

# WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm**

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

**Apologies:** Mr P Farmer and Mr B Wright

**District/County Councillor:** Mrs M Dobson

**Clerk:** Mrs S Sillery

**Visitor:** Mrs Susan Conning

Mrs Conning attended the meeting to discuss the proposed planning application at The Academy. She, and her neighbours (Tom and Kirsty Woodman and Gary Thompson), have concerns about the safety aspect of the proposed entrance to the development the potential loss of trees.

Mrs Conning is aware that the bend on Gainsborough Road (location of the proposed entrance) is not considered to be an “accident hotspot” as no accidents have occurred. However, she felt that due to cars being parked on or near the bend was an accident waiting to happen especially if there is another access point added to that area.

Mrs Conning was also concerned regarding the potential felling of trees on The Academy. The Chairman pointed out that the trees in question did not have Tree Preservation Orders (TPO’S) and although it may appear regrettable that trees were being felled there was little that could be done unless TPO’s were placed on them. It was pointed out that anyone can apply to have a TPO placed on them.

Mrs Conning reiterated that she did not have any objections to the actual build but the safety and the conservation issues are a concern. She felt that there was a duty of care to the villagers to make the right decision.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council will discuss her views during the meeting. He also said that the Parish Council sympathised with her concerns.

**43/19 Declarations of Interest:** None

**44/19 To Receive and Accept the Minutes of the Parish Council held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and Matters Arising**

Men In Sheds – Mrs Dobson confirmed that she is to get two Friday dates when the Chairman and Sam at Besthorpe can meet with the group to discuss a new Village Notice Board.

Trees behind the Village Hall - Mr McClymont said he was concerned that people were taking trees down when it is not necessary. Mrs Dobson explained that the owner of the trees behind the Village Hall has got a licence to remove trees and therefore there must be a reason for taking them down.

Play Park – The Chairman confirmed that Mr Farmer had not been able to make a grant application to Tarmac for the adult play equipment within the deadline but will work towards the next one.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an email from Jane Bateson with some concerns about the Play Park. The matting is coming up in one area and this could cause a child to trip if they got their foot caught under it. Also there has been an incident where a child had fallen down a deep rabbit hole and had to go to A&E. Thankfully, there was no damage but clearly the rabbit holes are a problem.

It was agreed to ask Mr Farmer to contact Kompan and ask them to come and repair the matting. In relation to the rabbits, Mr Allen said that he knows someone who would bring his ferrets at a cost of £150 however it would probably be better to deal with the vegetation. It was felt that if we get rid of the vegetation, the rabbits won't be so prevalent. Mr Lord offered to borrow the Allotment Associations petrol strimmer to clear the vegetation.

Flags – The Clerk confirmed she has purchased a Nottinghamshire Flag, a Royal Air Force Ensign and the Red Ensign at a cost of £115.74. The Clerk has paid for these and will be reimbursed.

Bus Update – Mrs Dobson confirmed that the Transport and Travel Services team from NCC will be visiting the village on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June between 9.30 and 10.15. Leaflets are being posted to the bus shelters. This is the opportunity for residents to discuss the buses coming in and out of the village. Mr Leary said that he had caught the 6.47 am into Newark and the bus driver told him he was the first person to use this bus since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

Garage – The emptying of the garage is ongoing. The Parish Council need to hand the keys back to the Local Authority and the rent will stop.

Dog Bin near the burial plot – The Chairman has approached Mark Turner about repairing the dog bin post.

The handrail at the Community Centre – The Chairman has raised this matter with the Community Centre and has confirmed that this is their responsibility to repair/reinstate them.

Mr Kneen pointed out that he had sent his apologies for the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 meeting. The Clerk apologised and said she would amend the minutes accordingly.

The minutes were proposed by Mr Leary and seconded by Mr Lord.

#### **45/19: Parish Council Asset Register**

The Chairman had emailed the Asset Register to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. He asked if anyone had anything to add to the register. He realised that he had not added the Tennis Courts. The other asset in question is the land in front of the Alms Houses. Councillor Dobson is going to check this ownership. Nobody had anything else to add.

The Chairman will send the Register to the Internal Auditor, Duncan Richardson, having added the Tennis Courts to enable him to sign off the audit.

#### **46/19: Review of Safety Audit Checks**

The Chairman went through the Safety Audit checks. Now that Mr Aldridge has left the Council, the list needed updating. This was done with Mr Lord taking over Mr Aldridge's checks as he was the best person for the jobs involved.

