**MINUTES OF NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 8th November 2023 at 7 p.m.**

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, NORTH LOPHAM**

1. Attendance and apologies

Apologies from William Nunn and Lesley Bird

Attending: Liz Bernard, Dawn Eagles, Peter Smith, Mike Tipple, Mick McManus

Liz Bernard chaired the meeting

Marion Chapman Allen sent apologies

1. Declarations of Interest – none declared
2. Minutes of 13th September 2023 approved

**Matters arising from September 2023 minutes**

1. Opportunity for public to ask questions – 20 minutes 3 minutes per question

Member of public suggested this might be better at the end of the meeting and the Chair agreed

1. Rubbish being put in ditches at rear of Post Office – Letter now sent to residents

Potentially resolved no response from either resident and no further complaints received

1. Email received from NCC re cutting of verges and payment

The Parish Council will be taking over the cutting of the verges from NCC in the Spring. The Clerk will speak to John from Groundscape about what verges need to be cut and to remind him about the bulbs.

1. Defibrillator service

To be serviced Clerk will check with Community Heartbeat if this has been done. Councillor Eagles noted that we may need new battery in early 2024.

1. Christmas Tree at Mere

Parish Council had no objections to this. Plan is to get solar powered lights. Wouldn’t involve power supply. Clerk will ask the Chair if planning permission is necessary

1. Village gates

Proposal for village gates at either end of the village. Clerk will make enquiries about cost and funding and whether this is covered by Partnership Highway Scheme and then to vote as some councillors not in favour.

1. Diseased Ash tree in Cemetery

2 quotes received Waveney Trees £350.00 and Chris Hunter £150 + VAT

To ask Chris Hunter to take the tree down and remove it.

**Financial**

1. Approval is sought for the following

Hire of church £20.00

Groundscape £2160.00

Uncontested election costs £75.00

Remembrance wreath £20.00

**Receipts**

Precept £2,200.00

Balance of Barclays account £7827.73(27.10.2023)

NS&I account £2841

1. **Planning applications**

MCA advised Planning appeal for the temporary building at the camp site in High Common Road is unlikely to be heard before Christmas

Similarly the rehabilitation property in The Ling the appeal will not be heard before the end of the year.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Eagles asked for a Thank you to John Rednall for clearing Jubilee Lane

Also thanks to Lesley and Eric Bird for the bulb planting. Wonderful thing to do and SLPC are doing the same thing.

MCA wanted it noted how well the Kings Head Public House is doing and how community focused they are.

Kings Head Lane flooding. Clerk advised that an email received 2nd Nov to say they will arrange for the gullies to be cleared and jetted. The Clerk asked that as many people report online to NCC. To ask for a Civil Engineer to attend as piping the rainwater into the Mere is just moving the problem somewhere else.

County Broadband – Complaints re Verges, unauthorised parking, entering peoples property without consent, excessive erection of poles. Councillor Smith has spoken with BDC planning who did receive details of plans and villages but this was 2 years ago and it had been stored. Councillor Smith will draft a formal complaint to Ofcom.

The footpath issues have been raised with NCC and they have said they will escalate repair of the footpath.

Member of the public raised the fact that there is a way leave ? agreement for compensation regarding internet companies so that they can gain access to properties.

A member of the public noted that the Chair of the Parish Council had been noted to have visited the site where there is anticipated a planning application on land adjacent to The Drfit and were the PC aware of this. The Vice Chair advised that until there is a planning application nothing further can be done.

Same resident also raised concern about speeding through the village and that this is something that should be raised with Norfolk Constabulary and Highways. That this is particularly bad at the Drift end coming through at speed from Kenninghall.

There is no formal marking at the entrance of the village which makes is unclear where the village begins or ends.

Gates to be investigated.

The Clerk will write to the Police in Attleborough to see if we can have a traffic officer attend in the village but could they be placed nearer Kenninghall end of the village.

Speedwatch – unable to get volunteers. Clerk will check with the Police if there is sufficient interest whether this can be started up again.

The Clerk will seek advice from Highways re junction at Cherry Tree Close which is dangerous and difficult to see when turning into the village.

Also concern about shingle on footpath near the junction at Cherry Tree Close. Vice Chairman will have a look and see if this can be resolved

**This Friday 10th November** – Remembrance Service at the War Memorial 10.50 for 11 a.m. Children at school taking part. If the weather is not kind relocation to the Church. Peter Smith will put up the flags.

Meeting closed at 20.09