

NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 on Wednesday
9th November 2016 at The Mess, St Andrews School, North Lopham

Attendance and apologies

Present were: David Hammond, Jan Tate (Vice Chair) Julie Crossley (Clerk), Dawn Eagles, Robert Carley, Mike Tipple,
William Nunn sent apologies
2 members of the public attended including Marian Chapman Allen (BDC)

No declarations of interest were made

14th September 2016 Minutes were approved and signed by Councillor Mick McManus

Matters Arising

1. NALC Training Courses

JLC advised the Parish Council that she had details of a number of NALC training sessions if anyone wished to attend.

2. NCC letter re Order for Restricted by way

JLC had circulated the Order made by NCC re the Restricted Byway. **JLC** to review the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and go back to NCC and to discuss in January if this raises any issues for discussion.

3. Pond Fencing and safety signs

The fence is in poor condition and **JT** has done a sterling job maintaining it over a number of years and now needs to be checked. **DH** and **MMc** to review and see if the fence/signs need to be upgraded and this will done early Spring. Consideration for large planters in order to make the area more attractive.

MCA advised there might be some Pride in Breckland Funding. Advised PC to go onto BDC funding website where you can if justified can request up to £1,000. **MCA** would provide a supporting letter were we to apply and this can only be done once a year. No cut off date. Best to apply before Spring 2017.

4. Precept and Budget for confirmation

JLC advised that the budget needs to be finalised for January meeting and asked about items to be considered.

5. Partnership Scheme/Traffic Calming/Speed watch

A member of the public Mr Verhaag suggested that the white gates as discussed at Septembers meeting was a good idea with respect to traffic calming. **DH** agreed. Unfortunately this was rejected by parish council as in the Minutes. Mr Verhaag felt that the Gates psychologically provided a sense of entering a village community. **DH** has spoken with Gary Overland re chicanes but he advised that physical traffic calming cannot be included in Partnership Scheme funding. In any event the cost of a chicane can cost £30k upwards. Mr V mentioned the fact that we have dreadful speeding problems coupled with heavy lorries. **DH** had since had an email from PC Amy Lucas of SNAP and she has asked to be sent speed watch rotas in order that Community Officers can be trained and participate where possible as well as carrying out checks in their own right. It is

also hoped that Police Radar units will attend the village more often. Objective of community speed watch is to act as a deterrent and recently more registration numbers were being referred for warning letters.

DH noted that as no suggestions had been put forward for the partnership scheme there will be no application this year.

DH had spoken to Kenninghall PC Chairman & he questioned why a service road was not agreed taking the traffic directly via Garboldisham prior to the biomass planning approval and being a condition of the planning.

MCA said she would look into it as she had spent a lot of time on the Biomass and Ash Tree Farm projects which BDC rejected but was won on appeal. A service road was suggested. Would have had to cross someone else's land which was why it could not proceed. **MCA** will check.

6. Local/Neighbourhood Plan

All Parish Councillor's have seen the proposed changes to the settlement boundaries and Parish Council have responded to the BDC Planners.

With regard to item 3 of minutes of September 2016. **MCA** wished the current minutes to reflect a discrepancy with regard to settlement boundaries in that under section PDO5 part A North Lopham qualified for a settlement boundary because the village met criteria of having 3 out of 5 service criteria, i.e. shop/post office, school, village hall and pub. In North Lopham's case the planning team envisaged a 10% growth in housing between 2011 and 2036. With houses being constructed inside or adjacent to the settlement boundary. On sites outside the settlement boundary the site would not consist of more than about 5 dwellings. The PP Team have not worked out calculations for exact number of dwellings that it would mean for the village however, North Lopham has a population of 623 and using household size multipliers the 10% growth level would be 27 units. This may well be reduced because some dwelling may have already been built or had planning approved.

MCA advised that due to issues being raised it is unlikely that the Local Plan will be passed until January 2018.

DH then raised the issue of the Neighbourhood plan. Laurie Bradley has drafted some information. We could have a public meeting but not much interest has been shown by the village. It is quite important as this gives villagers greater options. **DH** read **LB's** notes to the meeting.

LB offered OVERVIEW of current situation with suggestions

LB saw no pressing need for the Parish Council to proceed with an NP until it is known what protections and opportunities the final version of the Local Plan could give. **LB** thought there were a number of exercises that could be carried out by forming of a sub committee of people from the village who would be committed/interested to look at a number of options as a prelude to a possible public meeting with a view to developing a NP.

It was suggested the PC keep note of any planning permissions and noting these in more detail than we do now.

DH invited the Parish councillors to raise any comments.

Mr Vahaag said it is one chance to bring more influence into the development of the village for the future. He felt it should be investigated. Funding is possibly available.

DH said that what Mr V is saying is what we have been thinking for 18 months. Need input from the village and we have not seen that. What **LB** is suggesting would possibly suit us.

DH suggested that Mr V spoke to LB and then to return to the Parish Council. It would need people who are very keen, devoted with stand alone committee who wish to be involved.

MCA asked whether the PC are looking to protect development outside the settlement boundary. Applicants have to demonstrate evidence of local support and that development is justified. Once Local Plan is in place it will give PC statutory opportunity to object which they do not have at the moment. **MCA** said there is a dedicated officer at BDC dealing only with the N Plan should advice be required.

7. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Home

Letter to be sent from the PC to Mr and Mrs H to thank them for their co-operation in removing their hedge to make way for the Trod.

8. Andy Gray

Andy had resided in the village for many years and was well known. He had been poorly with Motor Neurone disease and sadly passed away a few months ago. He had been of enormous help in setting up the Parish Council interactive website for which we are very grateful. He also left a charming legacy at www.lophams.co.uk where he often roamed the area taking a catalogue of local photographs for all to see.

9. Citizen Advice Letter

JLC had received a letter from the CAB asking for donations. **JT** proposed we should **Mmc** seconded. £50 agreed.

10. Primrose Lane and SLPC

JLC read out email from SLPC and quote from Frizzels for cutting back and keeping 3 metres wide where possible - 5 cuts in 2017, Annual cost to be confirmed.

Finance

Balance in Barclays at date of meeting was £2,653.70.

Payments approved for

Mazars £30

Village Hall £10

Lopham News £71.60

Remembrance Wreath £16.00

Groundscape £515.00

Planning

JLC confirmed that Planning Permission and Listed Building consent on the Chapel has been confirmed. 3PL/2016/0826F and 3PL/2016/0827/LB

Meeting closed at 2100. Next meeting on the 11th January 2017

Signed..... Dated.....