

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 15 December 2022 at the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr P Smith (Chair), Mr B McClymont, Mr A Leary, Mr B Wright, Mr M Kneen, Miss A George, Mr B Allen

Minute taker: Mrs C Smith

Apologies: Mr L Cammack, Mrs L Dales

District Councillors: Miss E Davis

Visitors: Dr Phil Baron, Mrs D Day, and Mr Mark Brown

103/22 Declarations of Interest

None

104/22 To receive and accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17 November 2022

Minutes confirmed as a true record. Proposed by Mr McClymont and seconded by Mr Leary.

105/22 Matters Arising from the minutes

- 95/22 - Lengthsman scheme. Mr Smith confirmed the meeting on 29 November had been very positive and Mr Kneen has written an article which will be in next month's Focal Point.
- Website. Mr Smith will be doing more work on the website in the new year before selecting the new provider
- Plaque for Mrs Dobson's bench. Miss George confirmed that although the plaque for Mrs Dobson's bench had been ordered, it had not been received and the supplier has arranged for another to be sent.
- Numbering on the Spinney. Mrs Dales is still working on the policy change re responsibility to erect a sign for numbering on the Spinney. In relation to this, Mr Smith has now received a copy of the electoral register which has the addresses of all residents in Winthorpe. This will enable the council to write to residents on the Spinney when the time is right. He stressed the importance of managing the information in the correct and legal manner.
- Laptop. A laptop in nearly new condition has been provided by N&SDC via Mrs Dales. The new laptop will need to go on the asset register for insurance purposes and the old one written off and taken to a Via recycling centre.

- Merchant Navy flag. Mr Smith will talk to Mr Cammack to see whether this is available
- Signage at the Community Centre. The PC will fund the new signs and the community centre will be responsible for erecting the sign.
- Holme PC. Mr Smith was pleased to report that Mr D Caldicott has taken on the role of Chair of Holme Parish Meeting and was in discussion with Mrs Dales about the role. It was not thought that this change would have an impact on the Neighbourhood Plan as it was believed that it would be too late to integrate Holme into the Plan at this stage.
- 101/22. Mr Kneen confirmed that he would be attending the Planning Training Session at 6.30 on 6 February 2023.
- 102/22. Planters for the Village Green. Mr Farmer has identified a style of planter, but it was noted that we still needed to get a quote from Doug Lyme for low level fencing.
- Mr Leary highlighted the Cricket Club's proposed plan for the redevelopment of the pavilion. He mentioned that Mr Cammack had circulated the proposed design for comment. The action recorded was to note the proposal and await the formal planning application for any further comment.
- Mr Smith updated the PC on a visit from Lynn Preece of the Sherwood Forest Trust. She confirmed only the bottom of the Oak Tree on the village green was alive and supported replacing it. If we decide to replace this tree then the existing tree could be planted with others on the bank near the community centre, Mr Smith to talk to Mr Farmer. During the discussion it was identified that there is potential for planting some small trees (12 – 15 feet) along Jubilee Walk and possibly parkland style planting on the Jubilee Field. All supported the need to protect wildlife also to suppress weeds. Lynn Preece will be contacting us again in the new year with ideas and if agreed to go forward, this work could be undertaken in the Autumn of 2023.

106/22 A46 Update

Mr Leary updated the meeting. Think again have submitted a comprehensive report to National Highways, which is in line with the PC's views. Mr McClymont expressed concern that Newark Town Council had opposed the proposal, on the grounds that it offered no benefits to Newark. Mr Kneen confirmed that the PC supports the overall concept of the scheme but there are of course many elements yet to be finalised. Our response although less comprehensive highlighted the key points and did not contradict Think Again's response.

Mr Smith and Mr Cammack had met recently with Mr S Ecclestone from Newark Showground. This was to look at issues from three perspectives – Newark Showground, Parish Council and Thomas Brewer. They have identified key points to progress, and there will be an agenda item for the next meeting of the PC. A further meeting has been organised for the 20th February 2023.

107/22 Neighbourhood Plan Update

After a lot of hard work over the last two years or so the draft version of the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan is coming together and is beginning to look good. By the 16th December Working Group members should have copies of the first draft version so that they can then work through the detail over the festive season and make any changes or additions necessary to the content.

The last meeting of the full WG took place on the 6th December and we worked through the plan and agreed timescales for completion. If everything goes according to plan we should be able to share the final draft version with all residents early in 2023. We will then explain the content in more detail and get feedback by holding village meetings at the Community Centre in February so look out for dates on Twitter, The Village Website and in the next edition of Focal Point. This consultation process will last for 6 weeks which will provide time for all residents to let us have comments before a final version is then submitted to Newark and Sherwood DC.

