

## **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 8 December, 2015 at 7.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner  
Cllr Graham Jones  
Cllr Jane Kania

Cllr Michael Kaye  
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

**In Attendance:** Steve Altridge, Clerk.

Eleven members of the public were also present.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr Jim Eagle, the Nocton 200 Club Promoter, presented the Chair with a cheque for £1,200. The funds would be used to assist with meeting the objectives set out in the Nocton Parish Plan. The Chair thanked Jim Eagle for his hard work in raising such an impressive sum of money to benefit the community.

#### **1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were declared.

#### **3 MINUTES – 10 November 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 November, 2015 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **4 BEESWAX FARMING**

Mr Robert Hall, the Farm Director, updated the Parish Council about the current activities and proposed developments taking place on the Nocton Estate.

The Parish Council noted that it was proposed to build a new grain store and staff facilities on land between Wasps Nest and Nocton. The location was intended to minimise any impact on the residents of both Nocton and Dunston. The development would include a new farm access road from

the MAC complex and some widening of an existing road. The Parish Council was the first body to be informed of the proposals. Plans of the proposed development would be available following a planning application, which, it was hoped, would be submitted in the New year.

Councillors joined the Chair in thanking Mr Hall for his informative and helpful presentation.

## **5 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **(a) Local Police**

Cllr Jones made a verbal report on behalf of PCSO Basford, who had left the meeting. The Parish Council noted that there had been two attempted burglaries in Parklands Avenue, Nocton since the last meeting.

Cllr Jones reminded villagers to telephone the '999' emergency number if it was suspected that a crime was taking place, so that the police could respond more promptly.

The Parish Council wished PCSO Marcos Menses a speedy recovery from a recent road accident.

### **(b) Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Williams informed the Parish Council that the Christmas Fayre had raised £269 which would be added to the Village Hall refurbishment funds, which stood at approximately £6,250. Discussions would be held by the Chair of VHMC with the Village Keeper about him taking over the day to day maintenance requirements at the Hall.

The Parish Council noted the report.

### **(c) Village Keeper/Dog Warden**

Cllr Jones updated the Parish Council on the Village Keeper's activities since its last meeting. A tree had fallen into the beck on Wellhead Lane, but it was not causing an obstruction. Arrangements were being made with NKDC for Mr Smith to undertake formal dog warden training.

Cllr Williams agreed to speak to the resident of a property on Potterhanworth Road regarding hedging overhanging the footpath.

The Clerk undertook to remind NKDC that the Village Hall brown waste bin had not yet been replaced. He would also follow up with the Tree Officer regarding the status of various trees which bordered Main Street and Potterhanworth Road. NKDC would also be asked to road sweep the village in due course.

The Parish Council noted the Village Keeper's report.

(d) **Clerk**

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

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted earlier that day by NKDC regarding the Parish Council's ongoing concerns regarding asbestos contamination at the former Nocton Hospital site. NKDC was arranging for its asbestos contractors to quote for an updated survey of the site and had contacted LEDA Properties to request access.

(e) **District Councillors**

Neither Cllr Money nor Cllr Kendrick was present at the meeting.

(f) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

**6 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2014/15 ACCOUNTS**

The Parish Council received the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) accounts for 2014/15, and considered the VHMC budget for 2015/16.

The Parish Council:

- (a) noted the VHMC accounts for 2014/15.
- (b) endorsed the VHMC budget for 2015/16, subject to clarification being sought from its Treasurer regarding the reasons for the significant increases in the provision for the property repairs/renewals, and stationary/postage budgets.

**7 NOCTON AND POTTERHANWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair regarding the progress of the Plan.

The Parish Council noted that the analysis of the questionnaires had been completed, and a document setting out the suggested Aims, Objectives and Policies for inclusion in the Plan would be distributed to all households in Nocton and Potterhanworth in the New Year. Any offers to help with the distribution of the document would be appreciated.

The Parish Council noted the position.

**8 NOCTON YOUTH CLUB**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Kania regarding the Youth Club.

The Parish Council noted that Spencer Watkins had started as the Youth Worker, and that with the support of volunteers he was settling well into the role. Attendance numbers were currently low, but it was anticipated that they would increase in the New Year.

