

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Norton Lindsey Parish Council held in the Church Room at 7.45pm on 14 March 2017

Present: Cllr J Stobart (Chairman); Cllr M Neale; Cllr Miss A Birch; Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska; WDC Cllr A Rhead; WCC Cllr L Caborn

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jennifer Bendall

Public: 9

Apologies: Cllr R Mann (attending another meeting); Cllr K Sparkes (on holiday); WDC Cllr P Phillips (attending another meeting)

1. Chairman's notice regarding the recording and filming of the meeting

The notice regarding the recording and filming of meetings was read by the Chairman.

2. Record of members' present

Noted.

3. Apologies and acceptance of reasons for absence

Noted.

4. Declaration of interest (existence and nature) on items on the agenda

Cllr Neale declared an interest in item 16.4 as the Hon. Secretary of the Cricket Club.

5. Public comments

Representatives from R&R Architects addressed the meeting regarding the recent planning application at the Poultry Farm. They had noticed the comments made by the Parish Council in response to the planning application and wanted to get feedback. Discussion took place regarding the reasons for the Parish Council's objection to the planning application and potentially what, if any, development would be appropriate. It was agreed that R&R Architects would contact NLPC again when the recently undertaken Housing Needs Survey is completed.

Residents from Lower Norton attended the meeting to express concerns regarding the state of Norton Curlieu Lane, the brook / ditch running parallel to the single-track road and the amount of traffic using the road. It was noted that Norton Curlieu Lane is used as a rat-run and is a regular cycle route, and there have also been instances of artic lorries and coaches using the road. Speeding is a frequent issue and many cars have ended up in ditch. In addition, due to poor ditch maintenance, there is regularly flooding across the road. The residents asked for advice as to what can be done to alleviate these problems. WCC Cllr Caborn clarified budget availability and advised that he couldn't offer any financial support until after the upcoming elections. However, he offered to walk the road with the residents, and advised that if he re-elected he is willing to look at what traffic calming measures can be implemented following another walk-through with County Highways engineers. He advised there may be some monies available within the Flood Prevention budget. Other possibilities were discussed and there was a suggestion of making Norton Curlieu Lane one-way. The Clerk advised that County Highways were due to do a village walk-through with councillors during week commencing 20 March 2017, and she advised that she would include lower Norton in that visit. WDC Cllr Rhead asked the residents if there were any other issues that needed to be addressed.

6. To receive a request for financial support from the Village Hall Committee

Members of the Village Hall Committee addressed the meeting concerning the state of Village Hall and the Committee's revised plans to rebuild the hall. It was noted that the originally planned extension to the existing building was untenable due to issues with structure, etc. The Committee is looking at funding and building options. The plan is to rebuild in three phases: 1. Demolition of existing building and groundworks for the replacement; 2. Delivery and building of the replacement building; 3. Internal works (possibly done by volunteers). A questionnaire has been delivered to village residents, and the business plan will be completed as soon as responses have been received. Village meetings are to be held, and villagers will be asked to financially support the venture. WDC Cllr Rhead offered advice for applying for grants, and stressed the importance of a comprehensive business plan showing complete funding, etc. Discussion took place regarding other possible options for funding, types of buildings, etc.

7. To receive advice concerning website options

Mr M Goosens was invited to attend the meeting to offer advice regarding the Parish Council website. He explained his involvement with the Norton Lindsey Community Pub Ltd website, and how the offer to include the Parish Council on its hosting platform came about. He advised that the Parish Council would have to buy its domain name, with a possible hosting fee to be paid to NLCP Ltd. If the Parish Council agrees to go ahead, Mr Goosens can arrange the transfer of the existing site, and will organise regular backing up of the website, security, email addresses, etc. It was agreed that written confirmation of the terms is to be provided by NLCP Ltd prior to a decision being made, and that the Clerk would pursue this. The estimated cost for purchasing the domain name "nortonlindseypc.org" is £24 for 2 years, and this will be bought directly by the Parish Council after the decision is made regarding joining the NLCP Ltd website.

8. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 February 2017

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 February 2017 were taken as read, approved and signed.

9. Chairman's / Clerk's report

The Clerk advised that the notice board at Lower Norton is in need of refurbishment, and it was agreed that she would ask Cllr Sparkes if he would be able to look at.

10. Matters arising

- Following the visit in February from members of the WDC Planning Department, it was agreed that the Clerk would ask WDC to review the village Conservation Design Statement with a view to updating it.
- Following the request from residents of Hawkes Hill Close to install additional lighting on New Road, the Clerk had made enquiries with WDC. It was agreed that the minimum costings of £2,500 made the venture prohibitive as unfortunately the Parish Council does not have funds for this. The Clerk to draft a response for approval prior to sending.
- Following the initial view of the Emergency Plan template, it was agreed that the Clerk would tailor the template for Norton Lindsey and forward the draft to Councillors for their amendments prior to the Emergency Plan being adopted at a future meeting.
- The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Stratford District Council Planning Department regarding neighbour notifications of planning applications, and has registered to receive automatic notifications of applications in the Wolverton and Claverdon sections of the village.