We have had a range of professional photographs taken of the parish and we now have these available for use in the Neighbourhood Plan, The Village Website and other social media outlets we use.

We also have a further draft of the Design Codes document which is currently being compiled by our consultant (AECOM) now. Once complete this will identify building designs and styles of property across the Parish. This work will feed into the Plan and help us to ensure that the current style and identity of the Parish is maintained in the future. Once this work is complete and agreed it will form part of a suite of documents to support the plan.

Finally, and most importantly we also wanted to thank all those people in the parish who have worked together with the NP Working Group to get us to where we are now, an almost finished Plan. Without the hard work and determination of over forty residents we would not be in the position we are today. This Plan is especially important for the future of Winthorpe and Langford villages, and this will become clear in future years.

108/22 District/County Councillor Updates

Miss Davis confirmed that Mrs Dales was keeping Mr Smith updated on current issues. This included the PC beat surgery. Miss Davis is happy to receive phone calls if she's needed for anything.

109/22 Invoices for Approval and any other financial matters

Finance Report for 15th December 2022 Meeting

Balances

Current Account - £339.87

Expenditure

Clerk's Wages £184.00

Bank Charges £5.00

Uxello £150.00

Gingernut Photography £500.00

Community Centre Rent for Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

Holding Account - £18,998.71

Expenditure

Income

Focal Point Diane Pipes £60

Focal Point Fullers Landscape £60

Focal Point Keith Lam £81.00

Focal Point Chiroplus £60

Focal Point balance - £1734.03

Tennis Club Balance - £5256.37 unchanged

Property Trust Account - £6877.60 unchanged

Via Grass Cutting funding applied for but not yet received.

Focal Point invoices went out on 1st December

Still chasing Via payment

110/22 Planning Applications/updates if any

Applications:

1) The Grove 73 Gainsborough Road Winthorpe

Proposal: 22/02100/LBC Conversion of barn/stables into ancillary accommodation.

Suggested PC response: Visit owner to discuss rationale for application.

This is the third planning application for The Grove in recent months – which collectively constitute a major change to the character of the site. PC did not object to the first two applications but are becoming concerned.

The planning application would turn the stables and barn into a ¾ bedroom domestic property occupying the same footprint.

Note: NSDC Planning Consultation objects to the application and states:

The proposed development would cause harm to the significance of a curtilage listed building and harm to both setting and significance of various Listed Buildings and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. This would be contrary to the provisions of s.16, s.66 and 72 of the Act. With reference to the planning policies, this would be 'less than substantial harm' (par.202 of NPPF and DM9 of the local development framework).

There is no clear and convincing justification provided for this level of harm (par.200 of NPPF) and there would be no heritage-related benefits arising from the proposal which would balance or outweigh this harm (par.202 of NPPF). In addition, the proposal would be contrary to the design principles of the 'Conversion of Traditional Rural Buildings SPD'. Therefore, we object to the proposal from a conservation perspective and recommend it is refused.

It was agreed that Mr Kneen write to the owner to request a visit to meet them and discuss their future plans.

In addition, concern was expressed by Mrs Day that two different types of bats are believed to be nesting in the barn/stables at The Grove which would of course be disturbed if this development was to go ahead.

111/22 Correspondence

- The Amended Allocations and Development Management Plan. The final date for consultation has been moved from 31 December 2022 to 9 January 2023
- Register of Electors. Mr Smith clarified this is a legally constrained document and can only be used within the PC. Everyone has a responsibility to ensure it is used appropriately.
- CAB request for Grant Aid. It was confirmed the PC would not support this.
- Register of warm spaces. Options were considered on how the PC could support this e.g., by possibly using the Village Hall. This may be difficult due the number of Art Classes being held but could it be opened over the Christmas period for tea and a chat. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to spread the word as Focal Point has already gone out. Miss Davis advised that the Rural Advice Centre in Collingham is available. She also wanted to signpost information about the food banks and providing hot dinners on Christmas Day. Mr Smith will put a note out on Twitter to see if anybody would like to get involved.

112/22 AOB

Mrs Day expressed concern at the fence at the Cottage, Gainsborough Road. Images provided showed vegetation that was 11 years old and was not a true reflection of how things are now. She felt the work had damaged the look of the conservation area in this particular part of the village. As the report had come to light after the PC had sent their reply, it is now in the hands of N&SDC conservation team to follow this through. Mr Kneen acknowledged that the PC had not identified when the fence was first erected without permission. However, we do depend on information from residents as well and this had also not been forthcoming.

Meeting Closed at 8.27 pm