The Clerk undertook to ascertain the current position regarding the volunteer DBS checks, and investigate the possibility of obtaining Volunteer 'V' Cards. He was also asked to look into the availability of Youth Worker training courses.

**9 VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT**

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

Cllr Williams informed the Parish Council that together with Cllr Kaye, she had attended a meeting with Sam Smith at Community Lincs, visited the Phoenix Hall, Collingham, and met the project leader of the recent development of the Venue at Navenby. Unfortunately, major grants from the Big Lottery and other similar organisations were no longer available, and as a result, alternative methods of funding the refurbishment would need to be considered.

The Parish Council agreed to consider the matter again at its meeting on 12 January, 2016.

**10 VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**

The Parish Council considered further the proposal to publish a Village Newsletter.

Cllr Kania reported that together with the Chair, she had discussed the publication of a village newsletter with Mr Andrew Boyall, the Headteacher of Nocton Community School. The school had said that it might be able to help set up the newsletter, and the matter would be discussed again in the New Year. Any offers of assistance to distribute the newsletter would be appreciated.

**11 ANNUAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Clerk regarding changes to the annual audit arrangements.

The Parish Council noted that from the start of the 2017/18 financial year, the Local Audit and Accountability Act, 2014 would require smaller authorities, including Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £25,000, to choose to either have an auditor appointed to them by a new 'sector-led body' or decide to procure their own. Those authorities would be exempt from having to submit an annual financial return, but would still need to have an auditor appointed in case there were any questions from electors to be resolved. The legislation presumed that unless the Parish Council had decided by 31 January, 2016 to opt out of the scheme, it would be enrolled automatically for the next five years.

The Parish Council agreed not to opt out of the sector led body audit procurement arrangements, and to enrol in the scheme as described above.

## 12 **DOG WASTE AND LITTER BINS**

The Parish Council considered a letter from NKDC requesting that the height of three dog waste and litter bins in the village be lowered in order to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995, and help reduce injuries to its staff which had been attributed to lifting bags from bins sited at a relatively high level.

The bins in question were located at the Village Hall, and Rostrop Road and Steamer Point Road, Nocton Park. NKDC had requested that the adjustments were made by 26 February, 2016.

Cllr Jones agreed to investigate the position with the Village Keeper, and suggest options to meet the requirements at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 12 January, 2016.

## 13 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

The Parish Council:

- (a) noted the decision by NKDC to grant planning permission in respect of the following application:

*Embsay Cottage, Main Street, Nocton*

- (b) noted the decision by NKDC to refuse planning permission in respect of the following application:

*14 Lincoln Road, Nocton*

- (c) noted the decision by NKDC to consent to the following applications for works to trees within a conservation area:

*2 Wrays Yard, Nocton*  
*Nocton Hall, Nocton*

N.B: The Parish Council agreed to seek clarification from NKDC about why the planning application for the building of two properties at 14 Lincoln Road, Nocton had been refused, but outline planning permission for six properties at Wellhead Lane, Nocton had been granted.

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## **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Faulkner reported that the latest phase of development at Nocton Park was ongoing. The Parish Council noted that whilst the Village Keeper had not yet received formal dog warden training from NKDC, he was nevertheless providing a dog warden service at Nocton Park and in the village as a whole. An item regarding legislation requiring dog walkers to carry more than one dog waste bag with them would be included on the next Parish Council agenda.

The Parish Council authorised Cllr Jones to purchase a new supply of litter bags and litter picking tongs for the Village Keeper's use. The Clerk also undertook to ascertain the costs of purchasing a wheeled litter trolley for the Village Keeper's use.

Cllr Williams reported that she would be attending a funding fayre on 9 February, 2016 to investigate funding options for the Village Hall refurbishment. Cllr Williams also undertook to submit costings for village entrance fencing to the next meeting of the Parish Council for consideration.

Cllr Kaye reported that he would be attending a Budget and Corporate Priorities Workshop at the NKDC offices on 9 December, 2015.

Cllr Jones informed the Parish Council that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was fully booked in 2016. It would be deployed in Nocton for the remainder of December, 2015 and in January, May and September, 2016. The SID would be located on the B1188 within the next two months. The data collected over the next two months would potentially help to make the argument for the provision of village entrance fencing as well.

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

- (a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 12 January, 2016 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.

(Nocton Parish Council – 8 December 2015)

(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

**CHAIR**