#### **47/19: Tennis Club**

Mr Leary had raised the idea of the strong box with tennis rackets etc. in it for use of villagers. The Tennis Club Committee felt that it was likely to be vandalised and that they were unsure what type of equipment to put in it. Mr Farmer had said that there are vandalised proof boxes available.

The Chairman stated that with the acquisition of the garage at the rear of the Community Centre, it would be safer to keep any equipment there.

The Chairman confirmed that he has still to go into the HSBC to open the Tennis Club account. He asked the Clerk to confirm the contact name at the HSBC.

#### **48/19: Burial Plot/Allotments/Bonfire**

Mr Leary confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Preston and the Clerk had received an email from Mrs Preston who lives on Hargon Lane. It would seem that when they purchased their house, their solicitor did not pick up the details of the Burial Ground. The Clerk has sent all the relevant planning application confirmation that the Parish Council had gained and also directed them to the NSDC Planning Portal.

Mr and Mrs Preston were unable to attend the meeting due to them being in London. They have raised various questions regarding a turning circle for the hearse and how the Burial Ground will be run. The parish Council have taken advice from E Gill and Sons, Funeral Directors of Newark in relation to the turning circle and they have told us that, in their opinion, it is not necessary.

In relation to the running of the Burial Plot, it is not up and running at this stage as there are still plots within the church yard. The Chairman has spoken to the vicar in relation to the possibility of the Church taking over the running of the Burial Site. If the Church decides not to do this, the responsibility will be on the Parish Council and at that time we will take advice again from Gills as to the protocol and requirements.

Mr Lord has visited Mr Mabbott of 15 Branston Close in relation to the concern he had raised about trees at the rear of his property on the Burial Ground. Mr Lord felt that the trees looked okay but it was agreed to ask Doug Lyne to visit and give his professional opinion in order that Mr Mabbott was reassured. The Clerk is to arrange.

Allotments – There had been some flooding on the allotments during the recent heavy rains but no lasting damage.

Bonfire – The Parish Council have still to decide which date to host the Bonfire. Mr Farmer had spoken to the PTA and there was a lack lustre response about the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November date due to the two week half term.

The other option of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> is not ideal. There is so much to do in preparation for the event and people would have to take the day off work which is just not possible. Some work could be done on the Saturday before but there would still be plenty to do on the Tuesday so it is not feasible. The Chairman said he did not want to cancel the bonfire as to miss a year would

not be a good idea. We don't need to make a decision now but in another month we will as things will need to be put in place. Councillor Dobson said she would have a chat with the Head teacher at the school to get their views.

### **50/19: Invoices for approval and other financial matters**

The Clerk confirmed the balances of the accounts as follows:-

Current Account	£331.51
Holding Account	£13,307.70
Festival Account	£842.41
Events Account	£943.47
Property Trust Account	£6,911.96

The Clerk said that she had received an email from Doug Lyne regarding outstanding invoices for February and March. On checking her emails, the Clerk confirmed that she had never received the invoices. She has paid them now but clearly they have been paid in the wrong tax year. The invoices were £447 and £360 respectively. She also paid the May invoice of £728.77. The Chairman has purchased two fence posts and has been reimbursed in the sum of £17.40; this money relates to the Festival and will come out of the Festival account.

The Clerk, as previously mentioned has purchased flags to the amount of £115.74.

The Clerk mentioned that the Focal Point donation was due to be paid and asked if she should make the payment. The Chairman told the meeting that we should hold off making the payment at the moment.

The Chairman will have a chat with Marcia Parkin on this matter regarding the future of Focal Point as if nobody comes forward to take over the magazine, we will have a page in the Collingham Fleet which residents will have to pay for.

The Clerk has received a letter from Peter Foden asking for the annual donation to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Council agreed to pay the same as last year, £75.00. The Clerk is to arrange.

The Clerk confirmed that the Accounting Statement for 2018/19 had been completed. Duncan Richardson, the Internal Auditor, wanted to see the Asset Register before signing off his part of the paperwork and the Chairman will send it to him now it has been discussed and approved at tonight's meeting. Once this is signed, both the Clerk and Chairman will sign their part and the form can be submitted to PKF.

Mr Leary read out two emails from Duncan Richardson in relation to the accounts:

*I have examined a good sample of transactions and have now completed my Internal Audit and can confirm that the Accounts and financial affairs of the Parish Council are in good order and meet the required standard.*

*I am now in a position to sign the Internal Audit Report subject to clarification regarding sections K and M.*

In the second email, Mr Richardson suggests the following:

*Totally outside of my remit, as I mentioned on Monday, I would have thought that a Year End Summary, consisting of opening balances, income, expenditure and closing balances may be helpful to show a picture of the Parish Council's Finances at each year end.*

A discussion took place in relation to the suggestion, but it was felt that all the information was currently provided and that it was not necessary to duplicate it and give more work to the Clerk.

The Council voted unanimously to accept the Account Statement.

## **51/19: Planning**

The meeting discussed Mrs Conning's comments from the beginning of the meeting.

Councillor Dobson confirmed that not a lot can be done in relation to band on Gainsborough Road. However, she will ask for "the tubes" to be put across the road to check the volume of traffic as evidence would be required.

It was noted that people park on the bend and in some ways it does slow the traffic down. However, it also means that people have to swing out to the other side of the road thereby creating another problem.

In relation to the trees, as mentioned there are no TPO's on the trees and other than apply to have TPO's put on them, there is nothing else to be done.

Mr McClymont felt that it was wrong that houses with large plots are allowed to build on them. He felt that big gardens were a feature of village properties but clearly that has been done in Winthorpe as in other villages and a precedent has been set. Councillor Dobson suggested to Mr McClymont that he might write to Robert Jenrick MP and put forward his concerns about the current planning process. Councillor Dobson will check how the above planning application is progressing.

The Chairman asked the question, does the Parish Council want to write to the planning department again on this issue.

It was decided that we have already put our concerns forward and cannot really add to it.

## **Review of Open Break Policy**

The details of this were emailed prior to the meeting. The Open Break Policy relates to Farndon, Winthorpe and Coddington. The idea is to restrict development and keep them separate and retain their identities and characteristics. The District Council feel that in order to retain the Open Breaks, they need to do so with a robust evidence-based approach. The consultation will commence in July and the results will be published in October.

Mr Kneen suggested that we should be pre-armed with reasons why the Open Break in relation to Winthorpe should remain. The Chairman felt that the main risk comes from the Highway Agency who has been in touch with him with a view to doing an environmental survey of the Thomas Brewer land.

Mr Leary raised the question of the planning application at the Weir at Cromwell but no update has been received.

## **52/19: Correspondence**

The PTA at Winthorpe School has requested a kind donation for their raffle. This was discussed but declined.

Mr Farmer had emailed in relation to being approached by Mr Rob Wilkinson of Speight Close. After consulting with the management of the Lord Nelson, he replaced the old crumbling fence with new panels of tanalised timber which is a noticeable improvement. However there has been a complaint and now Mr Wilkinson is being asked to paint the fence by the NSDC Conservation Officer.

Councillor Dobson asked that Mr Wilkinson contact her and the Clerk is to arrange this via Mr Farmer.

The Clerk has received an email from David Coote of Gainsborough Road who is very concerned that an accident is waiting to happen in relation to the dropping off and collecting of children at the school. He has raised this question before but since his retirement he has seen even more incidents and he is very concerned that serious injury or even fatality could result.

This subject has been discussed previously. The County Council are aware of it as are the Police and the School. Regrettably, there are some parents who do not consider the safety of the children and the message does not seem to register. The Clerk is to respond to Mr Coote.

Mr Leary also raised the question of school buses coming into the village and instead of going down to the Lord Nelson to turn around, are reversing into the Woodlands which is adding to the problem. Councillor Dobson asked Mr Leary to attend the meeting with the Bus Company next Thursday and raise this issue with them.

## **53/19: AOB**

Mr Allen raised the question of a bush on Hargon Lane near the bench at Hargon House which has grown across the road. Cars can get through but he struggles when in his tractor. The Chairman felt it would be in order for us to prune the bush and Mr McClymont is to look into this.

Meeting closed 21:10

### **Actions**

- Councillor Dobson to sort meeting with Men in Sheds
- Mr Farmer to contact Kompan regarding play park matting
- Mr Lord to trim nettles behind the playpark
- Garage to be emptied
- Dog Bin near Burial Plot to be secured
- Community Centre to sort hand rails
- Safety audit list to be updated and distributed – Chairman
- Doug Lyne to comment on trees near 15 Branston Close – Clerk
- Tennis Club account with HSBC- Chairman
- Future of Focal Point – Chairman to discuss with Marcia Parkin
- Accounting Statement – Chairman to get required signatures
- Bush on Hargon Lane – Bob McClymont