

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 3 February, 2015 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner
Cllr Jane Kania

Cllr Liz Murray
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

In attendance:

District Cllr Rob Kendrick; PC Hansen and Sarah Kennedy (PCSO) (part of the meeting only)

Three members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Graham Jones and Steve Altridge (Parish Clerk)

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Public Questions

2 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

In the absence of the Clerk, the Vice-chair reported a letter had been received from Kate Tyler resigning as a member of the Parish Council with immediate effect. In noting her resignation, it was agreed to place on record the Parish Council's appreciation of the work she had undertaken during her time as a councillor and Chair and to extend to her best wishes for the future.

3 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy was appointed Chair of the Parish Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year/

It was agreed to defer the appointment of a Vice-chair to a future meeting.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

5 REPORT OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

In reporting that there had been crime reported in the village since the last meeting, PC Hansen took the opportunity to introduce PCSO Sarah Kennedy who had recently joined his team, bringing it up to a compliment of five officers.

REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015/16

The Parish Council considered a report from Cllr Goldsworthy, Finance Portfolio Holder, regarding its Revenue Budget and Precept for 2015/16. The report detailed suggestions for a Parish Council budget for the forthcoming financial year, and provided comparative figures for the current year and an estimate of the projected outturn. In considering the budget the Parish Council had regard to the need to minimise the financial impact on Council Tax payers whilst at the same time wanting to continue with its limited programme of village improvements, etc

In the event, the Parish Council agreed unanimously to set its budget at £14,675 (an increase of £1,195 over the previous year) as set out in the Appendix to these minutes. resulting in a precept for the coming year of £13,672. It was noted, however, that even after this increase, the Parish will continue to have one of the lowest levels of expenditure amongst local villages of a comparable size.

This increase in the budget will mean that a Band "D" Council Tax payer will pay an additional £3.05p a year i.e. 25p a month.

The key features of the Parish Council's budget for 2015/16 included:

1. An increase of £300 in the Dog Warden budget to reflect actual expenditure, although some 30% of the total costs (£1800) are met by the Nocton Park Management Ltd and NKDC.
2. Addition of a budget of £500, as recommended by NKDC, to meet the cost of the Parish Council elections in May. In the event that no election is required (i.e. only seven or fewer residents stand for election) then this sum will be used for other purposes.
3. Deletion of the budget for Grass Cutting to reflect the decision to purchase a lawnmower to enable volunteers to cut the village green at no cost to the Parish Council.
4. Maintaining the budget for Village-based improvements, etc. at last year's level.
5. A small increase in the budget for grants and donations to enable the Parish Council to continue to provide small raffle prizes, etc to support Village Hall fund-raising events, etc.
6. An amalgamation of all the Village Hall budgets to establish a single "Village Hall Refurbishment and Reserve" budget of £3,000. This budget can be used to "pump-prime" the costs associated with securing a remodelled Village Hall and any "life and limb" works which are the responsibility of the Parish Council as owner of the building.

In approving this budget, the Clerk was authorised to submit the necessary paperwork to NKDC.

Finally, arising from the discussion on the future budget for the Dog Warden Service, District Cllr Rob Kendrick undertook to clarify with NKDC the position regarding the Warden's powers, etc when patrolling Nocton Park.

6 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Parish Council approved a proposal from the Clerk that the “de minimus” figure in Financial regulation 11.1(g) whereby he is required to obtain three quotations where the cost of the supply of goods and services, etc is above £100 be increased to £500 to better reflect the cost of goods, materials or works in the current market.

7 VILLAGE HALL – TREE SURVEY

Councillor Williams reported that a local resident – a qualified tree officer – had kindly agreed to carry out a survey of the trees outside the Village Hall at no charge to the Council. This survey is required as a precursor to the submission of a planning application for the remodelled Village Hall. The results of the survey were awaited but would be reported to the Refurbishment Project Team in due course.

(The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.)

CHAIR