

MINUTES FOR NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2020 at 7 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

1. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the meeting on 11th March 2020

Mick McManus has confirmed these are in order.

2. Attendance on Zoom: William Nunn (Chair), Julie Crossley (Clerk), Johanna Tuck (Vice Chair), Lesley Bird, Liz Barnard

Apologies Dawn Eagles, Mick McManus and Mike Tipple

3. Any declarations of interest

Matters Arising

2. To consider and comment on the Housing Survey – and to respond to Tasha Higgins @ Community Action Norfolk,

The Clerk read out comments provided by Councillors, Tipple, Eagles and McManus. L.Barnard commented that affordable housing appeals to young families, lack of services comments are correct but we should still encourage small social/rentable properties. The village needs people with young children and need people to use local services. Those people who responded negatively to the survey seems to have misunderstood about the purchase and sale of the proposed social housing proposal.

If the properties are Housing Association they won't be sold on or be available for Right to buy. It appears that some opposition comments did not quite get what was proposed. L.Bird queried whether some might be part buy part rent but if sold they had to go back to HA. WN commented that he felt they would be built and allocated to village residents and then to people from the housing list if no one in the village applied but when a vacancy arose it would go back to someone from the village first. Idea is we just go for social housing with no private residences at all. First hurdle is to find a piece of land for 3-4 houses to accommodate people on housing list. JT supports it and agreed the comments about amenities is right. 3-4 houses would not put too much pressure on amenities. It was agreed the village could do with a shop or community shop. Parish Council were in favour of the scheme as discussed. The Clerk can respond to Tasha Higgins and take advice from her as to next steps. That might be the time to perhaps walk the village and see whether there is anywhere which might be suitable and to find out who owns various tranches of land and approach owners to see if they would be interested in assisting.

3. Reeds in the Pond

The Clerk has spoken to Lamberts regarding the reeds in the pond – 01953 688211 to arrange to meet Peter West following cessation of lockdown – they could provide a long reach excavation and charge by the hour.

4. Letter received from NCC re confirmation of Partnership funding

for 50% of tarmac on the road. The Clerk has spoken to Linda McDermott and it has been agreed that payment will be deferred until such time as the PC is in funds and the work will not commence until next financial year 2021/22.

The Clerk will also email Steve Askew a reminder who had advised he would contribute toward the cost from his budget provided that there were still funds available.

5. To consider email from Rob Webb from SLPC re lanes

Rob Webb approached Clerk and Chair re registering footpaths at South Lopham and identification of 2 possible paths on boundaries of the 2 villages and whether North Lopham wanted to apply or obtain a report as SLPC had done. WN considered that North Lopham Parish Council had done this some years ago but South Lopham had not. The 2 footpaths identified are off Primrose Lane. They are on our boundary and the question is do the PC want to pay £600 to register the 2 paths and then attempt to get them reinstated. When NLPC did this previously it caused some unwelcome tensions with local farmers who for many generations had maintained the lanes around

North Lopham for the enjoyment of all local communities. WN felt that the farmer who owns the land abutting the potential path might be Mr Alston and whilst he may be happy to proceed to have these paths put back WN felt it would be foolish to fall out with the landowner to do it, for this reason Rob Webb has been asked to have a conversation with the farmer involved and then come back to us prior to the Parish Council deciding on a way forwards.

The clerk will email NCC for a Map of the already approved lanes/paths in North Lopham.

The question was raised about cutting back some more of the lanes but we now only pay for Jubilee Lane and 50% of the cost of Primrose Lane with SLPC.

6. PC to discuss how best to support the community during Covid19 crisis

WN reported that volunteers have been doing a fantastic job, quite a lot of people are doing medicine and drug runs for those people who are having to self isolate. Most people are being looked after by neighbours, family or someone from the wider community. We have, and continue to be able to support anyone in the Parish who requires a little assistance and the PC hold a grant from the Community Foundation with which we can help people who are in need of food and medicine. People were encouraged to bring to our attention anyone who may require assistance.

7. Complaints have been received about;

i) shingle from driveways spilling onto footpaths which make it difficult and painful to walk on footpath. If anyone has a shingle drive and your shingle is straying onto the footpath please sweep it back.

ii) Inconsiderate parking in Kings Head Lane. Farmers trying to access land at the end of Kings Head Lane are struggling to get their tractors up and down the lane. Any residents who have to park on the highway are asked to bear this in mind and ensure they are not preventing farm vehicles or emergency vehicles from accessing the lane.

Financial

8. Retrospective approval was given for;

i) March Newsletter (which was typed and printed) £35.80 by bacs 28.04

ii) NALC annual subscription £186.27 paid by bacs 28/04

iii) Came and Co Parish Council insurance (due end May) £352.36

iv) ICO GDPR renewal fee (due 10th May 2020) £40.00 paid by bacs 28.04

v) Cheque for Church donation re Internal audit £25.00

Approval of the Annual Governance Accounts which had been circulated was given and Chairman to complete and sign as appropriate and return to clerk for returning to Auditors and putting on website.

Meeting finished 19.40

Next meeting 8th July 2020