

## WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely, due to the Covid 19 restrictions, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 commencing at 7.30 pm**

**Present :** Mr L Cammack (Chairman), Mr S Lord, Mr M Kneen, Mr P Smith, Mr B Allen, Mr A Leary, Mr P Farmer,

**District/County Councillor:** Mrs M Dobson and Mrs L Dales

**Clerk:** Mrs S Sillery

**Visitors:** Mrs S Farmer, Mrs H Baker, Mr R Cuene-Grandidier, Mr S Acton and Mr P Matthews

Before the commencement of the main meeting, the Chairman introduced the visitors. He explained the procedure for them to talk about the current position between the village and the Cricket Club.

Mrs Farmer said that she wanted to raise awareness of the instances where villagers were walking their dogs and had suffered abusive language and threatening behaviour from one or more individuals connected to the Cricket Club. These instances have been reported to PC Gareth Nicholls. Mrs Farmer felt that the situation should be raised to the Parish Council as Landlords of the Cricket Field.

She added that some female villagers are currently not prepared to walk on the field as they feel it is unsafe to do so.

Mrs Farmer said that the Cricket Club is a great facility within the village and a lot of work had gone into it but that the current problems are not a good advertisement for the Cricket Club.

Mr Cuene-Grandidier agreed with the above comments but felt that the problem was wider than just the Cricket Club. He felt that farmers putting signs up on their land did not help and that the Parish Council should assist people with where they can and cannot walk within the village. He noted that there are a lot of people from outside the village walking during the pandemic and not picking up after their dogs. Winthorpe is a lovely village and should be enjoyed by everyone, and all bodies should work together to ensure this happens.

Mr Cuene-Grandidier also added that his wife will not walk on the cricket field as she feels threatened.

Mr Acton said that he felt everyone was trying to enjoy the green spaces but the current problem with the Cricket Club are serious and have to stop.

He felt that it was great to have a thriving Cricket Club in the village and that it was looking the best it had for a long time. He felt that the majority of villagers were picking up after their dog and probably other people's dog as well. There is also a lot of wildlife that may be responsible for messing such as foxes, badgers and hedgehogs. It may be that non-villagers don't have the same "buy in" to the village to clean up after their dogs. He was of the opinion that the Cricket Club need to be more engaged with the village.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments. The Parish Council is aware of the issues and that the Village and the Cricket Club have co-existed for over 120 years and that it is a shame that we have got to the current situation.

The Parish Council are aware of the problem of dog mess and that is why they agreed to allow the Cricket Club to put up the signs around the cricket pitch saying that dogs must be on a lead. He added that the Cricket Club had requested permission to fence off the pitch but the Parish Council were not happy with this so the above compromise was agreed. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council will not accept bad language and threatening behaviour from any party on its land.

The Chairman reinforced the position that the cricket and jubilee fields are owned by the Parish Council and the Cricket Club have a 99 year lease on their part of the field. The latest lease, dated 2006, between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club give the Club rights but does not preclude villagers from using both fields.

Mrs Barker raised the question of why cameras had been installed. Mr Matthews confirmed that this is to prevent vandalism to the clubhouse and the Chairman confirmed that this has been an ongoing problem for many years.

The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors if they had any comments to make.

Mr Lord has been walking dogs over the area for the last 18 years but found that the Cricket Club were both possessive and aggressive. During the pandemic, open spaces have become more important than ever and should be available to all. Mr Lord felt that we are merely custodians of these open spaces and people need to remember this. He has also been in touch with the Rights of Way Officer at N.S.D.C. to look at other walks available to use.

Mr Allen put his perspective as “the bad guy farmer”. He felt that he has done the best he can with the land he tenants from the Stewart Trust to encourage the wildlife and this explains why signs have gone up to keep dogs on a lead. He felt that if the villagers don’t want the wildlife in the village, he will go back to ploughing all his fields.

Mr Matthews, Chairman of the Cricket Club, said that he wanted to work with the village. The cameras were pointed at the Club House and not the open fields and were merely there to protect the building from vandalism. He said that it was not just the dog fouling but that members of the Cricket Club had been attacked by dogs off their leads and that with children in the area it is a concern. He also said that instances of bad language towards him had been reported to PC Nicholls.

Mr Matthews felt that people let their dogs off the lead and stand talking with other dog walkers and are not aware that their dogs are fouling. If they don’t see them do it, they won’t pick it up. There have been instances of dog mess right up to the pavilion.

Mr Matthews raised the ownership of the land by the Parish Council, but the Chairman confirmed that all Parish Council land had been checked and registered with the Lands Registry by Talents Solicitors and this was not a matter for discussion at this meeting.

It was felt that the best way forward was for a separate meeting to be held with both parties present. Mr Matthews is to suggest dates for such a meeting to the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their comments and attendance and informed them that they were welcome to stay for the main meeting if they so wished.

