

NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council AGM meeting held at 7.30 on Wednesday
9th September 2015 at The Mess. St Andrews School, North Lopham

Attendance and apologies

Present were: David Hammond, (Chair), Julie Crossley (Clerk), Mick McManus, Dawn Eagles, Robert Carley.

7 members of the public attended including Councillor Marion Chapman Allen of BDC and County Councillor, Stephen Askew from NCC.

DH announced that there have been 2 further solar farm applications, one on the Thetford Road and a second in North Lopham on land south west of Kings Head Lane. No further details known yet.

There were no apologies and no declarations of interest. July 2015 minutes were approved and signed.

1. Community Speed Watch

DH advised that CSW Co-ordinator, Rob Gerrett had been unable to attend but had provided a brief. The speed watch training took place on the 12th July and there are now 12 members on the watch and all the necessary documentation has been provided to Norfolk Constabulary. A rota has been produced by Ian and Caroline Trotter. Advisory signs have now been displayed in the village as required. There have been 5 sessions to date. On 13/8 6 vehicles exceeding speed limit, 27/8 1 vehicle, 1/9 none, 4/9 13 vehicles and 9/9 5 vehicles.

47 mph was the highest recorded speed. Offenders will receive a warning letter in the first instance and if they offend a second time they will get a strongly worded letter and would probably be targeted by the Police. The PC was asked what % of vehicles were private and the majority were with only 1 HGV recorded as exceeding the speed limit.

2. Traffic Calming

DH noted that the north end of the village is a bottle neck but fortunately to date there have been no injuries. Changes are taking place to the placement of signs and SLOW has now been painted on the road from Kenninghall and the North Lopham sign is being moved back toward Kenninghall with new 30 mph signs with "Think" above them being erected.

Rob Gerrett advised that in 2013 a Parish Councillor had a meeting with the Police Traffic Unit re the 30 mph repeater signs in the village which were either not in the right place or covered by vegetation and this had been passed to the Highway Engineer who was going to correct this but it was never carried out. This is now being rectified and any missing signs replaced. A prosecution could fail as a result of illegally placed signs.

It was felt that with the efforts made to date together with community speedwatch some of the traffic had slowed. Representation has been made by residents in The Green who were very concerned concerning heavy lorries and volume of traffic entering the village from Kenninghall and are forming an action group and an embryonic meeting had taken

place on 8th September to discuss how they could continue to try and further reduce speeding and remove HGV's over 7.5 tonne from travelling through the village. The environmental impact of such vehicles was seen as detrimental to a healthy lifestyle particularly when there was an alternative route.

It was felt that the road through North Lopham was never intended for the large volume of HGV's that now travel through the village, with the inherent road surface damage. This in turn causes a great deal of noise particularly by "empty" lorries.

DH advised that the Police, Norfolk County Council and Elizabeth Truss had all been written to following concerns by villagers. Discussion took place about alternative routes and Councillor **MM** felt that if traffic was diverted through Kenninghall then changes would need to be made by the school. Trees obscured vision and there were often parked cars at school times making passing difficult. **DH** said he would contact Kenninghall Parish Council regarding this.

A survey of HGVs had taken place over one week in July and it was found that on average a total of about 70, 30 tonne plus lorries had used the road, these mainly coming from and to Crown Milling. Councillor **MM** considered this was not the norm as he was often working outside and felt that 80 was unusually high.

3. Partnership Scheme

The Council has the opportunity to apply for 50% of the cost of a footpath at the north end of the village to make access safer for all. The cost is £11,500 plus £800 to move a telegraph pole but there is insufficient funds for the Parish Council to meet the other 50%. A letter of commitment has been circulated and there has been some response but if there is insufficient support this will not be pursued.

MM asked about builders levy and Marion Chapman Allen advised that BDC do run a scheme where a levy is collected when 5 houses or more are built but this is normally set aside for play or open spaces. The Community Sector usually hold this but it is not for improvements. The footpath would lead to a reduction in the road width and road narrow signs would have to be erected which would have an impact on speed so it would have a dual purpose. Councillor **JT** said it would assist those residents who use wheelchairs and pushchairs and also the school children who have to walk to the bus outside the Cherry Tree.

4. Neighbourhood Plan

Laurie Bradley had been unable to attend but the next step to proceed is to obtain the Parish Boundary plan which has a cost of £57.60. Marion Chapman Allen was asked whether she felt we would get permission to proceed with the plan and she thought we would. Phil Mileham is the designated officer at Breckland who would advise the Council on each step and also Sarah Roberts had advised she would contact the Council as Bressingham had gone through the process.

5. Telephone Box

DH has spent some time preparing the phone box for painting and removing the glass, replacing the light and tidying the area around it. It is understood that further funds are being raised before the defibrillator can be installed and we will then receive the paint.

The glass and brackets have been purchased in readiness.

6. Grit bin

JLC had been approached by a Mr and Mrs Batt of The Ling, for a grit bin to be sited by the bend at the junction of High Common Road and Church Road as there had been incidents of skidding during winter months. Discussion took place and it was decided that given the road was on the gritting route, that there is a bin at the school and there is a potential cost of £400-500 it was not something that the Parish Council could agree to. **JLC** will investigate the potential cost of a grit bin for future reference at local builders merchants or internet.

7. Parish Council Vacancies

There are 2 vacancies currently. Only one Parishioner attended the meeting, Mr Mike Tipple and advised the Council why he felt he would make a good councillor and what he could offer. It was agreed a decision would be made after the meeting.

8. Jubilee Lane

The Open Space Society had applied to Breckland District Council for Jubilee Lane to be upgraded from a footpath to a restricted by way to allow for horses and cyclists to use it. It is a short length and it is quite narrow. Currently there seem to be new residents who are using the lanes for riding their horses but not clearing up the horse mess after themselves. This makes it unpleasant for walkers. A vote was taken and the upgrade was unanimously opposed. It was also noted that possibly the same offenders were walking and riding over Graham Wests land and leaving their dogs mess on the fields and he has to clean this off machinery which is unacceptable. **JLC** will write to Breckland with their decision.

Financial Report

Balance of current account was £256.00. The second precept payment is due and authority was sought for settlement of;

Retrospective cost of uncontested Election £75

Glass and clips for phone box £236.65

Newsletter £25.50

Groundscape £108

Stamps £6.48

Payment for Parish boundary plan £57.60

SLCC membership £48.00

DH suggested that given the issue of raising funds for the new footpath and lack of funds, we should not continue to rely on volunteers and a more realistic budget should be prepared to cover the cost of maintenance and potential expenses for the coming year. He provided examples of what other councils of a similar size were applying for within the Partnership Scheme.

JLC advised the Council of various Planning decisions

Land at the rear of 73 The Street approved

First Floor extn at 9 The Street approved

DH stated that minor internal planning changes had been agreed to the Methodist Chapel

and it was noted that the headstones WOULD NOT be moved.

Before the meeting closed Stephen Askew asked to be advised of future meetings and that he could be contacted should anyone require his assistance and he was thanked for this.

Tim Colyer asked that it be noted that the Village Hall Committee thanked the Parish Council for their assistance in sorting out dog bins.

Meeting closed at 21.00 and next meeting is on 11th November 2015.

Following closure of the meeting **DH** proposed that Mike Tipple be co-opted onto the Council and this was seconded by Jan Tate

Signed..... Dated.....