

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall 1st September 2014

Present

Vice-Chairman Mike Warren, John Harding, Penny Loiez, Michael Spinks, Doreen Snelling, Keith Childerhouse, County Councillor Tom Garrod, District Councillor Alan Mallett, PC Greig Shepherd and four parishioners. Tim Edmunds from Norfolk County Council attended to speak on item 13, the former RAF base.

1. Apologies

Mark Rischmiller, Mike Kirkham, tendered their apologies, which were accepted. Sue Furness had missed three previous Parish Council meetings, so councillors voted with one abstention not to accept her apologies for this meeting.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Doreen Snelling and Michael Spinks declared an interest in The Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 7th July 2014

Accepted as a true record and signed by Vice-Chairman Mike Warren.

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

None.

5. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Mr Mallett would attend a meeting on Thursday 4th September to consider the Development Plan Document. The owners of the St Johns site had appealed the decision not to include this site in the document, and had reduced the proposal from 45 dwellings to 30, but Mr Mallett thought it unlikely that Broadland DC would change their decision to adopt Rectory Road and the scrapyards as their preferred options.

The Service and Efficiency Committee proposed to abolish the councillors' IT allowance of £321. Councillors should use email wherever possible, and from June 2015 iPads or similar will be issued to all councillors.

Recent flooding under the Hoveton railway bridge caused a 3 mile diversion and great inconvenience. Highways had failed to adequately address this ongoing problem; a letter to Tom Garrod, copied to Nigel Dixon would be followed up.

Tom Garrod had emailed Justin leMay concerning the flooding but had thus far received no reply. He would follow up, and request a site meeting.

He accepted the point raised in a recent letter from the Parish Council requesting that we be informed of developments on the RAF base before they are announced in the EDP. He would ask the Leader of Norfolk CC for a response.

The budget process is beginning shortly. Government spending will decrease up to 2020, so the County Council must work within the constraints imposed by reduced grants. Efficiencies have been ongoing since 2009 and there is now no option but to reduce services. A council tax rise is proposed. Penny Loiez asked that council tax bands should be revised as they are no longer appropriate to current house values.

These are set by the Valuation Office, not by County Councils.

Standing orders were suspended. Tim Edmunds said that under two successive governments many middle-managers have been lost, and under the last government many ring-fenced grants were removed resulting in the loss of many staff. A pie-chart is available on the web-site showing how £1.5m was spent. Financial pressures are enormous, and difficult decisions must be made. Standing orders resumed.

6. Police report and Speedwatch

PC Greig Shepherd reported that there had been several crimes during June and July; three burglaries, two domestic incidents, two thefts, one attempted break-in, one common assault, one criminal damage, one

harassment (no further action), and one making off without payment. Two incidents related to Social Services re a child. Catalytic converters are being targeted, and tools stolen from vans. Flooding had caused considerable problems for the Police and Highways. Crime has increased during the holidays, as usual. The next SNAP meeting is on 14th October 2014.

Only one Speedwatch session took place during July due to lack of volunteers, with one vehicle recorded as exceeding the speed limit. From January to June 26 sessions were held, 18 letters were sent. Wroxham Road and Ling Way are the worst, although numbers have reduced. Parked cars on yellow lines at the Post Office reduce speeding albeit they are illegal.

Mr Beardmore had asked Highways for permission to plant small shrubs on the grass verge outside his house to deter turning vehicles and parking. The Council had no objections to his proposal; the verge is a visibility splay so vehicles should not park there.

7. Correspondence

- a. The Broads Authority Site Specific Local Plan was adopted on 22nd August.
- b. Mrs Binns had complained about a bonfire on the allotments on a warm Saturday afternoon. Rachel Thrussell agreed that the timing was unreasonable, and she would ensure it did not happen again. The clerk wrote to Mrs Binns.
- c. Broadgrace Church asked the Parish Council for support for plans to obtain grants to complete work on public rooms. Councillors voted to support the work, Doreen Snelling and Michael Spinks abstained.
- d. Norfolk County Council reported that the funding gap forecast of £3.8m in February had grown by £13.7m to £17.5m. The period of austerity will continue for the next five years, and Council Tax may increase. The full report is available from the clerk.
- e. Broadland DC will hold a workshop on the future of recycling bins on 14th October. The clerk to attend.
- f. Norfolk Accident Rescue Service requested a donation. To be discussed in January.

8. Finance

- a. Financial report. Copies of the budget to date and bank reconciliation had been sent to all councillors.
- b. Mazars had completed their audit of the Parish accounts and were satisfied that they are in order. Notices will be placed in notice-boards.
- c. Doreen Snelling had confirmed that the Charity insurance includes legal cover, so membership of Norfolk RCC will remain as Silver.

Payments since last meeting

None.

Receipts since last meeting

None.

Bank accounts as at 1st September 2014

Current account	11966.39
Deposit account	30666.68
Total at bank	42633.07
Outstanding cheque	36.50
Total	42596.57

Payments due this meeting

Mike Warren – travel	27.30
Parish expenses	113.34
JB Elvy – salary July	458.03
Mazars – audit	240.00
Broadland DC – dog bin annual charge	160.16
Total	998.83

Payments approved, **proposed** Keith Childerhouse, **seconded** John Harding, unanimous.

9. Planning

There were no objections to

Application 2014/1114. St James Barn, The Street, conversion of south-east end of barn to lounge, bedroom and ensuite, additional bedroom, lean-to dining-room, vehicle shelter.