### **30/21 Apologies for Absence**

Mr B Wright and Mr R McClymont

### **31/21 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **32/21 To receive and accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2021**

The Chairman had asked Doug Lyne to quote for the work on the Jubilee footpath. However, he can't get hold of the materials so is unable to quote for the job. He will however trim the trees back at the cost of £50.

Mr Allen suggested asking David Hewitt and he will make contact with him. Mr Farmer also suggested asking Wes Smith's son and he will sort this out.

The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Sue Masheder and there will not be a bouncy castle at the Village Festival due to Covid 19 restrictions.

The Clerk confirmed that she had applied and been accepted for the Ordnance Survey GB. She will send out the link and relevant password to the Parish Councillors

A1 end of Gainsborough Road – discussions are still going on with Western Power in relation to the removal of the trees and the increase in noise and visibility of the A46. Mrs Dales has spoken to Highways England asking them to reinstate the hawthorn hedge.

Speeding – The Chairman reported an excellent response from his request for volunteers in Focal Point. Nine people have come forward. PC Richard Dunn is in charge of training and Mrs Dobson will send his details to the Chairman. Hannah Cox at NSDC also does the training. Mr Smith asked rather than borrowing Collingham's speed gun, whether we should purchase our own. It was agreed to see how things progress. The Chairman Mr Cammack will ask Chris Allen if we can borrow Collingham's gun.

Minutes agreed as a true record and proposed by Mr Lord and seconded by Mr Leary.

### **33/21 Winthorpe Cricket Club**

The Chairman confirmed that despite suggestions to the contrary, the Parish Council does indeed own the land upon which the Cricket Club is situated and has done for the last 120 years. He has documentation from Tallents Solicitors. Mr Matthews wants to have a copy of this documentation as he feels that the lease between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club is based on the Parish Council's ownership. The Parish Council were of the opinion that the tenant (The Cricket Club) did not need to be given proof of Ownership. This has been good for over 120 years so why is it an issue now.

Furthermore, the fact that the Cricket Club is located in the parish of Holme is totally irrelevant as confirmed by Adrian Allenbury, Planner (Policy) from Newark & Sherwood District Council. It should be noted that Holme Parish Council are not claiming ownership and have not approached the Parish Council in this regard.

The Parish Council arranged for emergency repairs to the Cricket Club Gate to ensure that the site was safe. The Parish Council asked the Cricket Club to pay half the bill which they duly did. The Cricket Club are now asking for the money they paid to be refunded as the Parish Council don't lease the part of the land where the gate is located. The Council were of the unanimous view that as the gate is for the Cricket Club's security, the money should not be refunded.

Mr Leary said he was concerned that there seemed to be a lot of issues with the Cricket Club and that a meeting between the two parties needs to be arranged.

Mrs Dales explained about a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This can be gained via N.S.D.C. and they would "police it" for the Parish Council to ensure no further issues occur. Mr Kneen hoped that this would not be necessary as it might be confrontational, however it was a fall back option.

Hannah Cox at NSDC is the lead for Anti-Social Behaviour and she may be able to offer advice/support.

Mrs Dobson said she felt very sad about the situation of the Cricket Club. Her husband had previously been President. She did feel that the lockdown had not helped the situation.

### **34/21 A46 By-Pass Update**

Mr Smith confirmed that the new "option 3" had been forwarded to the village. Two open meetings have been held and feedback has been excellent and has in turn helped to develop the option.

The next step is to develop it further and then talk to Highways England. The "Think Again" group have to decide how to do this and need to get it right as they will only have one chance.

There have been further discussions with the Show Ground which have been extremely supportive, and the new option does benefit them. Everything seems to be going in the right direction.

Mr Leary raised his concerns that "Think Again" need to get on with it and push on to have the conversation with Highways England.

### **35/21 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

There had not been a meeting since our last Parish Council meeting. Mr Smith had contacted Locality with a view to securing funding as previously agreed. Unfortunately, the application is locked out on the website so he is visiting the site regularly to see when he can get access.

Oliver Scott has offered training on the Conservation Area. Everyone agreed that they would like the training to get a better understanding. Mr Scott is also going to do a walkabout of the village and this will help with highlighting the non-designated assets. Hopefully, this can be done face to face in June.

The question of community assets will be discussed at the next meeting to determine what they are. Proposed next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 7pm face to face, 6 people present outside.

Open spaces discussion – this will help as part of the plan and will give a degree of protection to such spaces. Need to conduct an audit of such areas, eg parks, children's play parks, cemetery and parkland. Emma Raine at NSDC is our contact for this.

### **36/21 District/County Councillor Update**

#### **Mrs Dales**

Mrs Dales reported that at the Norton Disney Rendering Plant iron age items and pottery had been excavated. These link the outfield to the villa and helps with the objection to the proposed rendering plant. Mr Smith is working on the objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **Mrs Dobson**

Mrs Dobson said how delighted she was that 9 volunteers had come forward for the speed gun training.

