

## **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 21 October, 2014 at 7.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Kate Tyler (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner

Cllr Graham Jones

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy

Cllr MaryAnn Williams

Six members of the public were also present.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Neil Summers and Cllrs. Rob Kendrick and John Money (North Kesteven District Council); Steve Altridge (Parish Clerk); PC Hanson

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

There were no Public Questions

#### **2. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

The Chair reported that she had received a letter from Mrs Jilly Burr dated 18 October, 2014 in which she stated her intention to resign from 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 to extend to her best wishes for the future.

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

Cllr Goldsworthy declared an interest in Item 3 of the Clerk's Report.

#### **3 MINUTES – 9 September, 2014**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 September, 2014 were taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

#### **4 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

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

In the absence of a Police representative, Cllr Jones reported that from information submitted to the Parish Council, it appeared that there had been one crime reported since the last meeting – the theft of a bicycle.

However, in the absence of any further information as to the date, location,

etc of the incident, it was impossible for the Parish Council to comment in any meaningful way. The Parish Council expressed disappointment that despite repeated requests, such basic reports which were effectively meaningless were continuing to be submitted and Cllr Jones was asked to raise the matter again with the relevant Police authorities.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

The Parish Council received and noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) held on 29 September, 2014.

The Parish Council agreed to record its thanks to the Chair of the VHMC and his Committee for their excellent work in organising a most successful "Lincolnshire Weekend".

(c) **Dog Warden**

The Parish Council noted Mr Cummins' report.

(d) **Village Keeper**

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

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Village Keeper to see what action he could take to deal with the problem of the increasing amount of leaves on the pavement, particularly in the centre of the village.

(e) **Clerk**

The Parish Council considered the Clerk's report which had been circulated previously and agreed to reimburse Cllr Goldsworthy the sum of £22.69 for the purchase of a bottle of champagne on behalf of councillors as a raffle prize for the "Lincolnshire Weekend".

(Cllr Goldsworthy took no part in the discussion of this item and did not vote thereon).

The Parish Council also considered a request from All Saints Church that additional "dragons teeth" be provided to prevent parking on the area of Village Green opposite the church and accessed from the drive to the school – as had happened at a recent wedding. Notwithstanding the cost involved, the Parish Council was reluctant to install more "teeth" as this could hinder access by, for example, emergency vehicles. However, it was agreed to keep the matter under review should the action being taken by the Church to review its information to wedding parties not prove successful in resolving the problem.

(f) **District Councillors J Money/R Kendrick**

Due to previous commitments, neither Cllr Kendrick nor Cllr Money was present at the meeting.

(g) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

5 **CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN: PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION**

The Parish Council approved the submission of a response drafted by the Vice-chair to the current consultation on the Central Lincolnshire Local as attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

As part of the Local Plan process, the Parish Council also agreed to seek the designation of the following areas as Local Green Spaces so that they can be given the same level of protection from development as exists for Green Belt Land:

Village Green  
School Playing Field  
Allotment Site  
Nocton Park (Playing Field and Play Park)  
Nocton Hall "Pleasure Gardens and former Orchard"

6 **VATTENFALL WIND POWER LTD – PROPOSED WIND FARM AT NOCTON FEN**

Cllr Jones reported on the outcome of a meeting held on 15 October, 2014 that he had had with Cllr Goldsworthy and Sam Cranston of Vattenfall. The purpose of the meeting, convened at Vattenfall's request, was to give an update on the current position on the development and to respond to a number of questions put forward by councillors and others.

A summary of the main issues discussed was noted as follows:

**Capacity of National Grid** – Vattenfall was continuing discussions with Western Power as to the capacity of the Grid to cope with the electricity which would be produced by the Wind Farm. The Company was not, however, aware of concerns expressed by some District and County Councillors that it was problematic as to whether such a connection was going to prove possible.

**Subsidies** – Despite the uncertainties around future subsidies for on-shore windfarms, Vattenfall was working towards a design of a Scheme which would remain deliverable/profitable in the longer term.

**Construction Route** – No decision had yet been taken as to which option

would represent the most appropriate route for construction traffic i.e. from the B1188 via the existing private roadway opposite the quarry or via Washingborough/Branston Causeway.

