

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall 2nd July 2012

Present

Chairman Robert Watson, Vice-Chairman Mike Warren, Doreen Snelling Michael Spinks, Sue Brodie, Keith Childerhouse, Mark Rischmiller. Also in attendance County Councillor James Carswell. Mike Jackson from Norfolk County Council, and Mr Giddy from Hans House Group. Some 35 people attended, including a contingent from Badersfield.

1. Apologies

Apologies were presented from Dave Smith, John Harding, Alan Mallett, and accepted.

2 . Minutes of the Annual Parish Council 14th May 2012

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Robert Watson as Chairman of the Parish Council.

3. Matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda

None.

4. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

5. Sale of the former RAF base to Norfolk County Council

Standing Orders were suspended.

Robert Watson welcomed Mike Jackson from Norfolk County Council, and invited him to address the meeting. Copies of the report on the Cabinet meeting of 11th June 2012 were given to all councillors, and had been displayed on the County Council web site. Norfolk CC had approached The Ministry of Justice late last year following the withdrawal of the bid from TAG Engineering. Discussions between the Ministry of Justice and Mr Giddy had been protracted, and had not resulted in a viable bid, hence the approach from Norfolk CC. Norfolk CC is now the preferred bidder, and the sale is due to be completed within weeks. If a viable private bid had been presented Norfolk CC would not have entered into discussions with the Ministry of Justice.

The current plan is to return much of the site to agriculture by removing the runway, use technical buildings for employment opportunities, and have limited housing in the officers' and sergeants' mess, some of which would likely be social housing. Public access will be provided around the perimeter track and to the heritage of the site, with scope for local access on foot or bicycle across the site. A Community Liaison Group to include a member of Coltishall Parish Council will be formed, and all developments will be subject to the usual planning regulations.

Mr Giddy was welcomed to the meeting. He said that the Hans House Group of Companies had been the preferred bidder in January 2012, but there had been delays preventing further progress at that time. A solar farm group had joined the bid in May 2012; it would generate electricity without causing any disturbance to communities, and sheep could graze around the installation. The runway would remain and limited flying would support the use of the hangars. The Vulcan to the Sky Trust had indicated its interest. Buildings would be restored for use by City College, for apprenticeships, and job creation.

The public was invited to ask questions. Mike Jackson was asked why Norfolk CC had sold about half its Farms Estates in recent years, but now wished to purchase land for agricultural use. He replied that the policy had changed two years ago, hence this acquisition would add to the Council's portfolio. The issue of contamination on the airfield was a major concern. Norfolk CC feels it can be dealt with; funding will come from future income from the site. As the purchase is not yet

complete, Mr Jackson was bound by confidentiality clauses and could not tell the meeting how much Norfolk CC would pay for site. It was felt by many that Norfolk CC is short of money, has been obliged to make some 300 employees redundant, and therefore cannot afford this purchase. Mr Jackson advised that it will be a one-off capital expenditure, and is confident that the site will in future cover its costs and produce a small return. The five options for the site set out two years ago by Norfolk CC had not shown a predetermined need to remove the runway; under current proposals from County Councillor Cliff Jordan it will definitely be removed, subject to planning consent. A key issue for Coltishall will be increased traffic through the village, particularly if runway aggregate is transported by road for use on the Northern Distributor Route. It was suggested to Mr Jackson that Norfolk CC should consider compensation for the village in the form of funds to purchase land as a car park, to alleviate congestion in High Street, combat negative effects to local businesses of increased through traffic, and improve road safety.

There was anger that there had been no public consultation over the purchase of the base. Any consultation begun now will be too late to influence the decision to purchase, and as no business plan has been presented by Norfolk CC for its future use, and there appears to be no fall-back plan, the airfield could end up as an expensive wasteland like Watton.

Councillors voiced concerns about control of development on the base being solely in the hands of Norfolk CC, of the history of flooding on the site, and that insufficient details for the future of the base were given by Mr Giddy due to time constraints.

It was **agreed** that an extraordinary meeting would be convened to discuss this issue in greater detail, when better information about future plans is available.

Standing Orders resumed.

