

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 16 June, 2015 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

Cllr Michael Kaye

Cllr MaryAnn Williams

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

Eleven members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Neil Faulkner, Cllr Graham Jones, Cllr Jane Kania and Cllr John Money (NKDC).

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Parish Council received the following written questions from a parishioner:

Village Planters

"A resident has questioned the costs incurred by the Parish Council in providing plants for the village's three planters and the quality of the plants themselves."

The response from Councillor Williams, endorsed by the Parish Council, to the question was as follows:

"I purchased 72 plants for each planter from a reputable supplier at a cost of £19.99 per planter, which was discussed and passed by the Parish Council) and the plants being perennials should go on from year to year, underplanted by the white hyacinths and tête-à-tête daffodils that were kindly donated by Winchester Growers. I personally and the other people involved with the planting of these spring bulbs had only very positive feedback from the white and gold display - fortunately for us (though not spring plants) April was extremely warm, which meant all of our spring bulbs were over sooner than usual and if there was a problem when they died down, then actually that is what bulbs have to do unfortunately.

If any resident has a contact that would ensure a cheap reliable source of plants I for one, would be more than happy to follow it up. However, I do not think it good practice to 'hope' that Asda, Morrisons or anybody has a sale that we 'may' be able to take advantage of. The planters belong to us all and if any resident wishes to take over the responsibility then all they

have to do is to contact the Parish Council with their proposal so it can be considered. The Parish Council no longer has a specific budget for the provision of plants but rather meets the costs from its general Village Improvement Budget”.

Woodland Trust WW1 Trees

“Why have all the trees been planted without any marker stakes and/or notification as to what they are – surely the trees command some notices as to where and why they have been planted? There is a special reason for the trees and that reason needs to be acknowledged wherever a tree is planted. I also think that simply using them just for a wind break for the Allotments (if that is indeed what has happened) is highly inappropriate”.

The response from Councillor Goldsworthy, endorsed by the Parish Council, to the question was as follows:

“The Parish Council has recently agreed to place a brass plaque by the tree which is to be planted by the Village Green (currently being “potted on” to ensure that it is of a better size to be planted) which will say something along the following lines:

“This tree was one of thirty planted around the village in 2015 to commemorate those who served and fell during World War 1”

It was, however, up to residents and the local groups taking the trees to decide whether or not to provide something similar and the Parish Council cannot compel them to do so. Neither does the Parish Council have the budget to provide plaques to go with the trees planted by residents and local groups. Two residents have, however, said that they will be providing a similar type of plaque. The location of the various trees will be posted on the Council's website so that interested people can be aware of where they were planted.

It should be noted that unfortunately there was a rather poor response from residents and local groups to the offer of a tree under this scheme and so it would seem preferable for the trees to be used in whatever way was considered appropriate by those planting them, rather than leaving them to perish”.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

3 MINUTES – 12 May 2015

The Minutes of (a) the Annual General Meeting held on 12 May, 2015 and (b) the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 May, 2015 were taken as read and signed as correct.

4 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(a) **Local Police**

PCSO Basford informed the Parish Council that there had been one recorded crime in the village since its last meeting. A theft from a car had occurred at Wasps Nest on 21 May, 2015.

The Parish Council noted that there was increasing activity during the late evenings and at night at Nocton Hall, with cars once more trying to access the site from The Avenue. Residents were reminded to note the registration numbers and car descriptions and report incidents to the police by telephoning the '101' helpline.

The Parish Council drew attention to the ongoing problems caused by vehicles being parked opposite each other and on the pavement in the vicinity of the bus stops in Main Street at the entrance to the village (from the B1188). These stops were often obscured and recently a passenger had not been picked up because the driver had not seen them. Residents were reminded not to park in such a way as to cause an obstruction or inconvenience to other road users or pedestrians. The police had also been asked to pay attention to parking in the area as causing an obstruction to the highway and parking on the pavement were offences.

(b) **Nocton Community School**

Cara Watson, Vice-Chair of Governors, reminded the Parish Council that the Headteacher, Andy Canadine, had resigned to take up a headship elsewhere. It had been decided that Mr Canadine would not be replaced, and instead, Mr Graham Boyle would become the "Executive Headteacher" of Digby, Dunston and Nocton Primary Schools. An Open Meeting was being arranged, and all would be welcome to attend and to learn about how the management changes would be implemented.

All villagers would also be welcome to attend the School Summer Fayre which would be held on 11 July, 2015 at 1.00 pm. The School would investigate the apparent unauthorised use of the playing field.

(c) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council noted that the VHMC had not met in May. It was agreed to reimburse the VHMC for some minor damage to the premises which had happened whilst the Youth Club was meeting.

(d) **Dog Warden**

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

circulated previously.

The Parish Council agreed to continue to monitor the number of bags dispensed from the bridle path bag dispenser, and noted the Dog Warden's report.

(e) **Village Keeper**

The Parish Council noted the Village Keeper's activities during the past month, and requested the Clerk to thank Mr Fisher for his services to the village and to wish him well when he moved from Nocton at the end of June, 2015.

(f) **Clerk**

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

- 1 requested the Clerk to arrange its affiliation to Community Lincs if the VHMC was not already a member. In the event that the VHMC was a member of Community Lincs, it would be asked to meet the reduced delegate costs of the two representatives attending the fundraising event on 8 July, 2015. The Parish Council would reimburse the VHMC as appropriate.
- 2 agreed to meet the costs of the purchase of a plaque to be mounted on the bridle path bench to recognise that it had been donated by local residents (Mr and Mrs Timms) and installed by Beeswax Farming. A suggested form of wording for it would be considered at the next PC meeting.