**Scheme Changes Following Initial Consultation** – The number of turbines had now been reduced from 23 to 20 and grouped in such a way as increase their distance from residential properties and the river and re-sited so as to minimise the visual impact from certain viewpoints.

**Current Timetable** – Further consultation to take place between February and May, 2015 with a view to the submission of an application in November of that year. If approved (decision expected in June 2017) then construction would not start until 2020 with completion in 2021.

**Public Meeting** – As part of the next round of consultation, Vattenfall would consider attending, together with other organisations with an interest in the Development (e.g. CPRE, RSPB) a public meeting organised by the Parish Council to hear residents' views and answer questions.

## 7 **REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15**

The Parish Council considered a report outlining the current position of its Revenue Budget as at the end of Month 6. Whilst noting that there were no particular issues of concern, it was agreed to remain vigilant and avoid incurring unnecessary expenditure including reducing, wherever possible, the calls on the Clerk's time.

It was also noted that the District Council had advised parishes to include a sum of £1,000 in their Precept requests for next year in order to meet the costs of the Parish Council elections in May 2015. Such a provision would represent a significant increase in the Council's relatively small budget, particularly if there subsequently proved no need for an election. The Clerk and Vice-chair were, therefore, asked to obtain further information on this matter from NKDC before finalising the 2015/16 budget.

## 8 **NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT TEAM**

It was agreed that Cllr Goldsworthy replace Cllr Tyler as Chair of the Project Team and that Cllr Williams replace former Cllr Burr. Cllr Jones was appointed Deputy in the event that either of the two standing members was unable to attend.

It was noted that outline plans, based on the agreed Project Brief, had finally been received from the Architect and it was agreed to refer these for initial consideration to a meeting of the Project Team to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Social Club commencing at 6.00 p.m. Cllr Williams undertook to liaise with the other members of the Project Team regarding the meeting and the availability of the venue.

Finally, the Parish Council confirmed that before a final plan for a remodelled Village Hall was approved, there would be a further opportunity for the community to comment. It was agreed that if the timetable permitted an initial consultation event could be held prior to the December meeting of the Parish Council.

## 9 **NOCTON YOUTH CLUB**

The meeting received an oral report from Cllr Goldsworthy on the current position regarding the establishment of Nocton Youth Club.

Two “taster” sessions had been organised for this Wednesday and next and publicised throughout the village, with personal invitations being given to as many young people as could be identified. Encouragingly, a number of volunteers had now come forward to assist in the running of the Club although Cllr Goldsworthy asked as many colleagues and members of the public to attend the “taster” sessions in order to assist Vicky Rowding (the Leader) on those particular nights.

The Parish Council approved the Policy and other documents relating to the operation of the Youth Club as circulated with the agenda.

It was also agreed to discontinue the Youth Group Sub-committee with the Parish Council assuming overall responsibility for the Youth Club. Vicky Rowding would be asked to submit regular progress reports to the Parish Council on activities, numbers attending and any other issue on which she and her volunteers required guidance, etc.

Finally, although bookings of the Social Club were being made by the Parish Council and, therefore, free of charge, the Parish Council considered it appropriate to meet, as a minimum, the running costs incurred by the Youth Club. Accordingly, it asked the Clerk to reach agreement with the Social Club and VHMC as to a reasonable payment for each meeting of the Youth Club.

## 10 **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

The Parish Council considered an application from All Saints Church for a grant towards the costs incurred in the maintenance of the churchyard.

Whilst unable for budget reasons to meet the total cost sought (£550), it recognised the importance of the church to the local community and others and agreed, therefore, to make a grant of £250.

Following an oral report by Cllr Faulkner, the Parish Council agreed in principle and subject to the submission of a formal application, to make a grant from the 200 Club Fund to meet the cost of a bench and waste bin for use by parents overseeing their children using the Nocton Park Play Area.

In this connection it was also agreed that should the application be approved and a waste bin provided and subject to the costs being met by Nocton Park Management Committee, the Village Keeper be requested to empty it a regular intervals. Since it would be sited on private land it would not be subject to collection by NKDC.