Mrs Dobson confirmed that she had taken Mike Keeling's replacement Shaun Brown around the village.

Mrs Dobson has secured an interactive speed sign for a six week period. Also there are signs up confirming that Gainsborough Road is 30mph limit.

Mrs Dobson has also found a contact in relation to changing the sat nav thus stopping HGV drivers coming through the village.

Double Yellow Lines are to be put down on Thoroughfare Lane.

## 37/21 Invoices for Approval and other Financial Matters

### Accounts

The Clerk confirmed the balances of the accounts as at the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Property Trust	£7,394.24
Tennis Club	£4,307.37
Holding Account	£7,721.54
Focal Point	£2,513.91
Festival	£826.29 0.01p interest for March
Events	£235.97
Current Account	£339.87

Balances brought forward and correct as at 9.4.2021

Property Trust	£7,394.24
Tennis Club	£4,307.37
Holding Account	£7,721.54
Focal Point	£2,257.91 April printing bill to Willsons £256
Festival	£826.29
Events	£235.97
Current Account	£1,132.26 Clerk's wages £170.00 and VAT credit of £962.39

VAT – The payment of £962.39 had been paid into the bank that day, (15/4/2021). There had been a delay following the initial submission in December 2020. The request was re-input on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 after following up with the HMRC. The funds had been received in the new tax year but there was little we could do about that.

### **38/21 Planning Applications**

Starbucks – application to make access to the coffee shop easier with a bigger lorry access – no objections

21/00838/HOUSE 2 Gainsborough Road

Retrospective planning application for the garage/shed at the rear of plot 2. The design is the same as the house but has a felt roof. Likely to go ahead as permitted development. Agreed to object on the basis that it is already constructed and that the felt roof material is inappropriate.

Little Farm Cottage, Langford

Retrospective planning application for a fence. This is the last property on the left hand side going out of Langford. The area in question is an ancient monument and the original Langford village is under this area. Mr Smith to have a look but if anyone has any key points they should let him know.

The stable block on Holme Lane has been given permission despite our concerns

Lumless House, 77 Gainsborough Road

The garage which NSDC had confirmed specific requirements for has been signed off. There are still concerns that a business is being carried on from this property.

### **39/21 Correspondence/AOB**

Mr Kneen raised an issue that was passed to him from Mr Bob McClymont via Mr Brian Waring. Can we look at replacing the wooden steps with a swinging gate to allow easier access for less able walkers on the path from Holme Lane up to the flood bank on the Trent. Apparently, we have a free kissing gate from NSDC and need to organise getting it fitted.

The Clerk had received a letter from The Royal British Legion in relation to VE Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. They enclosed a catalogue which has unique outdoor Tommy figures. Clerk to send the website details to the members of the Parish Council for them to have a look at and see if they were appropriate for the village.

The Clerk has received leaflets from Notts County Council in relation to Covid and taking the next step safely. She will bring them to the village for display.

An email has been received from NSDC about a potential support scheme for volunteer litter pickers called Green Champions. This is in the development stage and requires a budget, but it is hoped to be launched in Spring 2022.

The Clerk had received an email from Shaun Noble who along with other volunteers have been tasked with collating a list of all the WW2 casualties in Nottinghamshire and Shaun is working on our area. Resident of the village Mrs Christine Hasman has furnished Shaun with some information relating to residents of Winthorpe.

Mr Lord, having walked many miles during the pandemic, felt that we are a bit limited for footpaths in the immediate area around our rural village and has come up with a plan. He has a suggestion for three permissive paths to link up with the existing rights of way as follows:-

*1) A link From Hargon Lane to the existing footpath from the pub to the A46*

*2) From behind the cricket pavilion following the hedge line around to the Fleet and back to the jubilee field*

*3) Following the Fleet to Langford, close to the level crossing, to link up with the cycle way and eventually on to Collingham, or make a circular walk to Holme and back along the River bank removing the need to walk on the road back to the village.*

Mr Lord is taking advice from the Rights of Way Officer.

Mr Lord also asked if we were still planning on having the White Gates at the entry to the village. Mrs Dobson confirmed that we have to get permission as it is on County Council land.

Mr Leary confirmed that there is a Quarry Liaison meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Mr Farmer asked if at the next Neighbourhood Plan meeting, the outdoor gym equipment could be discussed as we need to revisit and re-scope the application. The deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

Mr Kneen has been looking at Parish Online which is a subscription service. This would be helpful with permissive walkways and tracking services. The cost is £72 a year but you get a 30 day free trial. It was agreed to try the trial and then if we are happy with it subscribe as it may be helpful with the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk had circulated the Adoption Statement relating to the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan to all Parish Councillors.

Mrs Dales confirmed that the travellers had left the Friendly Farmer site.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm