

WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 19th May in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm

Present – Mr L Cammack (Chairman), Mr B Wright, Mr D Aldridge, Mr Gary Thompson, Mr A Leary, Mr P Farmer and Mr B Allen

Guest – Mrs Sue Crosby (Resident)

County/District Councillor – Mrs Maureen Dobson

Clerk – Mrs Sally Sillery

28/16 - Apologies – Mr M Kneen and Mr R McClymont

Before the meeting began, it was necessary to elect both a Chairman and Vice Chairman. No nominations had been received for either role.

Mr Lee Cammack was proposed for the role of Chairman by Mr Gary Thompson and seconded by Mr Andy Leary. This was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Mr Bob Allen was proposed for the role of Vice Chairman by Mr Brian Wright and seconded by Mr Des Aldridge. This was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

29/16 – Declarations of Interest – None

30/16 – To Receive and Accept the Minutes of the last meeting on 21st April 2016

Minutes of the last meeting which had been circulated were taken as read as a correct record.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs Sue Crosby (resident) was asked to present her point of view in relation to the village allotments. Mr A Leary confirmed that, as per the Standing Orders of the Parish Council, members of the public were able to attend and speak to the Parish Council.

Mrs Crosby lives opposite the allotments on Holme Lane and has lived there for 15 years. When she first moved into the property there were two horses in the field which is now home to the allotments.

She informed us that her husband cuts the grass in front of her property from where they live and people park outside their house and on the grass. The lane is narrow and people drive on the grass with little thought to who owns it.

Mrs Crosby said the smell of manure was not pleasant and there had definitely been an increase in the number of flies. The wind chimes on the allotments also cause irritation nerves and plastic bottles used on the allotment look an eyesore.

Mrs Crosby said that her property had dropped in value by £100k since the allotments opened and, bearing in mind how much Council Tax she pays, she said it would have been nice to have been informed of the plan to have an allotment on Holme Lane and to canvass the opinions on the residents of the three properties in Holme Lane.

The Chairman assured Mrs Crosby that the plans for the allotments were well publicised in Focal Point, on strategic areas in the village and would have been subject to planning approval. Mrs Crosby confirmed that although she receives Focal Point, she does not read it.

The Chairman confirmed that there was a large lobby of residents who wanted an allotment and that the Parish Council has a statutory right to provide such facilities in the village. There are very definite rules about what can be put on the allotments. The Parish Council had agreed to the keeping of bees but would not be allowing any other livestock to be kept on the site. Any changes to the allotments have to be passed by the Parish Council and Mr Bob Allen sits on the Allotment Committee.

Mr Farmer suggested that Mrs Crosby prepare a list of problem areas together with possible outcomes so that we can liaise with David Barthorpe (Chairman of the Allotment Committee). Mrs Crosby said that Mr Barthorpe had been very helpful and had taken ownership of her issues. Mrs Crosby said she would consider preparing a list.

31/16 – Matters Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Dobson had received correspondence from Phil Beard about a “MUGA” (Multi Use Games Area) to replace the Skate Park. This could cost between £50k - £80k but Grant Aid could be applied for. Mr Farmer and Mr Thompson are to look into this matter.

Regarding the “pop up Post Office”, an article was placed in Focal Point. The Post Office is to commence on the 26th May 2016, 9 am – 12 midday. Mrs Frances Kelly has put a great deal of work into getting this facility up and running and the village must use it or it will go. Councillor Dobson said the Post Mistress from Middleton Road will run the facility. She hoped that residents will use it even though many had got used to going to Collingham to use the Post Office there. It was suggested that the new Post Office could be publicised at the village fete. A sign at the top of Woodlands would be very useful – Mr Thompson agreed to arrange this.

Grass cutting quotes – The Chairman is due to have a meeting with Doug Lyne on the 20th May to understand exactly what grass needs cutting in the village and he will bring a plan to the next meeting. When we know the scope of the grass cutting, we can arrange alternative quotes. The Chairman suggested that the grass verges as you enter the village could use some work to improve the look of the village. The Chairman will also talk to Doug about the trees on Jubilee Walk although nesting birds may mean this work cannot be done until the autumn.

Santander Account – Santander still need photo ID from Mr Allen and he will arrange to give The Chairman a copy of his HGV driving licence.

Midlands Rural Housing – Jill Saunderson of N.S.D.C could not make the May meeting but will attend the June meeting.

Ken Bark Bench – Mr Aldridge reported that he and Mr McClymont visited Hill Holt Wood to look at benches but weren't very impressed with what was on offer and the price £300. Mr Aldridge will pass the information on so that the Council can have a look. It was also suggested they contact “Men in Sheds” via John Nelson to see what they could offer. Mr Aldridge is to look at this.

Mr Allen is meeting with the Probation Service on Saturday 21st May and he will ask them to look at the Ken Bark Bench to see if it can be repaired. They are also looking at work to be done on the bank near the community centre.

Mrs Sillery confirmed that she had responded to Jeremy Hutchinson of N.S.D.C. about the bees on the allotment.

The Chairman has put a piece in Focal Point about the need to register vehicles in order to use the local tip.

Mrs Sillery confirmed that a cheque for £100 had been sent to Orchard School and that a new cheque in favour of Peter Foden was to be raised for £50 and the previous one for Neighbourhood Watch had been cancelled.

32/19 – Invoices for Approval

Mrs Sillery confirmed that an invoice from Doug Lyne had been received for grass cutting in April of £370.65 and this would be paid by faster payment.

The Chairman suggested that as the Parish Council had surplus funds it should increase the amount of the contribution given to Focal Point. Councillor Dobson supported this. Mr Aldridge proposed increasing the annual amount to £750 (from £630). This was seconded by Mr Wright. The Clerk is to send email to confirm this and it was agreed to pay the 1st instalment by faster payment method.

An explanation was provided from Mr Phil Ward of N.S.D.C. as to the reasoning behind the increase of the Parish Council element of the Council Tax Bill. This was mainly due to the request for an increase of the precept by the Parish Council. It was suggested that this information be put in Focal Point so that residents are made aware.

Councillor Dobson raised the question of why we were using the external Auditor Grant Thornton at the cost of £150 per year. Mr Leary explained that, although by law it was not necessary to employ an external auditor, it did show that we were being transparent in our dealings with public money. This situation will be reviewed next year.

33/16 – Correspondence

Confirmation was received from N.S.D.C. that permitted listed building consent had been given to Patricia Applewhite for a single storey extension to the Old Dairy, 76 Gainsborough Road

Confirmation was received from N.S.D.C. that refusal of intent to carry out tree work at Ty-Ni, The Spinney, Winthorpe. The reason being that the trees are healthy and there is no evidence to support the removal of the sycamore or an arboricultural justification.

N.S.D.C - Planning Committee meeting 3rd May 2016 – nothing relevant to the village. Councillor Dobson said that if there were ever any contentious planning applications, to let her know.

Confirmation that planning approval given to Mr and Mrs Cuene-Grandidier for proposed rear single storey extension at 20, The Spinney, Winthorpe.

Change of Use from A1 to C3 (disused shop to domestic residential dwelling) was received for the Old Post Office, 13 Gainsborough Road, Winthorpe. The shop part of the property is to be turned into a games room. Discussion held and the proposal supported – confirmation sent to N.S.D.C.

Mr Aldridge asked that any Planning applications that are received by the Clerk to be sent out via email to the Council to ensure that they had sufficient time to respond accordingly. This was agreed.

An email was received from Administration Services of N.S.D.C in relation to the Strategic Priorities Consultation. The Council wants to consult with its residents, stakeholders and partners on its proposed priorities for the next four years. The Clerk is to send the email out and everyone to consider this and complete the Survey Monkey.

34/16 – Any Other Business

The Chairman and Mr Thompson are to walk around the village to see what improvements can be made

Sue Masheder has made a request for new village bunting at a cost of £250. This will be stored at the Community Centre and can be borrowed by villagers for a small donation and on the understanding this it is looked after. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council pay for this and Mr Farmer seconded it.

Councillor Dobson suggested that a new banner is needed for the Summer Festival similar to the one used to advertise the Bonfire event. Collingham have a good one and it might be an idea for Sue to talk to the Clerk at Collingham for ideas and then come back to the Parish Council with a quote.

Councillor Dobson thanked the Parish Council for the funds they had given to Newark Community First Aid.

Mr Leary asked about the resurfacing of roads in the village. Councillor Dobson confirmed that Woodlands is next on the list but no dates can be given.

Speed Camera –Mr Farmer to co-ordinate this.

Mr Farmer asked if it was possible to extend the 30 mile per hour speed limit down to the Cricket Club but it would seem that the 60 mph is standard on all country lanes.

Mr Allen asked about the local pub – apparently it is due to reopen in two weeks. A manager is going in and there will be no food. Mr Allen asked if it was possible to make the pub a Community Asset to stop it being turned into flats as an example. Councillor Dobson has a contact at Enterprise and will speak with them.

Mr Aldridge suggested that the pretty Winthorpe Village sign was in need of repair. It was agreed that a sign writer was needed and Max Neil of the Art Club was the best person to speak to – Mr Thompson to make contact.

Safety Audits – could those outstanding please be handed in as soon as possible? Mr Leary asked that the pro-forma be amended as the spelling of Safety is wrong.

Close of Meeting 8.35 pm

Actions

- “MUGA” – Mr Thompson and Mr Farmer to report on this
- Sign for Pop up Post Office – Mr Thompson
- Trees and grass cutting with D. Lyne – Chairman
- Santander Account – Mr Allen to produce copy of HGV Licence with photo
- Ken Barks bench and others – Mr Aldridge
- Probation Service meeting – Mr Allen to provide update
- Report on precept for Focal Point - Chairman
- Strategic Priorities NSDC – Survey Monkey – All to complete
- Speed camera- Chairman to provide Mr Farmer with Collingham P.C. contact details.
- Village Sign – Mr Thompson to contact Max Neil from the art club