at the meeting.

Nocton Fen Wind Farm – Invitation to PNF Meeting 14 May 2015.

The Parish Council noted that it would be invited to send representatives to the above meeting.

In response to a comment by a resident regarding an apparent increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic in the Wasps Nest area, the Parish Council

agreed to invite Mr Robert Hall, Beeswax Farming, to its next meeting to update villagers on estate activities.

(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).

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 any individual.

19 **NOCTON YOUTH WORKER**

The Parish Council was informed that Vicky Rowding, Nocton Youth Worker, had tendered her resignation with effect from 31 July, 2015 due to her other commitments.

Cllr Kania agreed to contact Jacqui Thornley, Senior Youth and Community Development Worker, for advice about filling the post, and to update the Parish Council at its next meeting.

The Parish Council noted the position.

(The meeting ended at 9.20 pm)

CHAIR