

WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 17th October 2019 commencing 7.30 pm

Present: Mr B Allen (Chairman), Mr A Leary, Mr M Kneen, Mr B Wright and Mr P Smith

Apologies: Mr L Cammack, Mr S Lord, Mr B McClymont and Mr P Farmer

District/County Councillor: Mrs M Dobson

District Councillor: Mrs L Dales

Clerk: Mrs S Sillery

Visitor: Sergeant Steve Brownley from Newark Policy

Before the meeting started, Sgt Brownley had kindly come along to talk to the Council about keeping property and vehicles in the village safe. Inspector Heather Sutton of Newark Police was pleased to send an officer to our meeting as she said that Winthorpe have a very proactive Facebook page and we do a good job at keeping residents informed.

He did say that our villages were not doing too badly relatively speaking. We have had four incidents of late, two house breakins, a shed break in and a suspicious door to door caller. No-one has been apprehended for these incidents and Sgt Brownley said that burglary is particularly difficult to prove and scenes of crime find it very difficult to gain evidence. DNA needs to ideally be blood as fingerprints are very difficult to obtain.

Sgt Brownley told us that most incidents are opportunistic and suggested the following

- Keep doors locked especially back doors. Thieves can be opportunists who try a back door and can soon get hold of car keys, and handbags whilst the homeowner is in the front room unaware of the situation.
- Close and lock windows whilst you are out. In summer it is so easy to leave windows open to try and cool a room down, but this gives an opportunity and thieves will get through small windows.
- Don't keep door/car keys hanging near the door. Keys can be accessed through letter boxes.

- Don't leave visible items in cars, i.e. lap tops, mobile phones etc.
- Invest in a Faraday box to protect car keys. The box provides a complete signal blocker for your vehicle key fob. This prevents thieves from picking up and relaying signals from your key to shield against breakins and keyless ignition theft.

Sgt Brownley made the point that it is imperative that all crimes and any suspicious behaviour should be reported.

The farmers on the Parish Council raised the problem of poachers. Sgt Brownley said that Paddy Tipping, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner is putting a lot of emphasis into agricultural crime and has given funding to police forces. This has enabled our local force to purchase thermal imaging binoculars which have brought good results in relation to poaching. A drone has been purchased and five officers have been trained to use it. Farmers must report any problems they have on their land and the Police will come out and investigate.

The Police website www.nottinghamshire.police.uk is useful to get information from.

The Clerk thanked Sgt Brownley for attending the meeting.

70/19: Declarations of Interest: None

71/19: To Receive and Accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19th September 2019

Mr Leary asked the Clerk to correct an item in the Minutes. Emily from the Lord Nelson had asked if a VE Day Celebration was being organised and was not organising one herself. Clerk to amend accordingly.

The minutes were proposed by Mr Wright and seconded by Mr Kneen

72/19: Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk informed the meeting that following the Council's decision not to remove a covenant on the land on Holme Lane, Mr Finney had been in contact via email. He asked that his email be read out at the meeting asking the Parish Council to rethink their decision. The Clerk read out the email but the Parish Council felt that nothing had changed and therefore their initial decision still stood. Clerk to confirm this to Mr Finney.

Hand Rail at the Community Centre – no update as Mr Farmer was not at the meeting

Dog Bin – the Clerk will order this

Hargon Lane Bush – Mrs Dobson has spoken to Mike Keeling and he has passed the matter on to Kelly Douglas. We must wait until Highways get in touch with us before we do anything with the bush.

Village Envelope – Mrs Dales confirmed that Winthorpe had not had an updated neighbourhood plan since 2011. She confirmed that we could put a new one together but that this is very labour intensive. Mr Kneen felt that it was worth reviewing the 2011 plan and finding out some information as to how a new plan could be produced and make a decision thereafter if we want to go ahead. Mrs Dales will try and arrange a meeting with a Planning Officer so that the Parish Council can make an informed choice.

Showground Noise – Mrs Dales reported:

- The juggling event: they did have a licence for music until 1.30am but this was inside the building and was monitored by their Duty Manager. He is sure that this was not the event responsible for the disturbance. On that same night there was a music festival at Norton Disney or Swinderby (one of the two) which is where the music noise was coming from.
- The ‘Stonedead’ event, however, did cause a problem and they have acted on that. The festival organisers have formally apologised to the Showground and they are now in discussion as to how this will be prevented should the Showground allow them to run it again next year.

He did emphasise that they really do care about the impact of their events on Winthorpe and will continue to do all that they can to keep things under control, noise-wise

72/19 Focal Point: The Clerk read out an email from Mr Cammack who had recently had a meeting with Duncan Richardson with a young lady called Lizzie Wakefield who is interested in running Focal Point. As neither Mr Cammack nor Mr Richardson were present, it was agreed to discuss the matter at the November meeting.

73/19 Adult Gym: No update as Mr Farmer not present

74/19 Bonfire: Everything is in place. The signs are up, generators organised. Mr Cammack is back from holiday on the 31st October. The Young Farmers are in place to organise the car parking.

75/19 Burial Plot, Allotments and Land opposite the Almshouses:

Burial Plot – Nothing to Report

Allotments - there are still a lot of allotments available.

Land opposite the Almshouses –

Mr Allen then brought up the subject of the ownership of the land where the Alms Houses are situated. He had been doing some investigation and had found two documents dated 1984 which confirm that the land is in fact Common Land and is protected as such under Section 9 of the Act of 1965

Mr Cammack had recently asked Tallents Solicitors to investigate the ownership of the land. Mr Allen has sent the documents to Mr Cammack so that he can forward them on to Tallents for them to look at. Clearly further investigation is not required and this will save additional costs.

Mr Allen also confirmed that the strip of land at the side of the Lord Nelson pub is also common land. Mr Allen felt that this information regarding both sites needs to go into the Parish Council records.

76/19 Invoices for approval and any other financial matters:

Balances of accounts as at 8.10.19

Current account £305.27

Festival account £825.05

Events account £943.47

Holding account £11,389.26

Property Trust account £6,961.96

Tennis Club account £0.00 – transfer and fees have yet to be paid into the account

Expenditure since the last meeting other than the usual garage rent, Clerk's wages and grass cutting:

£250 Uxello for website refresh

£402 Deposit for new Notice Board

£250.91 BHIB Insurance renewal

£240.00 PKF Littlejohn – Annual audit fees

Invoices to be paid –

Winthorpe Village Hall for hire of the Village Hall from 1.4.19 – 30.0.19 £51.00

Doug Lyne Grass cutting for September £609.36

PKF Audit Results

We have received the results of our annual audit. Everything was fine in relation to the accounts however PKF have said that

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision for the year 2019/20 for the exercise of public rights, since the notice regarding the period for the exercise of public rights was not published before the start of the period. As a result, the smaller authority must answer "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2020/21.

Both the Clerk, Mr Leary and Mr Cammack are somewhat puzzled by this as all the paperwork was displayed on the website and the Notice Board. Clerk to contact PKF for an explanation.

77/19 Planning Applications/Updates:

Mr Smith confirmed that there are currently two live applications, 75 Gainsborough Road which is a loft extension and it was agreed that this should be supported.

The other live application is Lumless House. This hasn't gone to Planning in October. An Enforcement Officer has been assigned to this as there is a suggestion that a business is being carried on from the premises.

Mr and Mrs Conning of 55 Gainsborough Drive had been granted planning permission

Mr Mark Cox has appealed to the Secretary of State in relation to the erection of a single detached dwelling on land off Holme Lane

78/19 Correspondence:

An invitation has been received from Balderton Parish Council for the Chairman to attend the Newark Air Museum for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony. Mr Cammack asked that the Clerk offer the invitation to anyone on the Council who wanted to attend.

Press Release received from Rushcliffe Borough Council – Take Five to Stop Fraud.

79/19 Any Other Business:

Colin Smith had informed the Parish Council that the Woodlands sign is showing signs of disrepair. Mrs Dobson will look into getting this repaired.

Meeting closed at 8.58 pm