

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall 7th January 2013

Present

Chairman Robert Watson, Vice-Chairman Mike Warren, Doreen Snelling, John Harding, Michael Spinks, Sue Brodie, Keith Childerhouse, Mark Rischmiller, Dave Smith. Also in attendance County Councillor James Carswell, District Councillor Alan Mallett.

1. Apologies

Robert Watson regretted that he must leave the meeting early, his place to be taken thereafter by Vice-Chairman Mike Warren. Mr Mallett must also leave early.

Robert Watson advised that he had been invited to represent the Council on the Norfolk Association of Local Council's Executive Committee. This is to be seen as a reflection of the good work of this Council and its clerk; with the agreement of Councillors he will accept.

2. Mr Norman Evans, Chairman of Belaugh Parish Meeting was welcomed to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council 5th November 2012

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

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

None.

5. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Robert Watson, John Harding and Doreen Snelling declared an interest in the Good Neighbour Scheme.

6. Dispensations

Dispensations were granted to all Councillors in respect of their interest in setting the precept. All completed and signed the necessary papers, to be held on file by the clerk.

7. Solar Farm

Standing orders were suspended. Mr Norman Evans was invited to address the meeting. He explained that the application submitted to North Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council for a 30 hectare solar farm at Belaugh had been withdrawn by the applicant via its agent Pike Solar. The site lies between the Bure Valley Railway and the Coltishall boundary. Residents of Belaugh are not against solar energy per se, but objected to this application on visual, ecological and topographical grounds. Some 200 metres of ancient hedging would be removed to create access points, and all construction traffic would travel via Coltishall. The site would be bounded by fencing with CCTV, lighting and alarms. Concerns were voiced that delaminating panels will allow chemicals to wash into groundwater. North Norfolk DC and Broadland DC refused the application in its present state, giving one year in which to resubmit in a more appropriate form. North Norfolk DC objected on several points, but as Broadland DC appeared to have a more benign view of the application it is thought that a new submission might move the site further into Broadland DC's area. The site would effectively be a brownfield site when the solar panels are decommissioned, perhaps opening the way to a housing development. Under the Joint Core Strategy sites like these are generally approved unless there is a compelling reason to refuse them. An Environmental Impact Assessment, originally refused by the District Councils, may be implemented for any resubmission.

Mr Evans was thanked for his comprehensive overview of the current situation. Standing orders resumed.

8. Police report, Safer Neighbourhood report, Speed Watch report

There were two recorded crimes : one common assault, and one theft from shops and stalls. Police focussed on theft over the Christmas and New Year period, and promised a clamp-down on alcohol-related offences during that period. The next SNAP meeting is on 14th January 2013 at The Jubilee Family Centre in Aylsham.

Four Speedwatch sessions were planned up to the end of December, but only two took place. There were four motorists recorded as exceeding the speed limit in Wroxham Road, and one in Great Hautbois Road. Two sessions are planned in January.

9. Correspondence received

1. David Smith had tendered his resignation due to pressure of work. Councillors reluctantly accepted, and thanked him for the work he had done during his time in office.
2. Broadland DC had advised of changes to Council Tax Support scheme. It will make up the shortfall of 10% in the Government grant in 2013-14, but the Parish Council must consider the implications for future years. It was **agreed** that the precept for 2013-14 should remain at the 2012-13 level.
3. Natural England advised that ash dieback is a notifiable disease and all instances must be reported. Useful information can be found on the Woodland Trust website.
4. Garden Guardian had supplied quotations for grounds maintenance and verge cutting for the forthcoming season. Grounds maintenance is £3153.50 + VAT (no increase on 2012-13), and verge cutting is £941.00 + VAT, a 2.5% increase on 2012-13. The quotations were **accepted**.
5. Norfolk County Council announced a £100,000 highways improvement fund. John Harding will look into the possibilities for Coltishall.
6. The British Legion thanked the Council for renovating the War Memorial.
7. Broadland District Council recommended the Council formulate a Community Emergency Plan, and will run a workshop on 22nd January 2013. John Harding would work alongside a councillor from Horstead, if Horstead Parish Council so wish. The clerk will write to suggest collaboration on a joint broad strategy. The Village Hall is already the evacuation site for the school.
8. Broadland Youth Advisory Board has two funding schemes; details given to Mike Warren.
9. Trees growing into power lines at Great Hautbois were trimmed by UK Power Networks in consultation with Peter Croot.
10. The Local Development Framework on Minerals Site Specific Allocations and the Waste Site Specific Allocations were both submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10th December 2012. The hearing session for the former is on 26-28th March 2013 and on 9-11th April 2013 for the latter. Main documents are available online, at the District Council Offices, and can be viewed at the library.

10. Finance Report To-date

Payments since last meeting

Keith Childerhouse – changing-rooms window	180.00
British Legion – wreath	16.50

Receipts since last meeting

VAT refund	2194.60
Broadland DC – recycling	663.49

Bank accounts as at 7th January 2013

Current account	18307.72
Deposit account	10956.37
Total at bank	29264.09

Donation requests

Requests received were discussed, and Councillors felt unable to support those outside the parish. They had previously agreed to support the Good Neighbour Scheme, as it had needed urgent funding

for insurance cover. As this had been provided by a donation from the fete, Councillors **agreed** that a donation should be made from the 2013-14 budget. It was also **agreed** that £250 should be given to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, £250 to North Walsham Area Community Transport, and £1000 to Coltishall PCC towards grass cutting costs. A request from The Marlpit would be deferred until the new financial year.

Payments due this meeting

Garden Guardian – grounds maintenance	3184.20
Garden Guardian – verge cutting	1101.60
J B Elvy – salary December – January	909.82
J B Elvy – expenses November – December	29.20
Total payments due	5224.82

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

11. Rectory Road proposals

No further communication had been received from the developers, and no applications had been received from Broadland DC.

12. Clothes Bank

The Bag-to-School scheme operated at the primary school produced circa £500 per ton, with two collections per year. Recycling rates from Broadland DC were £54 per ton, a significantly lower rate, although collections were weekly. Mark Rischmiller suggested that the Parish Council could work with the school to capitalise on higher rates. The revenue could be donated to the school, or a proportion donated to the school. Collection and storage of clothes could be a problem. Mark Rischmiller will make further enquiries prior to next meeting.

It was **agreed** to sign the Recycling Agreement from Broadland DC for this year. The agreement may be ended with 21 days' notice.

13. Steps at cricket field

A letter had been written to Criterion Asset Management, advising them that the steps are in a dangerous condition and must be removed, and the Council will accept no responsibility for any accident, copy to Zurich Insurance. Councillors were concerned that the Council could still be liable, so Mike Warren will obtain quotations for fencing to prevent access.

14. Highways report

A water mains cap on Wroxham Road had been raised, and leaves had recently been cleared on one side. Traffic lights had been in operation for work on a drain cover.

15. New Councillors

An application had been received from Mr Mike Kirkham to join the Council. His CV had been circulated to all Councillors, and he gave a brief resume at the meeting. Mike Warren **proposed** that he be accepted as a Councillor, seconded Keith Childerhouse, unanimous. Mr Kirkham was duly co-opted, and invited to take his seat.

16. Any other business

Mark Rischmiller had met with two companies to discuss installation of a MUGA, and would meet with a third shortly. He will obtain drawings and costings for both a MUGA and adult-use exercise equipment.

A meeting is arranged for Monday 14th January to discuss the airfield site with Norfolk County Council. Standing orders were suspended. James Carswell reported that the key message to Cabinet must be consultation and engagement with affected communities, especially regarding transport issues. Without a business plan there can be no meaningful debate, although Norfolk CC has mentioned an investment of some £1.4 million in transport issues around this site.

19. Public participation

Mr Grey protested about a letter in the Marlpit, written by one of the editors, which he believed should not have been printed. Mr Grey had written several letters to the Marlpit, although none had been printed. He was concerned that other letters might also have been ignored, and that public opinion was not properly represented. He was reminded that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over The Marlpit.

Mr Tom Garrod was introduced as the prospective Conservative candidate to replace James Carswell when he leaves the County Council. Mr Garrod currently works at County Hall in Children's Services, and is a County Councillor in Great Yarmouth.

James Carswell wished all present a happy New Year, and remains our County Councillor until 3rd May. He would be sad to leave Coltishall, which he regards as one of the best parishes in Norfolk. Although the solar farm application has been withdrawn, he warned that the parishes should remain watchful, and consider all developments very carefully. He noted that the Chief Executive of Norfolk County Council is standing down in favour of someone with more commercial experience, who can better deal with the reduced grant funding from the Government.

Gritting of the Great Hautbois Road remains an issue, and James Carswell will continue to make the case on our behalf. It is clear that vehicles will use this road as a short-cut despite signs to the North Walsham Road route. Cabinet members working on the airfield site must be lobbied to authorise the gritting of the Great Hautbois Road, and should also be persuaded to install a mini-roundabout at the Rectory Road/ North Walsham Road junction. He advised that the airfield site is designated for business use, not for an incinerator.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm. Next meeting is on Monday 4th March 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.