

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 4 February, 2014 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Kate Tyler (in the Chair)

Cllr Jilly Burr

Cllr Neil Faulkner

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy

Cllr Graham Jones

Cllr Neil Summers

Cllr MaryAnn Williams

In Attendance: Steve Altridge, Clerk, Cllr John Money, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), and Cllr Marianne Overton, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

Eight members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Rob Kendrick, NKDC.

The Chair received the 4th Division Runner Up Trophy from Philip and Joan Franklin, Nocton Cricket Club, prior to the start of the meeting. The trophy was put on display in the Village Hall trophy cabinet.

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked by the members of the public present.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES – 7 January 2014

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 January, 2014 were taken as read and signed as correct.

4 BEESWAX FARMING

Robert Hall, Farms Director, Beeswax Farming, updated the Parish Council about developments at the Nocton Estate .

Mr Hall explained that Beeswax Farming had recently acquired a number of other farms in the area. The new farming estate was being operated under a single management structure, with the intention of farming the land sympathetically, caring for the environment and operating with integrity. Drainage ditches on the estate had been opened up, and work was being

undertaken to improve soil quality. Additional farm workers had been employed, and woodland was being managed to encourage and promote wildlife and ensure its sustainability.

The Parish Council noted that Winchester Growers Ltd had applied, as a tenant of Beeswax Farming, for planning permission to erect poly tunnels at Nocton Fen. If the planning application was approved, Winchester Growers Ltd would submit a business proposal to Beeswax Farming to take the project forward.

Mr Hall agreed to place signs on the bridle way linking Nocton to Dunston to limit access by unauthorised vehicles. Access would be limited to Beeswax Farms traffic and vehicles visiting Nocton Cricket Club. The grass to the edge of the bridle way would be mown as well.

Parish Councillors joined the Chair in thanking Mr Hall for his update on the estate developments.

5 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(a) **Local Police**

PCSO Flannigan informed the Parish Council that there had been one recorded crime in the parish since the last meeting. A catalytic convertor had been stolen from a vehicle parked on Nocton Heath. A number of thefts from vehicles had occurred in the Washingborough and Waddington area. Cllr Faulkner reported that he had disturbed youths attempting to access the Nocton Hall site on two occasions.

(b) **Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Summers reported that the inaugural meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) under its new Constitution had taken place on 29 January, 2014. The arrangements for filling a vacancy for a Village representative on it would be considered in due course.

The Clerk undertook to proceed with the application to Access Lincs for a bid for grant-aid for bicycle storage at the Village Hall. He also agreed to convene a meeting of the Village Hall Working Group to consider the Social Club hire agreement with the VHMC.

(c) **Dog Warden**

The Parish Council noted Mr Cummins' report, which had been circulated previously.

The Clerk undertook to ask Mr Cummins to provide an article on the dangers of tapeworms for publication in the Doodle, and to replenish Cllr Goldsworthy's supply of bags for the bridle path bag dispenser.

(d) **Village Keeper**

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

The Clerk undertook to ask Mr Fisher to clear litter adjacent to Nocton Hall.

(e) **Clerk**

The Parish Council received the Clerk's report, which had been circulated previously, and noted that Cllr Goldsworthy had received an email from a parishioner thanking it for the installation of the new Dragons Teeth on the Village Green.

The Clerk agreed to:

- 1 provide Cllr Burr with the details of the mobile library visit times for publication in the Nocton Doodle when they were made available by LCC.
- 2 inform Nocton Community School that the Parish Council had agreed unanimously to the school fete being held on the Village Green on 19 July, 2014.
- 3 to contact the Pelican Trust, the manufacturer of the Village Green Notice Board, to inform it about the problem with opening the notice board doors.

(f) **District Councillor J Money**

Councillor Money updated the Parish Council on developments in the NKDC area, and indicated that he would monitor the position regarding the planning application for the provision of poly tunnels at Nocton Fen. He also stated his concern that the condition of Nocton Hall was deteriorating rapidly, and the Parish Council noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair, and Cllr Jones were due to meet NKDC officers on 7 March, 2014 to discuss the position again.

Cllr Money undertook to remind NKDC that:

- 1 that the Parish Council was required to increase its precept each year to accommodate the increased Dog Warden/Village Keeper charges made by it for a service that NKDC would otherwise be required to provide.
- 2 it would be helpful for the Parish Council to be made aware each year of the next financial year's grass-cutting charge to enable it to accurately reflect it as part of the budget-setting process.

(g) **County Councillor M Overton**

Cllr Overton updated the Parish Council about the LCC budget proposals for 2014/15, the changes to the Library Service, and the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy.

The Parish Council noted the position.

6 **REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2014/15**

The Parish Council consider a report from Cllr Goldsworthy, Finance Portfolio Holder, regarding its Revenue Budget and Precept for 2014/15. The report detailed a suggested Parish Council budget for the forthcoming financial year, and provided comparative figures for the current year and an estimate of the projected outturn for it.

Cllr Goldsworthy drew attention to the requirement under the new Village Hall Service Agreement for the Parish Council to support financially the VHMC's management function and repairs and maintenance responsibilities. Subject to the Parish Council approving the budget, and further discussion with the VHMC Treasurer, a sum of £500 would, in principle, be paid to help support the work of the VHMC in the forthcoming financial year.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously the Revenue Budget and Precept for 2014/15. The Clerk undertook to inform NKDC accordingly.

