

MINUTES OF NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT
THE MESS, 12TH NOVEMBER 2014

1. Present: David Hammond (chairman), Jan Tate (Vice Chairman), Julie Crossley (clerk), Mick McManus, Lesley Bird, Dawn Eagle, Robert Carley, Loraine Makowski-Heaton.
6 Member of the public attended.

2. Declarations of Interest - none declared

3. Minutes from the PC meeting of the 10th September 2014 were agreed and signed

4. Matters Arising

(A) Extinguishment of Mr. Brunnings right of way.

DH. Order now served and Public Notices displayed on footpath. These expired on 24th October 2014. Current situation is that BDC have received 4 objections which may have to be referred to Secretary of State for written representations, hearing or enquiry.

(B) War Memorial

JLC confirmed that the cleaning of the Memorial had been finalised and they had repaired and replaced the Crown which had not been budgeted for but the final invoice not yet received. Estimate was £895 plus VAT.

(C) The Chapel/ Parish Plan

LMH reported on the questionnaires relating to the Chapel. Approx. 250 were handed out. 84 responded. 46 were in favour of the chapel being kept as a village asset. 33 were not in favour. 5 unsure. Of these 15 would be prepared to be in a working party, 19 would fund raise, 30 would volunteer to help run it. Those who were prepared to become involve4d were 8 in the 46-65 age range, 10 over 65 and 11 families with younger children. Some who said no to the idea of retaining chapel would volunteer to help with community hub. If the chapel were beyond reach, perhaps explore the village hall being utilised more and perhaps arrange a meeting with the village hall committee.

DH suggested a vote not to continue to pursue the chapel in view of the response. Proposed by JT and seconded by DE.

JLC/LMH to arrange meeting with village hall committee.

The Questionnaire highlighted a number of dislikes by resident's including

excess speed of vehicles & volume of traffic.

LMH also made reference to questions about a possible village plan. Affordable housing. Out of the 54 who responded it was thought that priority should go to local people. 25 were against. 23 residents wanted to assist with village plan & 43 did not. LMH read list of issues noted and a more detailed report will be prepared.

LMH had been in contact with Kenninghall PC and a meeting to be arranged with Jim Walters to discuss shared issue appertaining to a Village Plan. Again cost implications need to be considered and perhaps invite South Lopham to become involved. This needs further research. The greater amount of work that is done in advance by Pcs the greater saving on costs. A member of the public commented that Cringleford is in 4th year of a village plan. LMH/DH to arrange to meet with Jim Walters. Results of questionnaire to be reported in Newsletter with thanks to those who participated.

(D) Bottle Bank/ Recycling

JLC advised on recycling and change of ownership of the bottle bank and the need to encourage residents to continue to use this in preference to the black bins so that any profit remains in the Parish rather than go to the District Council. Posters to be circulated.

(E) Website

DH advised the Council on the planned website having been advised that Judith Farren-Bradley felt it was time to hand over to the Council. NALC to provide free website and Andy Gray will assist with setting up and administration issues. The intention will be to produce a "stand alone" interactive website although strict control will be required.

(F) Highways & Traffic Calming

DH updated the meeting on the Norfolk Partnership Plan and traffic calming measures. NCC has made £200K available for small improvement projects throughout the County. Some options have been considered but all are cost prohibitive. Any bids to be submitted by 31.01.15. Further options are being evaluated for consideration of the 50% grant.

Road Signs. DH reported he had site meeting with NCC Highways Engineer & that the 7.5 restriction signs on A1066 junction were correctly re-aligned. "No Site Traffic" signs now placed to north & south of village. It was agreed that new 30mph signs would replace old ones to north end of village. Discussion currently on going regarding enhancing School approach signs.

Flooding Following the flooding of The Street by War Memorial on 19th September BDC were contacted which resulted in street cleaning on 24th Oct. Drain clearance is carried out once a year.

Letter to Norfolk Constabulary response. A good response had been received to our letter and a traffic survey completed. This showed over a 6 day period at certain times, 5097 had passed through the village (north) of which 597 warranted prosecution. Subsequent speed controls have been carried out & a number of drivers warned or prosecuted. Further calming measures are anticipated with regard to 7.5 tonne restrictions.

Footpath to Village Hall. DH has had a discussion with James Alston (Estates) regarding a possible temporary footpath on the inside of the hedgerow to the Village Hall in order that children in particular could visit the play area there. Mr Alston stated that he would look into the possibility but currently is involved with another farmer on the use of this land. He will advise the Council when appropriate discussions are complete.

(G) Quiet Lanes. DH has liaised with NCC who stated that the Quiet Lanes Scheme had only ever been a "pilot" and that due to advertising & promotional costs it had been abandoned. Current QL designates remain.

(H) Pension. JLC

(I) Pond Clearance. Thanks to Eric Bird & DH for clearing all branches & twigs from the rear of pond

(J) Dog Signs Following a meeting with Steve Gardener (dog warden) BDC, we now have a number of new "advice" signs which will be displayed shortly in Jubilee, Primrose Lanes, Back Lane and outside School.

(K) Finance Report

JLC advised that there was £1820 in current a/c with payment to Saxon o/standing for memorial cleaning. Spending to date for financial year was £5250.47 and income. £5247.71.

BUDGET for 2015/16 last years precept was £3,300 anticipated spend was £4085.42 but this does not include potential May 2015 elections, cost shared with District and Gov. so to include £450 for election costs. Also consider cost of grass cutting. RGM have charged £98 per visit to cemetery but Groundscape new company have quoted £54 per cut, so almost half the cost. To further consider whether we and how much to budget for village plan. To be finalised and approved for January meeting.

Approval for donation of Royal British Legion Wreath. Approved

Approval to increase Grave reservations to £40.00. Approved

Approval of shared cost of wide cut and tidy up of Primrose Lane on hold until vehicle access addressed.

AOB. Message received from Janet Overton (NCC Community Speedwatch) whether there would be any interest in both North & South Lopham residents joining the volunteer Speedwatch programme. Enquiries to be made.