

Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.30 p.m. At The Mess, St. Andrews School, North Lopham

Attendance and apologies

David Hammond(Chair), Julie Crossley (Clerk), Robert Carley, Loraine Makowski Heaton Lesley Bird, Jan Tate, Mick McManus, Dawn Eagle

12 Members of the Public were in attendance

Declarations of interest None received

Introduction and Presentation by Jim Waters for Neighbourhood plan

DH gave an outline of Neighbourhood Plans and advised the meeting that Jim Waters was there to advise the meeting about Neighbourhood plans and how they impact on the community. He suggested anyone wishing to become involved in the NP should give their details to **JLC or LMH**. He read out the criteria of what a Neighbourhood Plan could be from the Local Plan. **DH** then formally introduced Jim Waters and invited him to address the meeting.

Jim Waters explained the reasons behind Kenninghall deciding to undertake their own Neighbourhood Plan at this time and gave the history in this regard. He set out the reasoning for Local Neighbourhood Planning and also all of the steps required to prepare a neighbourhood development plan. Both documents will be on the NL website in due course.

If the plan is to proceed it was felt a committee of 8-10 would be needed. Mr Waters estimated that from start to finish it should take 9-12 months to complete. That it is possible to obtain a grant from the District Council which in this current year was £7,000 but this may increase in the future.

JT raised concern whether the NP would mean local views would be given more standing as historically objections have been ignored.

Mrs Birchall asked whether in the meantime developers could build without consultation which it was agreed they could.

Laurie Farren Bradley queried whether North and South Lopham might address the scheme together but SL would have to decide how they wished to proceed.

Jim Waters felt that the planning process would be simpler if the NP were adopted. BDC would have to take the NP into account.

A question was raised about whether an Ombudsman was available if things went wrong but it was felt that this was unlikely to happen as BDC had to rubber stamp and approve each step of the process. So it is agreed as it progresses.

The Parish Council will consider in due course whether they wish to proceed with production of a neighbourhood plan.

Website – The NALC has confirmed that the site is switched on as northlophampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk and Andy Gray is currently doing the administration, There will be a meeting next week with **DH** and **JLC** to load on historic data if possible and hopefully the site will be fully operational by mid February.

Biomass letter response – **DH** advised that a letter had been written to BDC regarding the traffic route post construction. It appears no Environmental Impact Assessment was done. The response from BDC confirms that post construction phase the traffic will be able to travel via North Lopham but will need to adhere legally to the 7.5 tonne limit. The PC have been advised that it would be a matter for the Police and NCC to enforce. Jim Waters commented on issues which had arisen during the planning application for the Plant with regard to an EIA.

DH has proposed to Kenninghall and South Lopham that a joint letter is drafted to the local farmers regarding their responsibilities when hiring contractors concerning the impact and the extent of farm vehicles travelling through the village as many drivers appear to have little regard to the residents. This is something that

should be addressed and resolved.

The question was raised as to whether there are time restrictions which there are but **MM** felt that farmers should be able to do their job when weather conditions allow, regardless of time.

School Signs – DH advised that a new “20 mph when lights flash” sign is now available to enhance existing flashing beacons at a total cost of £450 and that 50% of the cost has been applied for under the Partnership Scheme. Whether the bid has been successful will be known mid February 2015. **JT** was asked to follow this up and liaise with Westcotec if the bid was approved.

DH had also approached County Hall for a separate sign wand for the occasions when Heather Self is on leave or unwell so that the school can operate the beacons. It was agreed that Heather has done a marvellous job over many years as the village School Crossing Patrol.

Primrose Lane - JLC reminded the meeting that South Lopham had approached NLPC to share the cost of a clearance of overhanging branches and brambles in Primrose Lane. There had been some concern about private vehicles using the lane to get to South Lopham but there has been no recent evidence and it was agreed that we should proceed with this shared cost of £600 (£300 each Council). Proposed by **LB** seconded by **DE**.

Footpath to end of village – Enquiries had been made with Gary Overland NCC Highway Engineer and **JT and DH** had met with him but the cost of a path (crushed cinder not tarmac) for the section from The Bull to The Cherry Tree junction would be £11,000 which even if a Partnership bid of 50% had been successful the cost is prohibitive. It is something to consider for next year unless the funds can be raised in another way.

