

NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council Meeting
Held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 9th July at The Mess,
St Andrews School, North Lopham

Attendance and apologies

Present were, David Hammond (rolling chair) Jan Tate, vice chair, Julie Crossley, Clerk, Dawn Eagles, Mick McManus, Robert Carley, Loraine Makowski-Heaton
Apologies from Lesley Bird.

4 members of public were in attendance

Declarations of interest: none

1. Welcome to Loraine, as new Parish Councillor and DH wished her a long and happy stay on the council.
2. **JLC** Updated the meeting on the solar farm application. This was Refused by the Planning Committee on Monday at Breckland Council. Thanks were given to JLC for speaking on behalf of the Parish Council and to Alan Briggs and his team for all their work.
3. **Risk management policy** everyone agreed that it was all being done as per the agreed policy. **JLC** noted she had requested some financial regulation forms from the NALC. Mike Cox confirmed he had undertaken Health and Safety check at cemetery in June and does so every 2 months. Pond is checked continuously and any dangerous trees identified and dealt with. Agreed that we were complying with the Risk Management Policy.
4. **VAS Sign.** **DH** reported this was now up and running. The PC own it outright and it was working well. Up to the PC to repair and maintain it. N.C.C. had identified 4 sites only using 3 and this has been agreed with N.C.C. **JLC** confirmed that the insurers had agreed to insure it over the telephone but a letter will be written to confirm. Deployment is awkward, but the sign is not heavy. **DH** has purchased 2 high Viz jackets and a car will have to be taken when sign re-deployed. Councillors advised to put hazard lights on and park close to the kerb. **DH** has done a rota, so that everyone knows when they will be moving the sign in accordance with the Memo of Understanding. Battery needs charging every 6 or 7 days. Contact **DH** or **JLC** if any problems. A file with all details appertaining to the deployment etc will be handed over to each individual at the time of new deployment together with spare battery and charger.

Public at the meeting felt the sign was fine but not sure how it will be in the dark.
5. **War memorial** - discussed new quote from Bury St Edmunds firm.
JLC to see if Breckland will give any more grants, get more info about Bury St Edmunds quote
6. **Highways update** - **JT** Footpaths need cutting back, Rangers have been

delayed due to adverse weather and behind with tasks, **LMH** mentioned about height of grass down High Common Road and Green Lane (byway). Rangers have been asked to come and inspect all the lanes. **MM** said Mr Goodrum has been and done some cutting. **MM** has been down Kings Head Lane, and it's been cut. **LMH** has been cutting down Green Lane up to the point where it becomes dangerous and Tractor has been and flattened part of it but not cut it.

JLC read out email from SLPC and asked council whether we should consider paying half the cost of clearing Primrose Lane in the autumn. **MM** said no. Farmers land on both sides. Tree down just past the bench. PC are responsible for keeping clear. But it is farmland either side. Discussion about whether PC approach the farmers about clearing Primrose Lane, as they have some responsibility to cut back overhanging hedges and branches on a public right of way.

DH and **MM** to walk the lanes and decide best way forward.

JLC will advise SLPC that we will come back to them

Re white lines **JT** said she has been told we have to be patient.

MM noted it is quite dangerous near Logsdales there is a gap in the concrete kerb and Tarmac. Left like that for 2 months. **Lorraine** said that drains on bend in High Common Road are blocked. **JT** will inspect.

Pavement outside The Mess has been done.

Overhanging branches – asked again to put in newsletter, brambles hanging branches etc. Offenders have been written to previously. **JT** went from one end of The Street to the other and lopped off overhanging branches and put them in the owners drives.

Cars on verge and footpath. To ask residents not to park on the verges and to use the road if no space in their drives.

Member of the public noted on walking down to the hall on the footpath that you have to go in single file as the grass has grown so far over the path. **JT** advised that this is a job the Rangers would do. Would it not be appropriate to ask highways what powers they have under the Highways Act. **DH** may get something from the council, but pointed out that highways can take action. These may be a bit heavy handed but is an option as it is an issue and usually same offenders.

JT said that she has requested the Rangers attend to cut back the grass which encroaches on the footpaths. **DH** will ring Gary Overland re highway responsibility with a view to perhaps sending out a letter to some households outlining possible civil claims if someone was to be injured by untrimmed hedges/branches etc.

6. Finance report

JLC advised that PC currently had £1323.60 in the current account and £2700 in the post office. **JLC** advised the meeting of income and outcome in June and July.

Given that the PC may have a surplus of funds it might be an idea to put a questionnaire round as to how this might be spent but after we have decided on the War Memorial and Primrose Lane.

- 7 **Proposal to federate St Andrews School** - PC had read the proposals and no objections, **JLC** will return the form to that effect.

- 8 **Open spaces** - must have pre existing public access

Discussion about the accessibility to village hall, no other usable space available. History of problems with bonfire leading to gates, no pathway, no play equipment. Village hall is only open space but no access. Lopham Links did start to raise funds but got nowhere. Were offered a piece of chapel ground but too small to be useful. Wanted nominal rent and lease.

Area off Meadow Lane would be ideal and Mr Birchall has been advised that this is to be left and then planning application put in.

Must respond to Breckland by 1st September.

JLC to draft letter for **DH** for approval.

Charities JLC had volunteered to go on the Committee having been contacted by Mike Cox but Mr Birchall said he would like to look at constitution before making a decision.

Member of the public said she would like to thank MM for all the work he had done in the lane, his contribution was greatly missed.

8.45 pm close of meeting.

Next meeting at 7.30 on 10th September 2014 Signed as agreed

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Dated of 2014