11. Parish Council Action Plan Update

- 11.1 Website – see item 7 above.
- 11.2 Dog bins – it was agreed that the Clerk would forward contact details for the WDC Contract Officer to Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska to enable her to arrange a village walk-about to discuss the problems with the dog bins not being emptied. WDC Cllr Rhead offered to chase the Contract Officer as well.
- 11.3 Community Speedwatch Programme – The Clerk advised that the vetting forms for the latest volunteers are currently with the police awaiting clearance, and that as soon as this happens training dates will be set up.
- 11.4 Traffic Calming - It was noted that work has started on the traffic calming measures within the Parish. Regarding additional measures on Curlieu Lane, WCC Cllr Caborn advised that all costings will have to wait until after the election due to budget constraints.

12. To receive feedback from WRCC regarding the Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk advised that the full report had not yet been received, but that she would forward it when it arrives.

13. To discuss arrangements for the Parish Assembly (Open Meeting)

It was agreed that the Clerk would re-word the agenda to be issued, and the distribution of leaflets was agreed.

14. To discuss issues within the Parish relating to highways (eg. the state of the roads, parking, overgrown hedges, etc)

- It was noted that the farm sign at end of Church Road is facing the wrong way and that it is partially covered with undergrowth. Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska to investigate.
- The Clerk confirmed that the village walkabout with the Locality Officer from County Highways would take place on Thursday 23 March with Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska, and the Clerk advised that she would provide a list of issues for discussion at that meeting.
- Following several near misses with cars and pedestrians on Snitterfield Road, a suggestion has been made of continuing the pavement, or installing a footpath, from Arles Cottage to Blacon Farm drive. It was agreed that this would be included on the village walkabout and that the Locality Officer would be asked for advice. WCC Cllr Caborn offered to look into installing pedestrian warning signs.

15. Correspondence and Communications Report (circulated to Councillors prior to meeting)

Noted.

16. Finance Matters

16.1 Payments received since last meeting:

NatWest Bank – interest – noted.
Mrs J Bendall – repayment of PAYE – noted.

16.2 Payments made since last meeting:

Clerk's Salary – February 2017 – noted.

16.3 Expenditure for approval:

Village Hall Committee – hire of village hall for Parish Assembly – approved.

16.4 To receive update on request for financial support from the Cricket Club

The Clerk advised that, as per the terms of expenditure of the Depot Fund, WCC had approved the Parish Council's donation to the Cricket Club. Cllr Neale updated the meeting on the status of grants that had been applied for.

16.5 Income and expenditure year to date

Noted.

17. Planning Matters

17.1 Planning applications received:

Village Hall, Wolverton Road - W/16/2330:

NLPC agreed to support this application with the following comment:

Norton Lindsey Parish Council strongly supports this application. The proposal for a replacement hall addresses a long-standing need for a larger, more modern village hall facility, without impacting negatively on the adjoining sports and recreation area / neighbouring premises.

8 Hawkes Hill Close, New Road - W/17/0290:

The Parish Council agreed to make a neutral response to this application, with no comment.

17.2 Planning applications received and considered under delegated powers:

The Willows, Wolverton Road - W/17/0174 – application supported

17.3 Planning application appeal decisions received:

Horsley House Farm, Norton Curlieu Lane, Norton Lindsey, Warwick - W/16/1401/HR – appeal dismissed

17.4 To discuss general planning matters or any matters of concern regarding building works within Norton Lindsey (parish or village)

None.

18. Parish Report

WDC Cllr Rhead updated the meeting on the WDC Local Plan, and advised that the Inspectors report was imminent. He discussed closure of the leisure centres and reports that had appeared in newspapers, and it was noted that the contract for managing the centres is currently out for tender. He advised that WDC had met with the Police and Crime Commissioner to address the recent problems with gypsies and travellers. It was noted that WDC had agreed grants for both the Norton Lindsey & Wolverton Cricket Club and Norton Lindsey Community Pub Ltd. There is currently a problem with fly-tipping, but WDC will prosecute where there is sufficient evidence. It was noted that the WDC budget for the forthcoming year had been approved. Finally, Cllr Rhead reiterated that he recommended that Warwickshire parish clerks get together to write a joint letter to the PCC regarding the issues of speeding.

19. Date of Next Meetings

Tuesday 4 April 2017 – Parish Assembly (Open Meeting)

Tuesday 9 May 2017 – Annual Meeting followed immediately by Ordinary Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.22 pm