

Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at The Mess, St Andrews School, North Lopham

Attendance and apologies:

David Hammond (Chair) Julie Crossley (Clerk), Loraine Makowski Heaton, Jan Tate. Mick McManus, Dawn Eagle

Apologies from Lesley Bird

4 members of the public were in attendance

Neighbourhood Plan

LMH advised the meeting that there was a forum at Breckland District Council in Dereham on the 27th March which she hoped to attend. She had advised but not heard from John Crisp the Chair of SLPC re attending. It was proposed to do as much groundwork as possible and then wait until after the election and take a further view but will need support from the village.

Community Hub

DH and **LMH** had attended the Village Hall Meeting on 23rd January 2013 and put the idea forward for a Village Hub as it is clear there is no space within the hall and suggested a portacabin on the playing field. There had been an exchange of correspondence between the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee and no further action would be taken until the Parish Council had received a response to their second letter. To date this is merely an idea and no decision has been made or plans regarding funding considered.

Playing Field

DH discussed the gates and access and that parking is limited. He stated that the Diss Mercury ran an article about lost playing fields but member of the public Tim Colyer advised this was incorrect and he is in touch with the Playing Field Trust so considers this was an inaccurate report. The Village Hall Committee are planning to meet with the fencing company regarding altering the gates to enable a certain number of cars to park. It was suggested that perhaps North and South Lopham Councils might be invited to attend to make their suggestions. Discussion took place about the danger of walking to the hall and that the road is too dangerous to allow children to walk. A suggestion that you could park on the road was made but it would still be dangerous to get children in and out of cars.

With regard to a footpath Mr Alston is currently in discussion with Gaze and it will be some time before this can be considered. **LMH** advised that at the Village Games in February, Active Norfolk could offer small grants for equipment and would attend a meeting to offer suggestions for what could be done with the playing field and advise on grants if it was felt appropriate. Some youngsters are keen to see a football team in the villages. Security of the hall has always been a concern and **DH** advised you could purchase a reasonably priced security cameras. It was asked why no one from the PC was on the village hall committee and there had been a representative who had not been replaced. Members of the village hall committee in attendance confirmed that they do pay for the playing field to be cut twice a month over the summer. **DH** did ask that a member be invited to the next Village Hall Meeting at the end of March if the playing field/gates are to be discussed.

Transparency Code

JLC advised the meeting that new legislation has come in whereby small Councils have to be more transparent and make public certain information which they can do on the website. This includes expenses over £100, annual accounts, responsibilities of Councillors and assets.

Website

DH told the meeting that the website is now up and running but still a work in progress. Discussion took place regarding the proposed cover page but members were not comfortable with ideas put forward so it will be redesigned. We can post Agendas and Minutes and information on it.

Partnership Bid

A bid for a 20 mph sign at the school was put in earlier this year for 50% of the cost. A decision is due next week.

Elections

JLC explained the procedures, Nominations must be with BDC by 9th April. Nominees are responsible for getting their forms to BDC themselves. We will be advised of nominations by the 10th April. It will be known then whether there will be an election. All Councillors will stand down on 7th May and if an election is unnecessary nominees will be declared elected. First item on agenda in May meeting is proposal and second for Chair and Vice Chair. Forms of Acceptance to be signed at that meeting.

Telephone Box

The Telephone Box has been bought for £1.00 and is now the property of the Parish Council. The Kings Head agreed that the Charity Auction would donate in the region of £1500 toward the purchase of a defibrillator but more funds are needed before this can be purchased and possibly installed in the Phone Box. Funds will need to be made available not only for the purchase but the casing, and electric meter and some funds in reserve before eventually taken over by the Parish Council. Once the defibrillator is purchased and installed by Heartbeat Trust free paint for the telephone box will be supplied by BT. The PC will also replace some of the glass. Anyone who would like to donate to the purchase or is interested in being trained please contact either a Parish Councillor or Angie and George at The Kings Head.

Lesley Bird has decided to resign from the Parish Council and the Chair expressed his regret at her decision but understood her reasons. He wanted to say publicly that Lesley and Eric had done an enormous amount around the village and would be hard to replace. They have however said they will continue to help where they can.

Village Clean up will be on **Saturday 16th May 2015** to meet at the Mere at 09.30. Jan Tate will organise the bag from Breckland to be collected on the 15th. **JLC** will ask Angie and George if they would provide refreshments. **Anyone who wishes to volunteer we look forward to seeing them there.**

Frequency of meetings – **DH** had suggested that we start to have meetings monthly given the amount of paperwork being received but this had calmed down and for the time being he would propose the meetings remain bi-monthly.

VAS sign rota Now LB not available, A fourth team member now required for the SAM2 operation and it was hoped **RC** might be included. This will be raised at next meeting.

DPD A van was witnessed speeding through the village on the 10th March at 1600 and **JLC** advised that she would write to the Depot.

Dog Poo Bins- A request for a bin was made for Kings Head Lane, Given the cost of almost £200 this will be considered later in the year.

Viewing of Plans – The general consensus was that most Councillors preferred to view these in paper form. Concern was expressed that even when most Councillors raised objections BDC never acknowledged or appeared to take these on board. It was discussed that Parish Councillors

would need to attend the Planning meeting if they had serious concerns about a planning application. A decision on circulation will be made when next lot of plans are received but we have to bear in mind that we may only receive them on line in the future. **DH** stated that on line presentation is a good way forward but it is very difficult currently to see and compare old and new alterations.

Finance – JLC reported that the NS&I account still held £2,700 and that Barclays had £405.41. We were anticipating an invoice from SLPC for 50% of the cost of cutting Primrose Lane which will be £300. The precept is due on the 1st April but we will then have 50% of the 20mph sign to pay for and grass cutting season will be upon us.

Newsletter £25.50

Hall hire £10

Over claim of VAT £137.20

Phone Box £1.00

Burial Ground Notice – MM had advised JLC that the sign had fallen over. JLC has updated the Notice and it has now been re-typed and the fees increased across the board. JLC will check that this can be put up in the porch rather than re-erecting the post.

Any Other Business

DH advised that the Village AGM had been provisionally booked for 7 pm. 10th April 2015 at the village hall. Query was raised as to the point of the meeting and who was responsible for payment of the hall and why this was limited to the 2 Parish Councils.

MM advised that the boundary hedges in the cemetery need attention. **JLC** will ask Groundscape to provide a quote but it was hoped a working party might be arranged within the village to do this in the autumn.

JT raised concern about the footpath outside Grange Farm as it is encroaching over the footpath and needs cutting right back.

Mr Farren Bradley a member of the public asked about a traffic survey if there is to be an anticipated increase in the autumn. **DH** confirmed that there had been one about 3 months ago and he hoped that there would be further Police activity looking at speeding and disregard of 7.5 weight restriction

Mr Farren Bradley also asked about a flyer to encourage residents to use the bottle bank rather than the black bins as the proceeds do remain in the village. **JLC** will draft.

Meeting closed at 21.15 and next meeting on

13th May 2015