**11 NOCTON WELCOME PACK**

The Parish Council agreed to accept Cllr Jones' offer to take over the production of the Welcome Pack.

**12 VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS TREE**

The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of the Christmas Tree as identified by Cllr Williams and 10m of additional lighting cable at a total cost of £130 (inc VAT). Delivery would be arranged for the 25 or 26 November.

**13 NOCTON BRIDLE PATH – PROVISION OF BENCH**

Following clarification of the request by a resident to purchase a bench for users of the Bridlepath (Minute No. 14 of the last meeting refers), the Parish Council agreed in principle and subject to confirmation that the resident concerned would meet all of the costs involved (i.e. purchase, delivery and installation) to arrange for the bench to be provided as proposed.

In recognition of this very generous offer, the Parish Council agreed that subject to agreement by the resident it would provide a small plaque on the bench indicating details of the benefactor.

**14 WASPS NEST – GRIT BIN**

It was noted that the Highways Authority had at last agreed to the provision of an additional grit bin for use by residents at Wasps Nest and was seeking guidance as to its preferred location.

The Parish Council agreed to ask the Clerk to contact residents at Wasps Nest to seek their advice on the matter before informing Highways.

**15 WILD FLOWERS – THE VILLAGE GREEN**

The Parish Council agreed a proposal from Cllr Williams that she arrange for the sowing of wild flower seed (at no cost to the Council) on a 1 to 1.5 metre strip to the back of the small area of the Green adjacent to the "wood" on the right hand side when facing Nocton Primary School. Cllr Williams undertook to let the School know of the proposal.

## 16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

### (a) Works to Trees

The Parish Council considered the following application for works to trees within a conservation area and agreed to make no comment thereon:

*Embsay Holt, Main Street  
The Retreat, Nocton Hall*

### (b) Housing Development – Wellhead Lane

The Parish Council received an oral report from Cllr Goldsworthy regarding the current position relating to the proposed housing development on Wellhead Lane following a discussion he had had with the NKDC Planning Development Manager. Apparently, the applicant had now submitted a revised layout to respond to comments from the Tree Officer although the key elements of the scheme remained the same. In the circumstances, the Parish Council saw no reason to depart from the comments made at the last meeting and reaffirmed its complete opposition to the development as currently proposed.

### (c) Bridle Path Close

Cllr Goldsworthy reported orally that he had been advised by a resident that the apparent recent naming of a road at Nocton Park as “Bridle Path Close” was causing understandable confusion on the part of delivery vehicle drivers, etc who were assuming that the road was in some way located in the vicinity of the Bridle Path leading from Nocton to Dunston. Cllr Faulkner undertook to clarify the position and advise Cllr Goldsworthy so that he could take the matter up with NKDC’s Street Naming Team.

## 17 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS’ REPORTS

Cllr Faulkner repeated his concern at the planting of the “containers” by the railway bridge on the B1202. It was noted that the matter would be raised with Network Rail when the Clerk had arranged for them to attend a Parish Council meeting.

He also asked that organisations advertising events involving Nocton should inform the Clerk so that councillors can be made aware of what is happening and to deal with questions, etc from residents. In this connection he had in mind the recent event organised by “Spires and Steeples”.

Cllr Williams reported that the street lamp outside Halls Yard seemed to be faulty and Cllr Goldsworthy agreed to ask the Clerk to report the matter to EON.

Cllr Jones reported that there had been no progress on Nocton Hall following the adoption of the resolution by the Parish Council at its last meeting. NKDC had also confirmed that they had similarly had no contact with LEDA Properties in recent months.

He also reported that SID was now back in the village and was currently deployed at the entrance to the village at Potterhanworth Road. In addition, the application for the "Passive Speed Indicator Signs" had now been made to the Road Safety Partnership.

It was agreed to reimburse Cllr Jones for the cost of the fuel he had purchased for the Parish Council's "sit and ride" mower and to accept his offer to obtain estimates for the mower's servicing prior to the start of next year's grass cutting season.

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

The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 2 December, 2014 at 7.00 pm. It was agreed that in accordance with past practice, the usual festive refreshments of wine and mince pies be provided prior to the start of the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.)

**CHAIR**