

WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 19th May 2016 in the Village Hall, Winthorpe commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr L Cammack (Chairman), Mr A Leary, Mr B Wright, Mr G Thompson, Mr B Wright, Mr D Richards, Mr G Thompson, Mr P Farmer, Mr B Allen

Guests: Mrs S Crosby (Resident)

County Councillor: Mrs M Dobson

Clerk: Mrs S Sillery

1/16 – Apologies for Absence - Mr M Kneen and Mr R McClymont

2/16 – Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest relevant to items on the Agenda

3/16 – Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 21st May 2015, copies of which have been circulated in advance of the meeting, were taken as read and approved. Proposed by Mr B Wright and seconded by Mr A Leary

4/16 – Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

5/16 – Chairman’s Annual Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report of his first year as Chairman. He said it had been an interesting year. He thanked Sally Sillery, the new Clerk, for her efforts. He felt that the accounts were up to date and in hand and those vital areas such as reclaiming VAT and grass cutting monies from the Notts County Council were up to date.

The situation regarding the grass cutting for the Cricket Club and the Community Centre had been resolved and each entity were now responsible for payment directly to Doug Lyne and not through the Parish Council.

The Chairman commented on the death of Mr Stephen Jackson, previous Chairman of the Parish Council. He had a great knowledge, worked tirelessly for the village and would be sadly missed.

The Chairman confirmed that he had various initiatives that he wanted to work through in the coming year. Affordable housing is an issue which needs to be resolved in the coming year.

The issue of the speed camera is also a key issue. The Council has support from Collingham Parish Council but someone within the Council is needed to drive this project forward. Mr P Farmer said that although he didn't have time to commit to working with the camera himself, he was happy to co-ordinate matters.

Mrs Sue Crosby asked why the road from her house had a speed limit of what she thought was 70 mph. It was confirmed by the Chairman that it had a 60 mph limit as it was a national speed limit despite being a country lane. It is not a situation that the Parish Council could change.

6/16 – Langford Matters

Mr Wright confirmed that there were no serious problems in Langford. There had been a concern with traffic in and out of Elm Tree Farm however this had improved. The speeding along the A1133 is much improved since the electronic speed signs were erected. Plans for a wind turbine have been refused, a decision which has pleased the village.

Mr Wright confirmed that the bus shelter was beginning to show its age. Councillor Dobson confirmed that it was better to know about it now when it could be repaired. Councillor Dobson will look into this.

Mr Aldridge asked if there were any benches owned by the Parish Council in Langford, and Mr Wright confirmed only the one in the bus shelter.

7/16 – Presentation of the Thomas Brewer Trust Accounts for 2015/16

Mr Foden was not present. Mr Cammack will make contact with Mr David Barthorpe in relation to this matter.

8/16 – Presentation of the Winthorpe Parish Property Trust Accounts and the Parish Council Accounts for 2015/16

The draft annual governing statement and accounting statements were presented, agreed and approved following discussion in conjunction with the internal auditors report.

Mrs Sillery has prepared the paperwork for the external auditor, Grant Thornton.

An explanation was given regarding the Santander Property Trust accounts where funds from Closed Backbook were transferred into the Business Savings Account.

The reasoning behind the variances in receipts and payments compared with 2015 related to increased grass cutting costs and not having a clerk for five months.

Mr Duncan Richardson (internal auditor) confirmed that he had audited the accounts and reported accordingly.

Generally the accounts are in good order and I feel that Sally has got a good grasp of things.

These accounts have had input from several people and, of course, include a period of time when there was no clerk in situ, so they have not been the easiest to produce.

There were some minor alterations that needed to be made and some copies of old invoices need chasing to enable VAT to be reclaimed.

I have done my best to reconcile the outstanding VAT claim that resulted in the payment of £978.81 in September. This related to an overdue claim re 2014/2015 and a lot of the relevant paperwork is missing.

Likewise I have had to rely on the assurances of the Chairman that all outstanding monies due to the Council from the Cricket Club have now been received.

The records relating to the Bonfire and Festival are a considerable improvement on previous years.

I have suggested to Sally that an Annual Summary should be prepared detailing the individual income and expenditure in order that a year on year comparison can be made.

On a similar theme I would like in future to see more of the working papers regarding the Precept. I am required to confirm that the application has been prepared in a proper manner and that comparisons are undertaken throughout the year to ensure that funds for predicted expenditure will be available. We need to discuss this in more detail in the not too distant future in order that Sally can be given appropriate guidance.

I will just reiterate that no cheques or payments must be made before authorisation has been given at the Council meeting.

Finally I can confirm that I will be in a position to sign Annual Return without comment at Thursday's meeting.

Andy Leary confirmed that the application for the precept is done in November and that it would be a good idea for Mr Richardson to be involved in this.

The committee were happy with the situation regarding the accounts

The meeting closed at 7.26