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report.

(g) **District Councillors**

Cllr Kendrick informed the Parish Council that the North Hykeham Swimming Pool was undergoing some phased improvements. The use of the pool at Sleaford had increased significantly since it had been upgraded. Sustain NK was running a programme to help communities if they had an idea to improve impact on the environment. The deadline for entries was 30 June, 2015.

Cllr Kendrick undertook to follow up on the correspondence between the Parish Council and NKDC regarding the potential asbestos issues at Nocton Hall and ensure that a response was sent to the Clerk.

(h) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

5 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the Accounting Statement for the year ended 31 March, 2015. 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 2014/15 which was duly signed by the Chair.
- (b) authorise the Chair and the Clerk to complete the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15.

6 NOCTON HALL

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr Jones on the outcome of their meeting with NKDC and LEDA Properties (LP) on 21 May, 2015.

The Parish Council noted that initially it appeared that LP was proposing to construct some 300 houses on the former hospital site. However, it was apparent that their planning consultants had not taken account of the outcome of the previously agreed "Options Appraisal" which provided for enabling development only. It was noted that the consultants would work up revised proposals based on the discussions which had taken place and that further discussions with NKDC and Parish Council representatives would be held in September, 2015. A statement in the form of a "press release" containing details of LP's proposals would also be provided although to date, this had not been received.

The Parish Council noted the position.

7 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT TEAM

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Williams regarding the Village Hall refurbishment.

The Parish Council noted that the Team had not met during the last month. However, Mr Paul Clarke, the owner of the Village Hall Car Park, had been in touch, and work was ongoing to draw up the parts of the proposal that needed his agreement so that the project could proceed.

The Parish Council noted the position.

8 PARKLANDS AVENUE, NOCTON – ROAD ADOPTION

The Parish Council considered a request from a resident that it pursue with Persimmon Homes the adoption of Parklands Avenue, Nocton as a public highway.

The Parish Council agreed, however, that it was not appropriate for it to become involved in the matter. Rather, it was suggested that the residents of Parklands Avenue may wish to raise the matter collectively with Persimmon Homes direct. A representative of the Highways Authority had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council on 14 July, 2015, and the matter would be raised again at that time.

9 NOCTON – DOG WASTE BINS

The Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk to:

- (a) purchase two 'Fido 25' Dog Waste Bins in red, at a total cost of £246.00 plus VAT, to firstly replace the bin located at the Village Hall and secondly provide a new bin at Nocton Park.
- (b) obtain a quotation for the fitting of the bins.

10 PLANNING PORTFOLIO

The Parish Council agreed to appoint Cllr Mike Kaye as the Planning Portfolio Holder.

11 NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chair informed the Parish Council that a response from Potterhanworth Parish Council about whether it was in a position to proceed with the proposed joint Neighbourhood Plan was awaited. The Clerk undertook to raise the matter with the Potterhanworth PC Clerk.

The Parish Council noted that it was intended to set up a working group of three to four villagers to contribute to the preparation of the Plan. Representatives of Nocton Park and the conservation area of the village had already been identified, but in order to fully represent all parts of the village, a resident from both the Nocton "Top" and the Wasps Nest area were being sought. Any other villagers interested in participating in the production of the Plan would be welcomed, and they were asked to contact the Chair, Cllr Murray or the Clerk for more details.

12 WIND TURBINE APPLICATIONS MEETING – 23 JUNE 2015.

The Parish Council agreed to nominate the Chair and Cllr Jones to attend

a Wind Turbine meeting organised by County Councillor Overton to be held at Welbourn Village Hall on 23 June, 2015.

Any other Parish Councillors who wished to attend the meeting were requested to inform the Clerk.

13 PROPOSED WINDFARM AT NOCTON FEN

The Parish Council noted that Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd had invited it to participate in the statutory consultation process.

The Parish Council agreed to include the matter as an agenda item for its next meeting on 14 July, 2015, by which time councillors would have been able to visit one of the Company's formal consultation sessions taking place locally. Consideration would also be given at that meeting to the undertaking of a Parish Poll or similar to obtain parishioners' views on the matter.

14 PARKING PROBLEMS – MAIN STREET

Referring to Minute 4(a) above, the Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk to write to all residents of Main Street (adjacent to the bus stops) to draw their attention to the parking problems in the vicinity, and to ask for their cooperation in parking more considerately. The matter would also be raised again with the Highways Authority.

15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

The Parish Council noted:

- (a) that the planning application for works at Embsay Cottage, Main Street, Nocton had been withdrawn.
- (b) the decision by NKDC to consent to the installation of a handrail at All Saints' Church, Nocton.

16 PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Williams indicated that a report on the implementation of the County Council's Speed Policy would be submitted to a future meeting.

The Chair informed the Parish Council that a response from the County Council regarding the petition presented by Cllr Williams was awaited. He undertook to pursue the matter.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 14 July, 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.

Mr Nigel Tomlinson, Chair, VHMC, explained that ArtsNK had removed the lenticular from its location outside the Village Hall. Consideration was being given to its possible replacement.

The Parish Council noted the position.

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 noted the position regarding the Youth Worker appointment process, and agreed to appoint Cllrs Kania, Murray and Kaye to the Youth Worker Interview Panel.

20 NOCTON VILLAGE KEEPER

The Parish Council noted the position regarding the Village Keeper appointment process, and agreed to appoint Cllrs Jones, Williams and Faulkner to the Village Keeper Interview Panel.

(The meeting ended at 8.20 pm)

CHAIR