

**NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 2015 at The Mess, St Andrews School, North Lopham**

**Attendance and apologies**

Present were: David Hammond (Chair) Julie Crossley (Clerk), Mick McManus, Dawn Eagles, Robert Carley, Jan Tate, Mike Tipple.

5 members of the public attended including Marion Chapman Allen of BDC .

There were no apologies and no declarations of interest.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Minutes were approved and signed

**DH** welcomed Marion Chapman Allan.

1. **DH** read a letter received by the Council from Jenny Vere regarding Lee Baker's resignation as editor of the Lopham News. A new editor has come forward, Julie Cundik from South Lopham The Council will arrange a thank you card and plant for Lee for all her hard work over the last 5 years.

2. **DH** updated the Council regarding the telephone box which is almost finished. Tony Wigby has kindly agreed to lay some flooring free of charge and the defibrillator has been installed. It is not currently in use. A decision has to be made if the Parish Council is to take over the management of the defibrillator and someone will need to check it once a week. The Council has purchased the telephone box and refurbished it and the money for the defibrillator has been raised by residents at the Kings Head Christmas Auction but it make senses for the management and running to be dealt with by the Parish Council. **MT** raised training and there is a booklet and CD. It was proposed by **JT** and seconded by **MT** that the Parish Council will take responsibility.

**JT** suggested that the Councillor changing the battery for the speed sign could also check the phone box and a clip board to be installed so this can be signed off weekly.

**DH** explained his idea to have some visitor information inside the telephone box which would be done professionally at a cost of about £100. Jenny Vere has provided some history about the village and Tony Osler has agreed to do some graphics. It could also include useful telephone numbers, The Council were in agreement with this proposal. William Nunn, member of the public suggested that if contact nos were to be included they would need to be able to be updated.

3. **DH** discussed the proposed footpath at the north end of the village. This has been raised as a safety issue and to ensure that young and old can walk in safety the length of the village. It is not an appearance issue. The response to the pledges has been positive over 50 households agreeing to pledge sums from £20 to £200 raising approximately £1500 in all. This shows a desire that this should proceed. The total cost would be £13,000 and a bid for 50% has been put in today to the NCC Partnership Scheme. **DH** has liaised with Breckland who advised that the bid to NCC should be made and then consideration will be given by BDC Community Small Match-Funding Scheme to fund the balance.

A query was raised by Breckland as to who would have overall responsibility for the land

and Gary Overland at NCC has confirmed that it would be their responsibility.

**DH** asked for views but all of the Council were in agreement that it should proceed.

**4. JLC** discussed the Neighbourhood Plan. The statement has been sent to Breckland and they have suggested that a meeting should take place with Laurie Bradley and **JLC** to discuss the process, what is involved and funding. **MCA** confirmed that the NP would have to sit within the Local Plan. ***JLC** will co-ordinate a meeting and ask Laurie to canvass any residents who may want to become involved as more people will be required.*

**5. DH** advised that the footpath passing over Graham West and Mr Brunnings garden has now been officially extinguished. The Order was made by NCC on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**6.** There had been no further news on the Solar Farm applications and **MCA** advised that Breckland are still waiting to receive further information.

**7. DH** advised that there is one vacancy on the Parish Council and understood that William Nunn who was in attendance had shown an interest. **WN** was invited to speak. He felt that he could bring experience and assistance to the PC, he had been on BDC for 20 years and now represented Forest Ward and had been Leader of BDC for 8 years. It was agreed that the PC would discuss following the meeting and come back to him with their decision tomorrow.

**8. DH** confirmed that the Village sign had been moved back at north end of the village and the 30 mph repeater signs had been in some cases had been wrongly placed but this has now been rectified. By law and to guarantee a prosecution for speeding the repeaters have to be set out at certain distances.

**DH** also advised that he has been told that the Community Speedwatch require a co-ordinator to prepare the rota and over see the returns. Without this person it is probable that the Speedwatch will not continue which would be a great shame.

**9. Tim Lettin** member of the public discussed his concerns about Broadband and the intermittent speed which he has raised with BT for whom he used to work for. He has been liaising with their Complaints Department about his ability to maintain a consistent connection despite paying for 8mb. He wanted to know when N.Lopham will be on fast broadband and does the Parish Council have any influence. There is a meeting at Garboldisham Village Hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 organised by the Rural Economy Plan and this is on the Agenda. **MCA** advised that Elizabeth Truss is aware of the concerns of the outlying villages and remote properties but understands that Bressingham is not to be upgraded in the next roll out. The only answer is to keep lobbying. It is understood that Bressingham is fibre ready and the cabinet by the White Horse in S.Lopham is done. A sub box is needed and this would require about 3 kilometres of cable and the road to be dug up which would be expenses. It was suggested that **MCA** might be the best person to contact for this to be followed up.

**10. JLC** advised that she had reported the pot holes in High Common Road and **JT** had been told by Gary Overland that pot holes are unlikely to be dealt with in the near future and this will only get worse. Tim Colyer advised the meeting that Bressingham PC were told there is no funding for repairs and NCC are hoping that Parish Councils will contribute

to repairs. The meeting was advised to continue to report pot holes and to put in claims for any damage caused (with receipts).

**11. JLC** advised the meeting of expenditure for October which included, Clerk Wages and HMRC £240, Groundscape £108, Newsletter £25.50, Audit £60, Wreath £15, Phone box £196.

Discussion took place about the precept and that this has been kept very low over many years and given that we cannot continue to rely on volunteers we need to consider an increase to cover the cost of general maintenance and for on going expenses.

On that note **JT** and **MM** were thanked for work done recently around the Letchmere and **JT** asked that thanks go to Laurie Bradley who assisted in helping her get foliage down to the bonfire.

**JLC** will ask Groundscape to provide an estimate for clearing around the Letchmere once or twice a year. Some tree surgery may also be needed.

**MT** confirmed he would be happy to assist with any strimming.

**MM** noted that the leaves needed clearing to avoid the drains becoming blocked which he will deal with with Tim Colyer.

**12. JLC** advised that planning permission had been authorised for the Methodist Chapel and 78a The Street. **MCA** confirmed that Breckland has agreed outlying planning for 3 properties in Kings Head Lane. A discussion took place about applications outside of the building line which are likely to be approved if the PC support them.

### **Any Other Business**

**DH** confirmed that he had spoken to Kenninghall PC about the trees overhanging the road by Kenninghall school.

Overhanging trees on the footpath between the school and the Kings Head remain an issue. There are several properties which are consistent offenders and make the path difficult to navigate particularly with pushchairs or scooters. **MCA** invited the Council to email her details and she will pass on to the relevant department who can approach householders.

Thanks to Jeremy Callow who had very kindly cut back the foliage on the bend by the Mustard Pot.

**MM** raised concern about parking by the school and the danger of parking close to the bend. **DH** will raise this with the Headmistress at the school.

**DE** brought up the water in Tanns Lane. The ditches are full and the rain water has nowhere to go. This has been brought up with highways previously but needs to be brought to Gary Overlands attention again.

**DH** asked that thanks be given to Richard and Jenny Vere for their continued organisation of the service at the War Memorial which was again well attended this year. A letter of thanks will be sent.

Meeting closed at 20.40.

Signed.....

Dated.....