

**MINUTES OF NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2015 AT THE MESS, ST ANDREWS SCHOOL, NORTH
LOPHAM**

1. Apologies J Crossley currently unwell and the Council wished her well and speedy recovery. No other apologies. Four members of the public present.

2. Declarations of interest: none declared.

3. Agreement of Minutes: Of 13th May were given by Councillor M. McManus.

4. Matters Arising:

a) Outline planning application for construction of dwellings in Kings Head Lane

There followed a short presentation by Sarah Roberts of Roberts Molloy (Architects) concerning the above application. She stated that if the Application was successful and whilst there was capacity to build 6 houses on this parcel of land, she insisted that only 3 properties would be build at the end of Kings Head Lane. **JT** voiced concern that the land is currently agricultural and that the proposed site is outside the building line. Ms Roberts stated that the application includes the change of use of the agricultural land that currently exists.

DH advised her that the Council would offer their comments or objections direct to Breckland in the usual way although there was not expected to be an objection in general other than the concerns voiced above.

b) Traffic Calming: **DH** advised that since the last meeting the following had taken place; **DH** had visited Crown Milling and following discussions with Nigel Armes (Financial and Milling Director) a letter had been sent to all driver employees advising them that when passing through the village a speed of no more than 25 mph should be adhered to. Mr Armes has also supplied details of all sub contractors who visit the site via North Lopham and the Parish Council will be writing to them in due course.

c) DH outlined a BBC News headline (20th June) concerning the national problem of heavy lorries causing mayhem on country roads and villages by not complying with 7.5 tonne limit. As a result he had sent emails to the Right Hon. Ms Truss, Norfolk Police and County Council and **DH** read the contents of the email to the Council.

d) DH thanked Rob Gerrett for his commendable efforts to recruit 14 volunteers for a Community Speed Watch scheme. Training for the same will be undertaken on the 14th July after which the team will operate at various times and places throughout the village and new CSW repeater advisory signs will also be permanently displayed. Mr Gerrett has also sent a petition letter to the Highways Department voicing anger and concern about the speeding of all types of vehicles entering from Kenninghall and failing to slow until well into the village. **DH** stated that he hopes to meet with Gary Overland soon to discuss many issues relating to the northern end of the village.

e) NCC Partnership Scheme : **DH** advised the Council that the Scheme is available again this year and felt that it is an opportunity to part fund a project for the village and new footpaths are something encouraged within the scheme. To that extent, last year, the Highways Engineer (Gary Overland) evaluated the cost of 80 metres of footpath to the west side of The Green to be approximately £10/11k. If undertaken it would provide the village with a footpath that extended the whole of its length and make it safer for pedestrians at a most dangerous spot. **DH** has drafted a letter to "test the water" whereby every household could make a commitment of a £20 donation (or more). Donations would not be required at least until November 2015. Council members agreed with the idea and it was proposed by **JT** seconded by **RC**. The letter would not be circulated until further liaison with the Highways Engineer.

f) Neighbourhood Plan : Laurie Bradley **LB** provided an update on his initial enquiries into a NP for North Lopham. He explained that he had drafted a Plan Statement with regard to a Neighbourhood Area Designation which would be the first step required to

commence work on a NP which he will now submit to Breckland Council. Prior to that the Parish Councillors were invited to make any comments and submit to him within 7 days. Once submitted to Breckland a decision would be made as to whether North Lopham qualified for the process. **LB** further explained that the process would be lengthy and could take up to 3 years to develop. Much of the cost would come from grants and a Sub-Committee of about 5-6 people would be needed to move the project forward. **LB** will report further at next PC meeting.

g) Telephone box **DH** reported that as we now have the asset of the telephone box some decisions were required as to what we can use it for and how to refurbish it. He had contacted Andrew Gayton of Breckland Council as to whether there were any restrictions or conditions on refurbishment as it is a Grade 2 listed Box, probably installed in the 1950's. Mr Gayton explained that as long as the exterior remained the same red colour the inside was available to do as we wished, **DH** stated that he had been in touch with Peter Crook the Chair of South Walsham PC as their Box was a first class example of what can be achieved. **DH** produced a photo of the box which is now a Visitors Information Box. This would be a possible path to pursue and bearing in mind that a defibrillator will be an addition so the box could have a dual purpose/role. **DH** has already removed all the old plastic glazing panels and felt that it would be appropriate to replace all the inserts with safety glass as per the original. **MM** drew attention to health and safety issues when removing possible leaded paint. New glazing frames were currently available at a cost of £450 and Council were asked to support the purchase as these appeared to be good value within the current market. Proposed by **JT** and seconded by **MM**. A complete set of 4mm safety glass will need to be purchased at a later date and this will cost approximately £190.00.

8. Finance report: **DH** advised the meeting that for the second quarter income was £2587.61 and expenditure was £2427.49. Approval was required to pay £25 to Chris Stringfield for the internal audit and this was proposed by **MM** and seconded by **JT**.

9. Planning Application was approved for a dormer window at 22 The Green.

10. Any other business

The Clerk had sent a letter of thanks to Mike Daly for his first class refurbishment of the village sign.

DH mentioned that villagers needed to ensure that trees and hedges at this time of year should be cut back so as to ensure they were not obstructing footpaths etc.

A request had been made from the Village Hall Committee for the Council to apply for a dog and litter bin at the Hall playing field as the public now have easier access due to the re-siting of the gates. An application has been made to Breckland and **DH** praised the new access area at the entrance to the playing field which he hoped would see a lot more leisure activity taking place there.

Meeting closed at 21.20. Next meeting 9th September 2015