

## NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 12 May, 2015 at 7.30 pm.

### PRESENT

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

Cllr Neil Faulkner  
Cllr Graham Jones

Cllr Michael Kaye  
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

**In Attendance:** Steve Altridge, Clerk, and Cllr Marianne Overton ((Lincolnshire County Council) (LCC)).

Eight members of the public were also present.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Jane Kania, Cllr John Money ((North Kesteven District Council) (NKDC)) and Cllr Rob Kendrick (NKDC).

### 1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

#### *Agenda Item 11 – Nocton Gardening Club*

Cllr Williams, Cllr Jones, Cllr Faulkner and Cllr Kaye each declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business in their capacity as a member of Nocton Gardening Club.

#### *Agenda Item 15(a)2 – All Saints' Church*

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

### 3 MINUTES – 7 April 2015

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 April, 2015 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### 4 BEESWAX FARMING

Robert Hall, the Farm Director, updated the Parish Council about the current activities and proposed developments taking place on the Nocton Estate. Since purchasing the estate, Beeswax Farming had seen a 300% growth in size, with its focus being on farms that were either run down or where the land had been poorly managed. In Nocton, improvements had been made to drainage, tree works and the clearing of woodlands. Six

metre margins had been left along the edges of fields for wildlife and nectar rich areas provided to encourage wildlife. Beeswax Farming was also in discussions with other land owners in the area to form a cluster group to provide corridors that would help provide wildlife protection.

Staffing on the farm had increased from 3 to 45 full time employees and a youth training scheme was in operation. There was a need, however, for infrastructure developments, such as for grain storage, and more internal estate roads to reduce farm traffic on village roads. Other additional farm-related facilities were being looked at and the Parish Council would be kept informed of any developments. In answer to a question from the public, it was explained that the 'orange' colour on some of the crops was a consequence of the programme to improve the soil and although fairly experimental at this stage it was hoped that the method of growing a "sacrificial" crop (in this case oats) and then "spraying it off" would naturally improve conditions with less need for the use of manufactured fertilisers.

Mr Hall also confirmed the position regarding vehicles using the Nocton bridle path from the village to the bridle path crossroads. The bridle path provided private access for Beeswax Farming vehicles only, and should not be used by any other vehicles unless they were accessing properties along it. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Beeswax Farming for agreeing to provide a base and install the bridle path bench being donated by Mr and Mrs Timms.

Cllr Kaye circulated a map which, together with an accompanying letter sent by a firm acting on behalf of Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd, had been delivered to some residents in Nocton asking them to provide certain information relating to their property or land. It was understood that this was being requested in the event that their property or land would be affected by the need to construct an access road to the proposed wind farm and provide for the underground cabling (specifically on land to the west and east of the B1188 opposite Nocton Top). The letter had caused considerable concern for those residents because it also referred to the potential for compulsory purchase, and accordingly, the Parish Council agreed to raise those concerns with Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd.

The Parish Council noted that in the meantime, Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd was continuing with its programme of consultations and public meetings. As part of that programme, a public consultation event would be held in Nocton Village Hall on 12 June, 2015. At least one Parish Councillor would attend the meeting, and Cllrs Goldsworthy, Jones and Faulkner were also attending an event being held by PNF (Protect Nocton Fen) on 14 May, 2015.

## 5 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(a) **Local Police**

PCSO Basford informed the Parish Council that there had been no recorded crimes in the village since its last meeting. The two recent burglaries in the village were still being investigated by the Police CID.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council received the draft Minutes of the VHMC held on 27 April, 2015 and noted that a new electricity meter had been installed in the Village Hall.

(c) **Dog Warden**

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

The Parish Council requested the Clerk to contact NKDC regarding an instance of the dog bins in the village and Nocton Park not being emptied.

The Parish Council noted the Dog Warden's report.

(d) **Village Keeper**

The Parish Council noted that John Fisher had tendered his resignation from the post of Village Keeper with effect from 30 June, 2015. The Parish Council also noted Mr Fisher's activities during the past month.

(e) **Clerk**

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

2 agreed to provide a plaque to be mounted on the bridle path bench being donated by Mr and Mrs Timms to acknowledge the contribution of Beeswax Farming to its installation.

3 noted that the cost of printing the recent Village Hall questionnaire had amounted to £145.00 plus VAT. The Parish Council had previously approved expenditure of £100.00 for the printing, but that sum had been exceeded due to the printing cost being higher than anticipated.

approved a request for the Picnic on the Green to be held on Nocton Village Green on 31 May, 2015.

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report.

(f) **District Councillors**

Neither District Cllr Money nor District Cllr Kendrick was present at the meeting due to a prior commitment.

(g) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton informed the Parish Council that a meeting about the cumulative effect of wind farms would be held in Welbourn Village Hall on 23 June, 2015 at 7.30 pm. Cllr Overton also expressed her on-going concern about planning issues locally in light of the absence of a Local Plan.

**6 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT TEAM**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Williams regarding the results of the recent Village Hall questionnaire. Approximately one third of the questionnaires had been returned, and most people were in broad agreement with the village hall amenities as currently being proposed. A fuller report on the outcome of the consultation would be made at the Nocton Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday, 19 May, 2015.

**7 NOCTON YOUTH CLUB**

The Parish Council noted a report from Cllr Kania providing an update on Youth Club activities.

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

The Parish Council considered the response to its letter from Karen Bradford, Corporate Director, NKDC about the naming of roads and properties in the village.

The Parish Council noted the position.

**9 GUIDELINES FOR MAKING GRANTS FROM NOCTON 200 CLUB MONIES**

The Parish Council approved a set of guidelines to assist local groups wishing to submit a request for funding from the Nocton 200 Club monies.

The Clerk undertook to incorporate the guidelines into the grant application form.

