

WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 20th February 2020, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mr L Cammack (Chairman), Mr S Lord, Mr B Wright, Mr R McClymont, Mr R Allen, Mr M Kneen, Mr P Smith

Apologies: Mr P Farmer, Mr A Leary and Councillor Dobson

District Councillor: Mrs L Dales

Clerk: Mrs S Sillery

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Mr Miles Harriman, the new Chairman of the Allotment Association, introduced himself to the Parish Council. He explained that there are currently five plots available and he would appreciate if this fact could be circulated. Other than the very wet conditions on the allotments, there everything else was okay.

Mrs Fiona Jones, Chair of Governors at Winthorpe School also came to the meeting, at the request of the Parish Council, to explain the reasons behind the decision to opt for academy status at the school.

Mrs Jones confirmed that the school had been looking at the possibility of becoming an academy for the last 4 to 5 years. Every secondary school, bar one in Nottinghamshire, is an academy and 40% of primary schools are academies.

They have been working with Aspire which is a local Academy Trust with six schools. The real reason for opting for academy status is to the desire for the school to thrive and to give a better educational experience for the children.

There are currently 101 children in the school. A consultation has been carried out with the parents and staff. 35 parents attended the consultation and there were two formal objections to the plan. The Governing body will make the final decision.

The school is currently run by the local authority, Nottinghamshire County Council. Mrs Jones felt that NCC had little interest in Winthorpe School. For example, actions had been taken by NCC, without consultation, which affected the Cook and the Caretaker. Mrs Jones pointed out that if you are an academy, you run your own finances and can therefore get better value for money.

The children and parents won't notice any changes, the name of the school, the uniform and holidays will all remain the same.

The trust is a non-profit organisation. There are two paid staff members, the CEO who receives a Head Teachers wage and a Finance Manager. All the Trustees are volunteers. It is hoped that the school will improve through collaboration and sharing best practice and staff development and progression will be enhanced.

Overall, the ability to be able to manage their own school, to run their own finances, hire their own staff and work with other academy schools in the area to progress the school and attract better teachers was the reason for the proposed transfer to academy status.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Jones for attending the meeting and updating the Council on the schools plans.

07/20: Declarations of Interest – None

08/20: To receive and accept the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2020

The minutes were confirmed as a true record, proposed by Mr R. McClymont and seconded by Mr R. Allen

09/20: Matters Arising

Village Notice Board – Mr Lord has this in his garage and as soon as the weather improves, he and Mr Leary will erect it.

Village Sign – Clerk confirmed that she had received an invoice from Peter Foden in the sum of £82.67 in relation to the construction and installation of the new sign.

The Clerk had received confirmation that the application to erect an animal by products processing facility at Norton Disney had been refused on a legal and planning basis. No appeal has been made as yet.

Focal Point – the new account at H.S.B.C. has been opened and the Clerk has confirmed this to Duncan Richardson for him to transfer the funds from the old account to the new one.

The Chairman met with Councillor Dobson and Mike Keeling from Notts County Council Highways and discussed various issues including refurbishing the “finger sign” at the junction of Gainsborough Road and Holme Lane, the light on the village green and the possibility of a new sign when entering the village. The question of parking outside the school was also discussed.

Parking on the junction is still an issue particularly at drop off and pick up. Mike Keeling was to look into the possibility of having double yellow lines at the junction.

Adult Play Park Equipment – Mr Farmer has all the figures and the next submission date for a grant from Tarmac is the end of March.

Doug Lyne has quoted for the work at the Community Centre Play Park to clear the nettles and vegetation adjacent to the boundary wall. This is due to an infestation of rabbits that are affecting the ground around the play park.

The quote was for three options:-

Clear the grass and nettles - £55.00

Clear the grass, nettles and trees - £145

Clear the grass, nettles, trees and rubbish £245

It was agreed to opt for the third option at a cost of £245. The Clerk is to sort this.

10/20: Neighbourhood Plan Presentation

The Chairman, Messrs Leary, Smith and Kneen recently attended the meeting at Collingham Village Hall to hear a presentation from Matthew Norton (NSDC Planning Department) about the pros and cons of preparing a Neighbourhood or Village Plan for Winthorpe.

Mr Smith went through a power point presentation for the benefit of the other Parish Councillors.

Out of the two types of plan, it would appear that the Neighbourhood Plan is the more comprehensive and useful although requires more work. The benefits of the Neighbourhood Plan is that it gives you the opportunity to determine what you want in relation to the development of the village. It will not stop development but gives you the chance to have a say in the type of development and can determine style.

The Plan would enable the Parish Council to set planning policies/priorities and would give them more strength.

The cons of the Neighbourhood Plan are that it is not an easy task. It must be consistent with the strategic elements of the District Council's Development Plan. There is a formal process to follow although help is available. The Plan must be evidence based and there must be wide reaching consultations. Policies and proposals need to be clear, unambiguous and deliverable. The Plan is subject to

light touch independent examination and would need to pass local referendum to proceed to adoption by single majority.

A grant is available for the Council to employ someone to construct the plan and we would work with them. Four Parish Council's in our area have done a Neighbourhood Plan so we would be able to talk to them. The plan can be as detailed or as simple as you want it to be.

Mr Smith will send out the power point for everyone to read again and then it can be discussed further, most probably at the April meeting. If the Parish Council decide it is a good idea, it will be put to the residents for them to have the ultimate decision.

11/20: Tennis Club Update

Mr Leary was not at the meeting but it was confirmed that he will be standing down as Chairman of the Tennis Club at the next AGM.