7 **VILLAGE HALL STRUCTURAL REPORT**

The Parish Council considered (a) a Structural Report from Robert Webster about remedial works required to the Village Hall, and (b) a proposal to appoint a Village Hall Working Group to oversee the remedial works and the proposed remodelling, etc of the building.

(a) *Structural Report*

Mr Webster introduced his report, and drew attention to the problems resulting from the concrete floor slab sinking because of the probability that it had not been laid on a proper and secure base. The three main remedial options available were:

- Stabilisation and lifting of the existing floor slab using resin injection.
- Removal of the slab and its replacement with a new ground bearing slab.
- Removal of the slab and its replacement with a suspended ground floor construction.

Mr Webster explained that the three options were very similar in cost, which were all in the region of approximately £22,000. The third option outlined above would provide the most robust solution to the Village Hall issues. The new sleeper wall foundations would bear onto known stratum and would be unaffected by any topsoil still present below the existing hardcore. It would also provide the opportunity to repair the foundations at the front corner of the building which had been affected by tree root activity causing localised subsidence and masonry cracking at a cost of approximately £10,000.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously, in principle, to remove the floor slab and to replace it with a suspended floor, which would provide a permanent solution to the subsidence issue. That work would involve the complete removal of the Hall's internal walls, and provide an opportunity to carry out a more fundamental redevelopment of the building and its facilities.

(b) *Village Hall Working Group*

The Parish Council agreed to consider the proposal to establish a Village Hall Working Group to oversee the work at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Councillors joined the Chair in thanking Mr Webster for his report.

8 **STREET NAMING: OLD SLEAFORD ROAD**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from the Chair regarding the proposal made by NKDC to rename the road to the Nocton/Dunston industrial estate as 'Old Sleaford Road'.

The Parish Council agreed to support the proposal, and the Clerk undertook to inform NKDC accordingly.

9 **NOCTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL – TERMLY MEETING WITH PARISH COUNCILLORS**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Goldsworthy regarding the termly meeting with Nocton School that he and the Chair had attended on 16 January, 2014.

The Parish Council noted that the school was intent upon improving its academic results. It was also keen to play a full part in the local community, and it had re-affiliated to the VHMC. A representative would also attend Parish Council meetings on a regular basis. Villagers would be invited to attend the School Fete on the Village Green in July, 2014, and the school was also proposing to develop its garden.

(The Parish Council agreed to pass a resolution under Standing Order 1(y) to extend the duration of the meeting by up to thirty minutes).

10 **BIG LUNCH PICNIC ON THE GREEN – APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID**

The Parish Council agreed to offer a grant of up to £400 to the Big Lunch Picnic on the Green 2014, subject to the submission of the appropriate accounts for it.

11 **DUCKS ON MAIN STREET**

The Parish Council received a verbal report from Cllr Goldsworthy regarding the on-going potential traffic hazard caused by the local duck population on Main Street and in Wellhead Lane.

The Parish Council took the opportunity to remind residents that expert advice indicated that wild ducks should not be fed. The Clerk undertook to approach NKDC and the Environment Agency for advice about how to address the problem.

12 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

(a) **Application for Caravan Site: Kelkherd House, Main Street, Nocton**

1 The Parish Council noted the position regarding the highways issues in relation to the caravan site.

2 The Parish Council agreed that, in the circumstances, it would not be necessary to arrange a formal site visit to the caravan site. The Clerk undertook to inform Mr and Mrs Leek accordingly.

(b) *The Vicarage, The Green, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed that it did not wish to comment on the proposal, subject to the Conservation Officer being satisfied as to the suitability of the construction materials.

(c) *Nocton Nurseries, Nocton Fen, Nocton*

The Parish Council agreed that it did not wish to comment on the proposal. However, the Clerk was asked to inform NKDC that the Parish Council was concerned that the applicant had not consulted it about the proposed development.

The Parish Council also asked the Clerk to invite a representative of Winchester Growers Ltd to attend its next meeting on 4 March, 2014 to discuss the proposals, and to inform NKDC that it may wish to comment on the application thereafter.

(d) *Coachman's House, Nocton Hall, Nocton*

The Parish Council decided not to comment on the application for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order at Coachman's House.

13 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2014**

The Parish Council agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15 April, 2014 at 7.00 pm, and that one part of the meeting would be devoted to addressing the Village Hall structural and remodelling issues.

14 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jones reported that the Speed Indicator Device remained out of action because of the ongoing software problems.

Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd had confirmed that the visit to the Lutterworth Wind Farm site would take place on 17 May, 2014. The Big Energy Saving Network meeting would be held in the Village Hall on the morning of 12 February, 2014.

Cllr Faulkner reported that the Nocton Park post box was in use, although the collection times were not yet indicated on it. The current phase of housing development by Peter Sowerby Homes was nearing completion. Nocton Park Management Company was exploring the possibility of improving the tennis courts and children's play area for the use of all residents in the village.

Cllr Tyler reported that LCC was being asked to comment on the suitability of the two applicants for the Youth Worker post.

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

(a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 4 March, 2014 at 7.00 pm. Cllr Burr presented her apologies for absence from the meeting.

(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 about the provision of the dog waste bins and the dog waste bag dispenser in the village, Parish Councillors confirmed that the costs did impact on the budget.

(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)

CHAIR