Police report May 2012

Four crimes were recorded : 1 theft, 1 harassment, 1 taking of vehicle, 1 burglary. Police warned against opportunistic crimes, advising householders to ensure valuables are not on show and that houses are secured before leaving the premises. Youths had been reported jumping off Horstead bridge.

Speedwatch Two sessions were planned in April, one of which was cancelled due to bad weather. The other, in great Hautbois Road recorded no speeding. Two were planned for June, one of which was cancelled, and the second in Station Road recorded one case of speeding.

6. Correspondence received

1. The Bure Navigation Trust meeting is on 7th July 2012 at Burgh next Aylsham. It had been agreed at the May meeting to make a donation to the Trust; councillors **agreed** a token £50.00 payment as the budgeted donations for this year had already been allocated.
2. Norfolk RCC AGM is on 11th July 2012 at the Dereham office.
3. Part-night lighting is to be introduced in Norfolk. Lights at Hancock Close will be turned off between midnight and 5am. Residents have no objections.
4. A complaint had been received that cars parked near the War Memorial obscure the view of motorists turning out of Bakery Court. The matter was reported to Highways, but as the cars are legally parked no action would be taken.
5. A drop-in session to inform of plans for two wind turbines on the Scottow Estate will be held at the Rugby Club at North Walsham Road on 10th July 2012.
6. The New Homes Bonus, a central government scheme, will produce a payment to Coltishall of £2840 for two affordable homes and one other house built in Coltishall in the last three years.
7. Norfolk Constabulary reported that they had investigated an untaxed car causing an obstruction in Rectory Road. It has now been taxed, and was not found to be causing an obstruction at the time of their visit. If access to driveways is obstructed action would be taken. A letter to the Chief Constable will be sent pointing out that this vehicle is causing an obstruction at busy times, especially to buses entering and leaving Rectory Road. Double

- yellow lines have been discussed, but would take some time to implement.
8. Norfolk Constabulary invited nominations for their Safer Community awards.
 9. The Beyond Green team proposes a development of circa 3,500 homes adjoining Old Catton, Beeston, Spixworth and Sprowston. Parish and Town Councils are invited to a presentation on 26th July 2012 at Thorpe Lodge.
 10. Peter Croot had supplied a synopsis of trees planted in Coltishall to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The Broadland Tree Wardens meeting had been held in Coltishall. Ancient trees have been recorded in a published book; further details are available from Peter Croot.
 11. Norfolk Playing Fields AGM is on 19th July 2012 at Cringleford.

7. Finance report to date

Payments since last meeting

Broadland DC – dog bin	151.84
Friends of Coltishall clock	100.00
Norfolk ALC – How Hill course, Peter Croot	15.00
Abbey Memorials- War Memorial renovation	5010.00
Abbey Memorials – Jubilee plaque	250.00
Allotments account – taps	304.75

Receipts since last meeting

Coltishall RG and VH Charity – ground rent	40.00
--	-------

Current account as at 2nd July 2012 19988.35

Deposit account as at 2nd July 2012 4815.17

Total at Bank 24803.52

Payments due this meeting

Ann Watson – Speedwatch expenses Jan- June	7.00
Colt & Horstead Youth Forum – Jubilee	100.00
J B Elvy – Salary June-July	909.82
Expenses May-June	24.65
Total payments due	1041.47

It was **agreed** that all payments should be made, proposed Keith Childerhouse, seconded Doreen Snelling, unanimous.

8. To consider planning applications

There were no objections to :-

Application 627665 321736 Continued siting of wind monitoring mast, off Church Street, Sco Ruston

Application 20120820. 12 White Lion Road, reinstatement of two upper floor windows (listed building)

A consultation document showed alternative sites for future development, one of which is Rectory Road. At 2.56 hectares it could support 50-75 homes. Local residents have been advised of this consultation by letter from the Parish Council.

Standing Orders were suspended. There have been three attempts in the past 36 years to build on this site; Norfolk County Council had advised against development because of the dangers from the narrow road. A new development would result in many more vehicles, all exiting from the North Walsham road junction, which is already dangerous. Services would have to be installed, and there are implications for the school and the doctors' surgery. At a recent meeting at Broadland DC

attended by Robert Watson and Doreen Snelling it was suggested by Broadland DC's planners that no more than 20 new homes were needed in Coltishall and Horstead. It is thought that sufficient land exists to satisfy this estimate without extending the existing development boundary. One previously identified potential site at Jordan's yard is not now considered viable. Despite assurances from the owners and developers of the proposed site at Rectory Road, no business plan has been forthcoming. Without this no informed comment can be made, but the submission date for comment is 6th August 2012.