Application BA/2014/0231/HOUSEH. Bells Grove, 4 White Lion Road, rear kitchen, side bedrooms, front car port, replacement windows, front porch.

Applications BA/2014/0032/TCA and BA/2014/0036/TCA. High House, Wroxham Road, tree works.

Application BA/2014/0256/HOUSEH. Sunny Bank, 41 Wroxham Road, ground floor extensions, first floor and mezzanine alterations.

In circulation

Application 2014/1385. Screening opinion for proposed 40-50 Mw solar PV farm, former RAF Coltishall. For information purposes only at this stage.

Application 2014/1365. 49 Church Street, demolition of garage, replacement garage and studio workshop.

Application 2014/1288. Chang Thai, 41 Church Street, proposed external staircase.

10. Village sign

The clerk had contacted Mrs Howett of the WI to suggest renovation of the village sign. She is making enquiries to locate a suitable craftsman for a quotation.

11. Hard-standing at Village Hall

Glass around the bottle banks is cleared as much as possible on a regular basis. Doreen Snelling advised the Charity's insurers that a sign has been drafted to warn against climbing on recycling banks, and there is a checklist to ensure safety checks are regularly carried out. Dissigns will be instructed to produce the sign. Concrete hard-standing may not be necessary if bins are removed due to lack of use following Broadland DC's decision to begin kerbside glass collection.

12. Flood template

Penny Loiez is working with the Horstead clerk to produce a community emergency plan to address all possible situations. Local skills and resources will be harnessed to provide places of safety, action triggers, emergency warden, communication tree et al.

13. RAF base, solar farm

Standing orders were suspended. Keith Childerhouse and Mike Warren attend Liaison Group meetings and receive reports. Information received has been generalised. Tim Edmunds reported on recent developments. The proposed solar farm has increased in size giving rise to concerns on location, the proximity to Ling Way, traffic. An exhibition is scheduled for mid-September at the Memorial Hall. This would connect to the Grid near the University. The scheme is very costly, with only legal costs being met by Norfolk CC. Currently, solar schemes not built by the end of March 2015 will receive a reduced grant, but it is hoped that this scheme will qualify. Removal of the aggregate is in abeyance pending the outcome of the solar farm application. A second application by Solarcentury at Potspoon would be smaller, linked to the Grid at Scottow, but may not be approved, as recent appeals concerning solar farms on Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land have been refused. This land is Grade 2. Norfolk Grid is almost at capacity due to off-shore and inshore generators.

Mr Edmunds apologised if the Council felt it was inadequately informed; Norfolk CC tried to disseminate information as soon as possible. There is a blue-print for the former RAF base, all enquiries are evaluated and promising potential tenants are interviewed. Norfolk CC enters negotiations to formulate planning submissions, and only when agreements have been signed and completed can information be made public. Vitromite is an ecologically sound company reprocessing glass into building products. It has a strong order book, and will initially employ 12 local employees with the intention of growing to 200 employees. It has reserved adjacent land for this purpose. Two other enquiries from the construction sector have been received, and two from the hydroponics industry. Mr Edmunds anticipates that the increase in traffic through the village will not exceed previous level when the base was operational, so no

money will be available for road enhancement in the village, nor will current on-street parking be removed. Several options for HGV movements from the base are being considered, and some roads severed when the base was built may be reopened. The next Liaison Group meeting will consider building stocks, housing schemes, and the conversion of the Officers' Mess by Norfolk CC's development partner Morgan Sindall. Mr Edmunds was thanked for attending the meeting and discussing the future of the base with councillors, and he left the meeting.

14. Girl Guides footpath

Sue Furness and Peter Croot had collected some affidavits from regular users of the path. It was **agreed** that the Council should seek to meet representatives from the Girl Guides to discuss the matter.

15. Notice-boards

An order has been placed, Mike Kirkham will take delivery, and Jeremy Hall will install them.

16. Allotments Tenancy Agreement and Constitution

An Allotments Committee meeting on 28th July **agreed** a new constitution, and a new tenancy agreement to be signed by all tenants. Paul Savory had obtained three quotations for printing the documents, and it was **agreed** to accept the lowest price of circa £30 plus travel expenses. PC Shepherd stressed that all thefts from allotments must be reported using 101 so Police can increase their presence in the area.

17. Bus shelter

Proposals for a new shelter will be held in abeyance until Sanders assure the Council that this route will not be withdrawn. Doreen Snelling has requested usage figures from Sanders, necessary for a grant application. Sanders have concerns about cars parked at the junction of Rectory Road and Church Street, and near the football ground. They were advised to write to the Council, the Police, and Highways for a solution to the problem. PC Greig Shepherd was asked to write to one of the vehicle owners. It was noted that the current shelter was gifted by the Sinclair family, and is on private ground.

18. Any other business

Mike Kirkham's notes on the need for community involvement in grant applications for a MUGA will be sent to the Marlpit for publication.

Michael Spinks reiterated the need for routes to the base to be gritted. The Liaison Group and the prison Governor will maintain pressure on Norfolk CC to add the Hautbois Road to the gritting schedule.

21. Public participation

Mr Savory was advised that the hearing loop has been installed and is working.

Mr Buck requested a dog bin at Seven Acres, as dog owners are throwing plastic bags of dog mess into the bushes. The clerk to contact Broadland DC.

Mr Savory requested that future agendas clearly show that meetings will be held in the lounge area of the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm. Next meeting is on Monday 3rd November 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm