

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall 4th March 2013

Present

Chairman Robert Watson, Vice-Chairman Mike Warren, John Harding, Sue Brodie, Keith Childerhouse, Mark Rischmiller, Mike Kirkham

1. Apologies

Doreen Snelling and District Councillor Alan Mallett tendered their apologies, which were accepted.

2. Minutes of the Parish Council 7th January 2013

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. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

5. Co-option of Penny Loiez

Councillors had perused Mrs Loiez' curriculum vitae, and voted unanimously to invite her to join the Council. She took her seat, and was welcomed by Chairman Robert Watson.

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

There were four crimes during January : one ABH, one breach of a restraining order, one theft, and one common assault. There were no recorded crimes during February. An operation to combat burglaries at isolated farms and outbuildings, launched a year ago, had proved successful with a reduction of 28% in recorded crimes. Police continue to warn householders to guard against opportunistic burglaries. The next Safer Neighbourhood meeting will be on 15th April at the Jubilee Centre in Aylsham.

A letter was sent to Norfolk Constabulary protesting that no representative had attended Parish Council meetings for many months. Acknowledgements have been received, but thus far no reply. Robert Watson had spoken to Stephen Bett who advised that there is now more policing and less community work.

7. Correspondence received

1. Norfolk County Council has increased its highways fund to £1,000,000. The Council will look into the possibility of applying for funds for highways work in the village.
2. Norfolk Community Recycling Advisory Service aims to increase and promote recycling opportunities, including helping to set up a variety of schemes and offering training courses.
3. Major Bradshaw had requested a donation towards the maintenance of the church clock. As there is provision in the budget for this item, it was **agreed** that a donation of £220 should be sent.
4. Thanks for donations were received from the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Coltishall PCC and North Norfolk Community Transport.
5. The Citizens' Advice Bureau boards in North Norfolk, Yare Valley, Norwich and West Norfolk merged on 29th November 2012. Centres will continue to operate as before.
6. Broadland DC has received funding to promote the Green Deal to residents, who will receive £50 if they sign up to the scheme. It provides a finance mechanism to pay for energy efficiencies in their homes.
7. Broadland DC advised that the cost of servicing the dog waste bin in 2013-14 will be £156.00.
8. A consultation on the Growth Triangle Area of Rackheath, Old Catton/ Sprowston/Thorpe St Andrew for future development is scheduled for 5th March 2013.
9. The Broads Authority Strategic Priorities document was passed to Penny Loiez for perusal.

10. The Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity had requested financial assistance towards the cost of electrical work in the Village Hall. See Item 9. Finance.
11. Savills had requested the Parish Council's view on possible development on land adjacent to St John's Close. See Item 10.

8. Precept briefing note

The Clerk had distributed a briefing note explaining that the Government will reduce its grant to District Councils this year and in future years. Broadland DC will subsidise the shortfall this year, but householders' bills will increase in future years. It is important that the Parish Council is prudent in its financial dealings and ensures that it retains contingency funds. Broadland DC's handling of this matter was considered to be very poor.

9. Finance Report to date

Payments since last meeting

Ann Watson – Speedwatch expenses	8.00
Broadland DC – dog waste bin	55.84

N.B. Broadland DC had subsidised the dog waste bin service for this year only.

Receipts since last meeting

None.

Final VAT reclaim form for the financial year has been submitted for £814.30.

Bank accounts as at 4th March 2013

Current account	10919.06
Deposit account	10957.27
Total at bank	21876.33

Payments due this meeting

J B Elvy – salary February - March	909.82
J B Elvy – expenses January – February	82.09
Total payments due	991.91

It was **agreed** that all payments should be made, proposed John Harding, Keith Childerhouse, unanimous.

The delegated grass cutting agreement with Norfolk County Council has been extended for the new season; the payment will be £1027.18, an increase of 3.1%

The Allotments Committee has requested authorisation to install a new tap at a cost of £310.00.

They also requested approval to increase the rental to £12.00 per annum. It was **agreed** to approve both items.

The Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity had requested assistance to pay an invoice from Willow Electrical for £967.00 for electrical work at the Village Hall. It was **proposed** by Robert Watson, seconded by Mark Rischmiller, and unanimously agreed, to match-fund the Charity. A payment of £483.50 will be made. John Harding abstained from the vote as a Trustee of the Charity.

10. Rectory Road proposals

No further contact had been made by the developers, who may be awaiting the new Site Allocations document from Broadland DC due in the summer.