Purchase of phone box – The PC has been approached by BDC Pride Officer to purchase the telephone box for £1.00. BT will maintain the electric for the light supply but the PC will be responsible for maintaining the box and changing the light bulb once purchased.. It is listed and the PC will insure it as an asset. BT will also provide us with £75 worth of paint free of charge. Purchase proposed by **JT** and seconded by **MM**.

There was a brief discussion about whether the defibrillator might be sited there once the funds are available to purchase this. The Kings Head auction raised over £1500 some of which may be put towards the purchase of this. **DH** has also been on to the Heartbeat Trust who will contribute up to £500.

DH asked **MM** if he would be prepared to follow this up and deal with the phone box moving forward and handed him the paperwork.

Path to Village Hall - DH advised there was no update as James Alston had advised he would be in touch but it was noted that the field has been sown to the edge. **DH** has however emailed Beth the Pride Officer at BDC who is looking at activities for younger people and will write to Mr Alston regarding access to the only play area at the Village Hall.

Planning Applications

JLC updated the meeting to advise that BDC had approved the Planning at Tim Barn and Common Farm and that further plans had been reviewed by the PC for 2 properties adjacent to 24 The Street and further plans have been received for a property to the rear of 29 and 31 Kings Head Lane and Solly's Piece.

Finance

JLC updated the meeting on expenditure for November and December and noted balances on account were £2705.64 in the NS&I account and £693.61 in the current account.#

The precept is due and must be put in to BDC by 31st January 2015. A budget had been prepared and circulated. It was noted that a large saving could be made by the change of grass cutting and there has been an inclusion for elections costs and it was proposed the precept be increased by £200 from last year to £3,500 on top of which BDC are paying the grant of £166.00 x 2.

Any Other Business

North Lopham Charities - JLC read out a letter from the North Lopham Charities regarding vacancies.

David Hammond nominated Mike Cox and this was seconded by Dawn Eagle
Jan Tate nominated Tony Osler and this was seconded by Mick McManus
David Hammond nominated by Julie Crossley and this was seconded by Dawn Eagle.
JLC will write to the NLC to advise.

Questionnaire report - **LMH** noted that it had been proposed to prepare a more detailed report on the outcome of the village questionnaire but given that we may need another questionnaire in respect of the NP it was agreed to put this on hold, at present, One of the issues raised in the Questionnaire was implementation of a community hub for young and old and the possibility of utilising the village hall for this purpose. **LMH** had contacted Jenny Vere with regard to a meeting.

It was confirmed by Eileen Birchall that the hall is owned by the National Playing Field Association and administered by the Trustees.

Planning Applications - **LMH** suggested a way forward with viewing the plans might be that these are in 1 place and viewed by the Parish Councillors together on an agreed date and time. This might assist the PC as to what objections there might be and why. The PC agreed to test this and **JLC** will advise when the next set of plans come in. The PC was advised that SLPC has a designated planning councillor.

JLC advised that Mike Newby's funeral was to take place on 28th January at 12 noon at the Church. The Parish Council agreed to waive the fee for the plot.

JLC advised that Elaine Walters has asked for permission for a memorial bench in the cemetery. Mike Cox said the suggestion is that this be sited on a piece of ground where it would be difficult for burials. The PC had no objection and **JLC** will write to Elaine and advise her.

Village sign refurbishment - **DH** advised that with Mike Daly he will assist to refurbish the village sign which Mike Daly made for the village 30 years ago. There may be a small cost for paint.

Jan Tate tendered her resignation as Vice Chairman and the Chairman thanked her for all her hard work. |Jan will continue as a Parish Councillor. The appointment of Vice Chairman will be made at the next meeting.

Finally **DH** raised the issue of monthly meetings noting that aside from South Lopham we are one of the few Councils that has bi monthly meetings. It would not be expected that Councillors attend every monthly meeting but the workload has increased and therefore would be spread more evenly to avoid a backlog and be more effective. For further discussion in March.

The meeting closed at 21.30.

Signed.....

Dated.....