

North Lopham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2010 in the Methodist Schoolroom, North Lopham

1. **Attendance and Apologies:** Present were Brian Frith (Chair), Jan Tate (Vice-Chair), Heather Potter, Val Garnham, John Barwick, Mick McManus and Mike Cox (Clerk). Nine members of the public attended. Apologies received from Peter Coster (SLPC).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of meeting held 13th January 2010:** Minutes of last meeting approved; proposed Mick McManus seconded John Barwick. All agreed.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - a. Concerns over planning decisions – outcome of approaches to Breckland. The Clerk reported on his telephone conversations with Planning Dept.
 - b. Village Spring Clean 6th March – 25 volunteers turned out in excellent weather. Approx. 16 bags of rubbish were collected and the pond had a Spring Clean. Volunteers enjoyed refreshments at The Kings Head (courtesy of George and Angie) after the event. Particularly pleasing to see several new members of our community participating.
5. **Financial Report and Accounts for Payment:** Current A/C £1470.01 Deposit A/C £3612.74 (incl. interest £7.75).
 - a. Hire of Methodist Schoolroom - £20
 - b. Clerk's Salary and Expenses - due end of March - £225
 - c. It was agreed to make a donation of £25 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service
Proposed by Jan Tate that accounts be paid. All agreed.
6. **Planning Applications:**
 - a. 3AG/2010/0002/AG - R. Nunn – Agricultural building at Grange Farm
 - b. 3PL/2010/0073/F – C. Hart - erection of workshop at Ivydene, 11 The Green
 - c. 3PL/2010/0068/LU – M. Warner – replacement garage 77 The Street
 - d. 3PL/2010/0101/F – G. Estcourt – creation of 4 en-suite rooms etc at The Kings Head
 - e. Early discussion of Breckland proposals for minor changes to Settlement boundary: Just after the last meeting we had been informed of a meeting at East Harling regarding proposals for changes in the Settlement Boundary. The Chair was able to attend and made the point that in the 2008 consultation we asked for no changes. It was pointed out that most changes were very small and it was emphasised that opportunity for extensions, garages etc would not be altered by the proposals. A full consultation would be taken in April/May when formal responses would be made.
7. **Footways, Roads and Footpaths:**
 - a. Footway and drain clearance, including ditch on Tanns Lane: Contact has been made with Highways but, as we are all aware, Highways are struggling to cope with winter damage across the County. Jan Tate agreed to pursue the items to keep the jobs 'on the list'.
 - b. Claiming rights to the lanes to the west of 'The Street': The meeting with major landowners and David Mills, at which he explained the process and possibilities, took place in January. There was apparently no wish on the part of the landowners to 'Dedicate the Rights' as David Mills had suggested. At this point the meeting was adjourned to hear comments from members of the public. The meeting resumed and the Chair proposed that the evidence about use should be submitted to the Legal Department at County Hall to set the process of legal claim in motion. Show of hands: 3 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention. Motion carried.
 - c. CPRE funding for Litter Warden equipment and bursary: Lesley Bird had expressed an interest and was provided with the application form. There had been no other expressions of interest.
 - d. There was renewed concern over the poor visibility at 'Cherry Tree Corner' when emerging from Lopham Road. The owner of the hedge would be approached to see whether any improvements could be made.
8. **Developments for a 'safe play area' in village:** A letter had been written to Mr Jonathan Rednall asking whether land to the south of Primrose Lane opposite the School could be made available for this purpose. Clerk read a letter received from Mr Rednall stating that the land was part of his Entry Level Stewardship Scheme and as such he was not prepared to release the land from his tenancy agreement. The search for a suitable site will continue.

The Chair reported that comments made by Mr Rednall at the previous meeting had been discussed after the meeting. Mr Rednall had suggested that Mr Frith had 'gone over his head' to speak to the Duke of Norfolk on a previous occasion, but this had not been the case. 'The Council' referred to in correspondence was believed to be Norfolk County Council – not North Lopham Parish Council.

9. **Discussion of works to tidy Burial Ground & Churchyard:** The brick/flint wall between the Churchyard (behind the Church) and the burial ground was in a very poor state. It was suggested that Paul Wright be asked to submit an estimate to remove the surplus piles of soil and rubble and repair the wall. Proposed Jan Tate, all in favour.
Although it was appreciated that the piles of brick rubble in the 'orchard' on Church Road, were not the responsibility of either the Parish Council or the Church, it was agreed to try to get them moved by the owners. Offers of help were received if permission were to be given.
10. **Community Matters:** No report available from Village Hall meeting. George Estcourt (landlord Kings Head) had asked whether there was any mechanism for him to sponsor The Lophams News, but there was no known precedent for this.
11. **Correspondence:** Brian Frith referred to a letter from Mr Cosh regarding parking problems at the School. A draft letter to Mr Cosh was read to the Council. Jan Tate proposed that this be sent: all in favour.
12. **South Lopham Parish Council:** No-one available to attend the meeting in January, but Brian Frith drew attention to the next 'South Lopham Village Society' event – a musical evening with supper at the Village Hall on Friday 26th March.
13. **Items for next Agenda:** Next meeting is the AGM (to follow the Annual Parish Open Meeting, which will begin at 7 pm).
14. **Date & Time of next meeting:**
Annual Parish Open Meeting Wednesday 12th May 2010 starting at 7.00 pm to be followed immediately by the Parish Council AGM