12/20: Focal Point Update

The bank account is now open. The next issue of Focal Point will be Lizzie's first as editor. Duncan Richardson is looking to step down as Treasurer.

13/20: Parish Council Representation on other organisations

The Chairman wanted this updating as some of the post holders were no longer on the Parish Council

The revised list is as follows:

Board of Trustees on Winthorpe Community Centre – Mr Farmer and Mr Lord

Winthorpe Allotment Holders Committee – Mr R Allen and Mr R McClymont

Winthorpe Tennis Club Committee – Mr A Leary

Winthorpe Festival Organising Committee – The Chairman and Mr R McClymont

Winthorpe with Coddington Cricket Club – The Chairman

Village Hall Committee and Board of Trustees – The Chairman and Mr P Smith

Langford Quarry Liaison Committee – Mr A Leary and Mr M Kneen

Winthorpe Village Bonfire Organising Committee – The Chairman, Mr R Allen and Mr A Leary

Safer Neighbourhood Group (SNG) – Mr M Kneen

Trustee for the Charity of Thomas Brewer (appointed by the Parish Council) – Mr P Foden and Mrs M Stewart are in office until 2021.

Mr S Lord and Mr M Kneen have expressed an interest in representing the Parish Council at the next election.

14/20: District Councillor Update

Councillor Dales confirmed that the Rural Advice office was back up and running in Collingham with the Citizens Advice on a Tuesday in the Memorial Hall. This is a service for all villages and needs publicising. Councillor Dales will ensure a piece goes in Focal Point.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Dales for organising the Neighbourhood Planning meeting with Matthew Norton of N.S.D.C. Mrs Dales said that Business Managers from N.S.D.C are happy to come out to meetings to help Parish Councils.

15/20: Invoices for Approval and other financial matters

The Clerk confirmed that the VAT refund had been received in the sum of £1,262.70 up to the end of December 2019.

Since sending the accounts out prior to the meeting, she had paid the Western Power cheque for £57.51 into the Property Trust account. This is for the power line and pole that is located on the allotment field

Balances:

Property Trust Account - £7,361.05

Events Account - £285.97

Tennis Club Account - £4,062.37

Festival Account - £825.60 – 14p interest in February

Holding Account - £7,943.78

Focal Point Account - £0.00

Current Account - £1,602.53 – payments in February, Clerks wages £170.00, Tallents Solicitors £223.20 and Uxello £150.00 (village Website)

Mr D Richardson has carried out an audit on the accounts and has no concerns

16/20: Planning Applications/Updates

The Clerk had received details of an application by the Friendly Farmer to have a “Starbucks Drive Through”. Details and plans passed to Mr Smith

The amended plans for the development on 2 Gainsborough Road have been passed

The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any information about plans for tree removal at The Academy.

The Car Auctions on Drove Lane have applied to amend their licence to increase the amount of Lorries by an extra 10. The Chairman has written to the Office of the Transport Commissioner expressing concerns at this increase. Mr Allen has also objected on the basis of poor lane access and weight restrictions.

Councillor Dales confirmed that the appeal in relation to the building of a dwelling on land off Holme Lane (opposite the allotments) had been rejected.

The Clerk confirmed that the steel portal frame at 77 Gainsborough Road has been dismantled.

17/20: Correspondence

Invitation received for the Chairman to attend Southwell Minster on the 10th May to celebrate 75 years since the end of World War II

Receipt from Tallents Solicitors in relation to payment of £223.20 for investigation of parcel of land off Holme Lane.

Email from Emma Raine of N.S.D.C. informing us that site inspections may be taking place in relation to the Open Space Strategy by Knight Kavanagh and Page.

Armed Forces Covenant – email requesting the Parish Council considers signing up to the covenant.

Email from Nina Wilson of Notts County Council confirming the consultation of the new Waste Local Plan will be open to comments from 27th February to 9th April.

Email from Councillor Kay Cutts informing us of the new “mynotts” phone app which is now available to download. Clerk to put this in Focal Point.

Email from Chairman of the Community Centre about the future of the Community Centre – topic to be discussed at the April meeting when Mr Bateson will attend.

Email received from Steven Osborne-James confirming that the Minerals Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State and that this is the start of the examination process.

18/20: AOB

Mr Lord raised the point that traffic is going too fast down The Woodlands

Mr McClymont thanked the Chairman for putting the new waste bin up at the old Tennis Court. However, people are using it as a dog bin and not a general waste bin. Mr McClymont will put a notice up to that effect.

Mr Kneen raised the point that the new editor of Focal Point Lizzie will probably be going off to university in five years.

He thought it would be useful if we asked her to document the taking over of Focal Point and create a crib sheet so that we can pass it on to a future Editor. The Chairman said that he intended inviting Lizzie and her mum to a meeting to explain how they are getting on. In their new roles.

Meeting closed 9.20 pm

Actions:

- Mr Leary and Mr Lord to erect the new Village Notice Board
- Mr Farmer is to progress the application with Tarmac for adult exercise equipment.
- The Clerk is to formally invite the Chairman of the Winthorpe Community Centre to the April meeting.
- The Clerk is to contact Doug Lyne to instruct him to remove the nettles near the Play Park.
- The Chairman is to write to the resident who parks his car on the footpath outside 4 Gainsborough Road Winthorpe.
- The Clerk is to invite the Editor of Focal Point to the April meeting.
- The Clerk is to put details of “mynotts” phone app in Focal Point.