Standing Orders resumed.

9. War Memorial

At a previous meeting a majority of parishioners wanted the lettering repainted as it was originally. A letter to the War Memorials Trust asking for a grant was under consideration. It was **agreed** to commission repainting as soon as a reply had been received.

10. To adopt the new Code of Conduct

Norfolk ALC had supplied a draft Code of Conduct, which had been sent to all Councillors for consideration. Broadland DC had subsequently indicated that parishes should adopt its Code of Conduct in preference. After discussion it was **agreed** to adopt Broadland's version in line with other parishes. Interests forms had been given to all Councillors.

11. Village centre parking

All efforts to find an unused area in the centre had proved fruitless leaving the Upper Common as the only possible site at present. Councillors were asked to respect other's views when discussing this contentious matter. A meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Commons Trustees had taken place, when the problems of village parking had been fully discussed. The Trustees understood the issues, and had accepted that a solution would be advantageous, although it was believed that legal constraints would have to be considered. In subsequent correspondence the Trust agreed to enter into discussions on the matter.

Standing Orders were suspended. After discussions, Robert Watson presented a draft proposal to be sent to the Trust as a formal request that the Trust consider making the area currently used for permissive parking a permanent formalised car park, and consider possible limited extension of that area. All **agreed** to this proposal; Michael Spinks abstained from the vote as a member of the Commons Trust. Robert Watson presented a further proposal that a letter be sent to all local businesses suggested that they form a voluntary committee, and appoint a representative to attend Parish Council meetings to advise councillors and any other interested parties of concerns and issues businesses may have. This proposal was unanimously **agreed**.

Standing Orders resumed.

12. To consider the tree survey recommendations

A meeting had been held with the Tree Wardens Peter Croot and Brian Abbs to discuss remedial action as recommended in the survey. Brian Abbs will deal with all minor work, but a specialist will be required for major work. Councillors were advised that this should be done as soon as practicable for insurance and safety reasons; unanimously **approved**. The clerk had requested the Girl Guides Association to trim back overhanging branches opposite the Railway Tavern. The work is scheduled for this week.

13. Highways report

There was concern that Highways had not strimmed the splays at the North Walsham Road/Rectory Road junction, although the grass around the signposts had been cut. Garden Guardians had cut the verge as instructed but the machine could not reach this area. Michael Spinks confirmed that this area was the responsibility of Highways. A letter will be sent to Highways protesting at the poor standard of work.

Two residents had complained that legally-parked vehicles in High Street in the vicinity of the War Memorial obstruct visibility for cars exiting residences or pulling out into the stream of traffic. The residents will make representations to Highways.

14. Any other business

It was noted that the bridleway at Kings Road is overgrown, as is the bridleway leading to the Post Office.

It had been established that the parking warden employed by the King's Lynn company works out of Yarmouth. He will respond to complaints about illegal parking and will also make spot checks if passing through the village.

15. Public participation pursuant to Standing Order 58; reports from District and County Councillors

James Carswell informed the meeting that the decision to purchase the airfield site was made by Norfolk County Council Cabinet, not on a vote by the entire council following a full debate. There could therefore not be full council support. He confirmed that certain information is confidential until the sale is complete. He believed that Norfolk CC should engage fully with communities, respect the heritage of this site, and ensure that appropriate employment opportunities are created there for young people. Residents of surrounding villages must make their views known in writing about the lack of consultation and information on plans for its future development. Coltishall will be affected by increased traffic, much of which will use the Hautbois Road despite signage. This road is not suitable for heavy vehicles, is dangerous in winter, and the bridge is too weak. James Carswell welcomed the suggestion of a dedicated meeting for local parishioners, and recommended that Cabinet members, Keith Simpson MP and Mr Giddy be invited to explain their positions. A resident of Badersfield pointed out that, although some speakers at this meeting were vocal in their opposition to the Norfolk CC purchase, they did not represent the community.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting on **Monday 3rd September 2012** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.