**10 TRANSPARENCY CODE FOR SMALLER AUTHORITIES**

The Parish Council noted a report detailing the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

11 **NOCTON GARDENING CLUB – APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID**

The Parish Council approved a grant of £146.25 to Nocton Gardening Club to meet the costs of the Nocton Open Gardens Event 20-21 June, 2015, subject to the 200 Club Promoter and it being consulted regarding the final allocation of funds raised from the Open Gardens. Those funds would be used to provide community benefits.

12 **COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS**

The Parish Council agreed to invite villagers to contact the Clerk for further information if they wished to submit a nomination for a Community Champion Award. The closing date for nominations was 27 July, 2015.

13 **COMMUNITY LINCS: FUNDING, FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

The Parish Council agreed

1 to nominate Cllr Williams to attend a Funding, Fundraising and Community Engagement Event which was being hosted by Community Lincs at Morton Village Hall on 8 July, 2015, at a cost of £30.00 per delegate.

2 to book an additional place at the event for a representative of the VHMC to attend with Cllr Williams.

14 **PROVISION OF SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN NOCTON**

The Parish Council received a report from the Chair regarding the provision of superfast broadband in Nocton.

The Parish Council noted that a petition calling on LCC and BT to expedite the availability of superfast broadband to the residents of Nocton had been passed to Cllr Overton. She had acknowledged its receipt and the Parish Council had been invited to nominate a person to speak to the petition at the meeting of the County Council on 15 May, 2015.

Cllr Williams agreed to present the petition on behalf of the Parish Council.

15 **THE AVENUE, NOCTON – PROVISION OF A NO THROUGH ROAD SIGN**

The Parish Council considered a suggestion from a parishioner about whether it thought it appropriate for a 'No Through Road' sign to be installed at the bottom of The Avenue at the Main Street road junction to help reduce traffic along it. Any sign would be installed at the expense of The Avenue residents.

The Parish Council agreed to request the Clerk to approach the Highways Authority for advice about whether the request would be acceptable to and, if so, to suggest a suitable form of wording/design, etc for the sign.

16 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

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

1 *Embsay Cottage, Main Street, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed to comment on the application in the following terms:

‘This application was considered by Nocton Parish Council at its meeting on 12th May, 2015.

Whilst not opposed in principle to an extension to this property, the Parish Council was very concerned at the scale of the proposed development, not least because of the fact that it is categorised as a "Significant Building" (of architectural interest) within the Conservation Area.

The Council was particularly concerned that the size of the proposed extension appeared to be out of all proportion to the existing dwelling and would risk adversely changing the appearance and character of what is currently a small, period cottage and an important part of the street scene - a photo of which appears in the District Council's most recent Conservation Plan document.

Together with the proposed construction of what is understood to be a two-storey garage in the rear garden, the Council was concerned that this would represent an over-development of the site and not be in keeping with the requirements of the Conservation Area. From the information presented to the Council, it was not clear to what extent, if any, the proposed construction of the garage would have on the trees on the adjacent boundary and asked that this be fully considered by the District Council's Tree Officer to ensure that no damage was caused to roots, etc.’

2 *All Saints' Church, The Green, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed not to comment on the application.

(b) The Parish Council noted the decision by NKDC to consent to works on trees located at The Retreat, Nocton Hall, Nocton.

17 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Faulkner reported that the Phase 3 development at Nocton Park was being built quickly, although a bridge had been removed because it did not

meet Highways Authority specifications.

It was agreed that the tree commemorating WW1 would now be planted close by to the Village Green, rather than on the Green itself. Cllr Williams reported that the cherry tree on the Green had not yet been lopped, despite her being told that it would be. The Clerk undertook to contact the NKDC Tree Officer to enquire about the availability of the tree survey service that was previously proposed.

Cllr Jones reported that the Speed Indicator Device was currently located in Metheringham, and that it was fully booked (apart from one month) to the end of the year. He would be attending a meeting, together with Cllrs Goldsworthy and Murray, at NKDC on 21 May, 2015 to discuss the Nocton Hall site proposed developments.

Cllr Goldsworthy informed the Parish Council that he had been contacted by a resident of Parklands Avenue concerned that communal areas of grass had not been cut recently. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Authority to ascertain whether that road had been adopted, and if so, to request that the cutting be carried out as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Goldsworthy also updated the Parish Council about the latest position regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. Preparatory work was continuing in conjunction with colleagues at Potterhanworth and possibly Dunston in connection with the Plan. It was intended to launch formally the Plan at the Nocton Annual Parish Meeting on 19 May, 2015 when a request for assistance from the community to help with this project would also be made.

The Parish Council agreed to provide light refreshments, including wine, at the Annual Parish Meeting

## 18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- (a) The Parish Council noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 19 May, 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.

In response to a question from a villager, the Clerk undertook to contact the Highways Authority to remind it that overgrown hedges continued to obstruct footpaths, in particular on Main Street opposite the beck. The Clerk was also asked to contact Potterhanworth Parish Council to inform it that the hedge by the Church in Potterhanworth was overgrown and causing a potential hazard.

19            **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.

20            **NOCTON VILLAGE KEEPER**

In confidential session, the Parish Council agreed that following the resignation of the Village Keeper, the posts of Dog Warden and Village Keeper would be amalgamated when the Dog Warden's annual contract expired in September, 2015.

The Clerk undertook to notify the Dog Warden of the decision, and to inform him that he would be eligible to apply for the new post if he so wished.

21            **NOCTON YOUTH WORKER**

In confidential session, the Parish Council noted the position regarding the Youth Worker appointment process following the resignation of Mrs Vicky Rowding from the post.

(The meeting ended at 9.10 pm)

**CHAIR**