

NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 on Wednesday
13th July 2016 at The Mess, St Andrews School, North Lopham

Attendance and apologies

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

3 members of the public attended

Apologies received from Mick McManus, Marian Chapman Allen (BDC)

No declarations of interest.

11th May 2016 Minutes were approved and signed by Jan Tate

DH opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

Harling Parish Forum

DH and **JT** attended the meeting which is held quarterly with representatives from nearby villages

2 issues discussed (1) Flooding and it was agreed that a collective letter be written to NCC identifying areas where flooding is an on going issue, this included Tanns Lane which is regularly flooded and by the War Memorial in The Street.

Noted that grass cutting done today in the village by BDC was seen as very poor where large "clods" were left on the verges. This results in the grass being washed into the gutters and then the drains thus blocking them. Letter to be sent to BDC by Clerk.

(2) Other issue was HGV and farming vehicles. Kenninghall advised that North Lopham had worked to try and ease the issue of speeding. **DH** had discussed his concern about tractor and trailers not slowing down and suggested the Forum write to the NFU aimed at contractors for a code of conduct to be put in place.

It was discussed that a lot of contractors are not local often young drivers and driving very large vehicles. It was agreed that farmers should be spoken to and that a letter to NFU at this time not necessary.

DH has since contacted the Association of Agricultural Contractors who advised that drivers are given a Drivers Awareness card and that the recommended speed limit is 25 mph. **DH** has sent them his suggestions and they have said they will liaise with the NFU about a "Code of Conduct".

JT said she had noticed double trailers recently passing through the village.

Thanks

Letters to be sent to John Bush for all his hard work in keeping the War Memorial and

surrounding area tidy. He has decided to step down.

Also for Lesley and Eric Bird for their work cleaning and re-painting the benches by the Letchmere. **JLC** will draft.

Trod Update

DH advised that we have now paid £4,500 to NCC as our initial payment for the 50% of the Trod. The remaining £2,000 payable by BDC will be paid on completion. The work is to commence in Jan/Feb 2017.

The plans of The Bull have been provided by Cally Keohane at NCC who is the Research and Information Officer. She has provided an ordnance survey and Highway boundary map. This concluded that the highway boundary lies between the 2 hedges and therefore the smaller hedge to the front is an encroachment on the highway.

There was an open discussion about the removal of the hedge and whether the Parish Council should help with the removal by offering to pay for this to be done. **WN** did not feel this was necessary. **DH** suggested that as Mr and Mrs Home are very much involved in the village that the PC could arrange to dispose of the hedge if deemed necessary. The PC unanimously agreed that this was reasonable.

A letter will be drafted to John and Bridget Home which **DH** will deliver personally.

The Telegraph pole will be moved for the original quote of £1304.80. This has been confirmed and will be undertaken very soon by Outreach.

Partnership funding

DH noted that the next tranche of funding has been circulated. He would like to utilise this if we can. He discussed the possibility of a path to the village hall with Gary Overland but this is not going to be possible without James Alston agreeing to donate a strip of his land which historically he has declined to do.

DH then raised the possibility of village gates, which have been re-introduced by NCC as a further slowing mechanism. These could be sited at either end of the village. They have been sited at the village of Edgefield with positive results. Drive Slowly could be put on the gates or Please Drive Carefully through our Village.

The cost would be £1,000 for each set. They are plastic and require no maintenance. **DH** felt that they could be sited at the end of the footpath near Mr and Mrs Vere's hedge at that end of the village and hopefully would further encourage traffic to slow down. **DH** asked for comments/approval from PC and Councillors **JT, DE and MT** were in favour but **WN** felt that they would be twee and that he did not see any benefit to the village. He felt that they were unlikely to slow the traffic and something else to maintain at a time when we are running out of volunteers.

Members of the public felt that the speeding occurs after the bends and is more of a problem on the straight and also raised concern about parking by the school and the size of vehicles who take up both sides of the road. It was noted that we had written to the school and they have been pro active in trying to raise awareness.

WN felt that speeding is an irritant but would like the PC to think of something to benefit residents rather than a vanity project. **DH** stated that speeding is a very real problem and that if money is available to assist in any form of "calming" then we should use it. **WN** noted that Kenninghall have just bid £10k for sporting equipment and he would prefer to see something on those lines to benefit the whole village. **DH** pointed out that the NCC Partnership scheme is aimed at improving highway projects such as speeding, traffic islands, crossings etc.

WN advised that BDC will also have a tranche of funding available to bid on £300k in total and that we should consider if there is anything that the village would benefit from.

DH felt that anything for the children and young would be highly beneficial but we have nowhere to put such facilities and the village hall is somewhat inaccessible.

Bids for the Partnership Scheme must be in by **16th December 2016** ideas to go in Newsletter and to be discussed at next meeting.

JLC had received a letter from NCC about Jubilee Lane becoming a Restricted Byway following an application by Mr I Witham the local rep from Open Space Society. This would allow cycles, horse and carts to be using the footpath. The PC agreed that we should object again to this and ask that it remain a footpath. **JLC will draft letter to NCC.**

Overgrown lanes

Complaints received about overgrown lanes and **JLC** has been in touch with Groundscape to provide a price to do a clearance. **WN** asked if we could form a working party and some members did agree they would be prepared to help if he could organise this. **DH** will try and contact John Pillar from Groundscape to try and arrange to meet him as he claims he has cut the lanes in the last 4-5 weeks.

Local Plan

There is a Council meeting at Attleborough Town Hall on 22nd July 2016 for the Local Plan Working Group. **JLC** had hoped to attend but it is a 4 hour consultation and it may not be possible. A copy of the Agenda will be sought and **JLC** will see if Laurie Bradley can attend. **WN** advised that there have been revisions to the Local Plan and that objections to building outside the building line have been declined by the PC but approved by BDC. They are proposing to remove the settlement boundaries and treat each application individually and if the PC object BDC are more likely to turn the application down.

There will be a further consultation in October.

Finance

Approval was given by **JT** and seconded by **MT** for payment of £4,500 for Trod, £35.80 for June and July Newsletter, £110 for June and July Groundscape, £192 for Clerk salary and £48.00 HMRC, £3.84 for stamps.

Monies in for £2,000 BDC for Trod, £510.54 from bottle bank and £45 cemetery fee.

Planning Applications

BDC has approved applications for 83 The Street and Little Lodge.
The PC had approved applications for 74 The Street, 8 The Street and 45 The Street.

Any Other Business

DH read a letter from the Police Commissioner with a questionnaire, he asked for suggestions from the PC and members of public about any issues they would like to see raised. He felt that safety was an issue and in particular speeding. He noted that we are plagued by speeding vehicles and dangerous driving and we have been doing what we can to reduce this but a police presence might make a further difference.

WN advised that there is a public meeting to discuss this at The Council Chamber at Dereham on 21st July at 1730.

There was a general discussion about crime of which fortunately there is little.

JT had received received a call from Jenny Vere to say that there is a concert in the church on the 16th July 2016 in aid of Bryony who is going to Nepal to help re-build a school destroyed in the earthquake.

WN said that some people may have heard that there is a proposal for a Mayor to be elected to cover both Norfolk/Suffolk and BDC has voted against this and 4 districts have opted out. The Parish Council/residents may wish to visit East Anglian Devolution website to raise concerns if they had any about 1 person running all the transport and infrastructure over two counties.

JT also noted that there is a very large pothole near Callows Farm on their side of the road. **JLC** will report this.

Meeting closed at 20.50 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday 14th September 2016.

Signed.....

Dated.....