Standing Orders were suspended. A letter had been received from Savills acting on behalf of the owners of land adjacent to St John's Close, requesting the Council's views on the possible development of some 45 houses there. It had not been possible to arrange a meeting with Savills prior to the Council meeting, but Councillors are to meet with Savills and a representative of the landowners on 14th March. Broadland DC had received no formal approach from them, nor had any application been received. Several local residents expressed their concerns, viz : -

- Of the three potential access points to the site, St John's Close is the most narrow. The one opposite the Grove and that at Kings Road are somewhat wider.
- Splays from St John's Close to Rectory Road are poor resulting in inadequate visibility for

- traffic exiting the Close. Highways have previously been informed of this danger.
- Rectory Road is too narrow for existing traffic – two buses cannot pass without great difficulty.
 - Rectory Road pavement is too narrow; additional traffic will increase the risk to pedestrians, especially schoolchildren.
 - Traffic congestion in St John's Close at school start- and end-times is already at a dangerous level. This combines with patients attempting to visit the surgery to produce a highly hazardous situation. Any development will significantly increase the risk of serious accident.
 - Drivers using St John's Close and Rectory Road persist in ignoring both the speed limits and parking regulations, notwithstanding the evident danger to both schoolchildren and the elderly. The Speedwatch Team is precluded by the Police from running sessions in this area .
 - Additional development would place a strain on local facilities.
 - Broadland DC identified Coltishall and Horstead as requiring no more than 20 new properties. Should this development and the earlier proposals for Rectory Road go ahead, there would be circa 100 new households, all using Rectory Road. The need for such a high number of dwellings should be questioned.
 - Brownfield sites such as Jordan's (already included in the Site Allocations document) should be preferred over agricultural land, especially that outside the settlement limit.

It was pointed out that the Parish Council had no prior notice of this potential development, and will make every effort to represent the views of parishioners to the agents. The suggestion from Savills that new allotments could be provided alongside the development was regarded as little more than a sweetener. The meeting was reminded that there is now a presumption in favour of development. A robust defence of this open land should be prepared prior to the meeting with Savills and the owners on 14th March 2013. As soon as information is available on any formal application a public meeting will be arranged. **Standing Orders resumed.**

11. Planning

There was no objection to Application 20130043, 14 Kings Road, rear conservatory.

In circulation :-

1. Application 20130175, 7 Westbourne Road, two storey extension, single rear extension
2. Application 20130136, Hernes Farm, Frogge Lane, Gt Hautbois, conversion of agricultural buildings to one residential dwelling
3. Application 20121688, Frogge Lane, Gt Hautbois, conversion of agricultural barn to residential dwelling, erection of cartshed garage with storage above. Subsequent amended plans taking the form of revised elevations, omission of cartshed, and reduction in curtilage.
4. Application 20130210, Railway Tavern, 7 Station Road, change of use from public house to 2 semi-detached dwellings

Also application to North Norfolk District Council for two wind turbines each with maximum blade tip height of 126.5 metres high together with substation and control building, access tracks and other infrastructure, Scottow Estate, land off Potspoon Hole, North Walsham Road. Broadland DC was consulted as a neighbouring District Council. **Standing Orders were suspended.** Local residents were angered that they had not been informed by either District Council of the application, despite the proximity of their homes to the proposed turbines. They considered the turbines to be unsuitable for this location on grounds of safety to aircraft and birdlife, the environmental impact, and the adverse effect on wildlife. The turbines will be transported through the village centre, causing great disruption to parishioners and through traffic, and the long-term effect on nearby residents and to a local economy highly dependent on tourism is likely to be great. The Parish Council has lodged its objection to the application on grounds of size, visual and ecological impact, and safety to aircraft. **Standing Orders resumed.**

12. Clothes Bank

The rates received by the Parish Council are very poor in comparison with those obtained by the school. Due to the logistical problems of storing collected clothes at the school, it was **agreed** that the current arrangements should continue until suitable storage can be found.

13. Steps at cricket field

The new owner of the Railway Tavern intends installing a screen to shield her property from the cricket field, and advised that the steps to the property are to be removed forthwith. Councillors accepted that a risk of accident remained, and that a fence should be installed to prevent access to the bank. Quotations had been sought; it was **agreed** that fencing identical to that used at the play area should be installed at a cost of £892.25, funds to be found within the budget for this year.

14. R A F Coltishall

Keith Childerhouse and Mike Warren had attended a briefing where it was confirmed that Norfolk County Council has completed the purchase of the remainder of the base. A business plan will be available in May/June. A project manager has been appointed, there are plans to conserve the heritage of the site, and £1m has been allocated for infrastructure. It is hoped that part of this fund will be used to improve highways in Coltishall. As soon as the business plan is available, the Council will insist on a public consultation and full engagement with the village to ensure that local views are heard and taken into consideration. Our MP, County and District Councillors will be requested to attend to answer local concerns. Highways will also be asked for a full and frank engagement with the public to ensure that the poor handling of the prison development is not repeated.

15. Highways report

A damaged water main cover near the Kings Head, and one at Station Road were both reported to Highways. Fencing installed along the footpath in St James has narrowed the path. It is currently very muddy, and the landowner will be traced to ask if bark could be put down to make it passable.

16. Any other business

None.

17. Public participation

The traffic bottleneck at the junction of Rectory Road and Church Street was again discussed. Many representations have been made to Highways and to the Police. We are informed that the vehicles in question are not committing an offence although they are undoubtedly causing considerable difficulties for traffic, in particular buses. Appeals have been made to the resident concerned with little success. An application for double yellow lines can be made, but would take circa three years to implement if it were approved.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm. Next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 15th April 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors wished to pass their most sincere sympathies to John Harding on the sad passing of Wendy. She will be greatly missed.