

**MINUTES OF NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 AT 7.30  
AT THE MESS, NORTH LOPHAM**

1. Those in attendance; William Nunn (Chairman) Johanna Tuck (Vice Chairman), Julie Crossley (Clerk), Mike Tipple, Dawn Eagle, Liz Barnard, Lesley Bird, Mick McManus

Apologies received: None

2. Any declarations of interest. None declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 approved and signed by **MMc**

### **Matters Arising**

**Sadly the village said goodbye to Richard Vere a past Parish Council Chairman who died at the weekend and who will be sadly missed in North Lopham. The Parish Council send their commiserations to Jenny and Emma.**

**WN** apologised for missing the last three meetings due to travel commitments. He will be in attendance until the Autumn but will then be travelling again but he will keep the PC advised and is happy to stand down as Chairman if another member wishes to step forward.

Re the planning at The Meadows following on from issue raised by a member of the public at January meeting. It was confirmed that the Chairman of the PC had passed on the correct information to MCA and this had been put to the planning meeting at BDC. Meetings at planning committee are recorded and **MCA** read the transcript to the meeting tonight to confirm what was said.

The Clerk has had a call from Flagship who advised that there was little that could be done to sort out the parking issues in The Close off Kings Head Lane, each property is allocated 1 space and if there is more than one vehicle per household they can park on the highway.

#### 4. Presentation by Johnny from County Broadband

He represents a Fibre Broadband company looking to install new networks in rural areas. Have signed up 54 villages 13 which have now been fibred. Many are in Essex where the company is based. They have investment from Aviva to install across rural areas with Gov. initiative. Found from doing other areas that if PC supports this and thinks good idea, generally the village moves forward much quicker. If they get 30% or 96 properties to sign up they will install to the boundary of most properties in the village whether signed up or not. Some areas in the village get very little broadband but still pay a high charge. County Broadband charge £28.00 per month for 50 mbs speed. Can do 900 mbs and that is £80 per month. If community does not want to support them they will move on. They use overhead poles already in situ or underground cables already in situ. **JT** raised some concerns about the number of times she had been called to sign up when she had already done so.

Cut off date is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 but this may be extended depending on number of people who have signed up. Free installation up to 1<sup>st</sup> May after that it is £225 minimum depending on where the property is situated. Johnny was asked to confirm that the numerous advertising posters would be removed in due course.

The PC were in favour of sending out the letter which was provided by Johnny

#### 5. Update re reeds in the Mere/George Hunt

Estimate received for £1000 to remove the reeds which are taking over the mere. Its a metre deep in mud and requires machinery to remove it. The **Clerk** will speak to Lamberts to see if we can get another quote before making a decision.

#### 6. Contact details for collection of Cleaning bag for village clean up

The Clerk will make some posters for 09.30 start to meet at The Mere. The **Clerk** will ask Angie and George if they will provide refreshments. Village clean up is on 28<sup>th</sup> March at 09.30. **LB** has prepared a rota. **LB** has agreed to collect the clean bag now located at The Carnegie Rooms in Thetford. Contact details were passed to her.

#### 7. Response re request for double yellow lines and SNAP update

The Clerk has had responses from David Jacklin at Highways via email on 13<sup>th</sup> January to advise that double yellow lines are ineffective outside schools. He did suggest the school raise this via the pupils and have a safe parking campaign.

#### 8. Update re Housing Survey for affordable housing

Survey has now been sent out and closing date for return is 26<sup>th</sup> March after which the PC will be updated

#### 9. Update on Parish Partnership Scheme

Still waiting for confirmatory letter from NCC that our application for 50% of funding approved but not to commence until 2021 so we have time to get the funds.

#### 10. Responding to planning applications

Members of the Parish Council were asked to indicate on Planning applications whether they support or oppose the application so that the Clerk is able to advise BDC clearly on the position of the Parish Council. Members were reminded that we act as a body rather than as individuals when making our responses.

### **Finances**

#### 12. Approval was given for the following payments

Newsletter payments February and March £71.60 BACS  
Clerk Salary - April £192.00 BACS  
HMRC – April £48.00 cheque  
Mess Room Hire £10.00 cheque  
Training course for Liz Barnard (invoice outstanding) £20.00  
1 to 1 Computers for ink and usb stick £10.98  
ICO GDPR subscription £40.00

Balance of current account 27.11.19 £3,684.44

Balance of NS&I account 01.01.2020 £2,818.39

Precept request has been accepted by BDC

## **Planning**

11. No objections to 3PL/2019/1133 Meadow Hurst, Pound lane

No objections to 3PL/2020/0129 Willow Tree Farm

Approval received re 3PL/2019/1133/F Erection of 4 bay cart lodge with store and external staircase

Approval received re 3PL/2020/0028/LB to install en suite bathroom at 28 The Street

## **Any other business**

**DE** has been asked to raise the issue of moles in the churchyard. Whilst the PC acknowledged that the moles are annoying it is difficult and expensive to get on top of them. It was decided that we would be fighting a losing battle and therefore would take no action at this time.

**Mmc.** Members of the Community had commented on the footpaths complaining that shingle from driveways and overhanging shrubs/hedging remain an issue and prevent parents and children from walking safely to school Letters to be sent to offending households.

**LB** has volunteered to paint the telephone box. The Clerk has the paint

Meeting closed at 20.30

Next meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 AGM