

NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 on Wednesday
9th March 2016 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, Jan Tate, Mike Tipple.

3 members of the public attended

Apologies received from

William Nunn

no declarations of interest.

13th January and 16th February 2016 Minutes were approved and signed

Defibrillator training

Approximately 30 people have shown an interest in attending the training. The Seminar Request Form to be sent to the Heartbeat Trust. The training will be at The Kings Head in the evening. Once a date has been agreed details will be posted in The Kings Head, Post Office and Notice board.

Visitor Information Board

DH notified the meeting he had been to Acle yesterday with the proposed board and hopes to have the first proof ready on Friday. He expressed his thanks to Jenny Vere and Tony Ostler for their input and the PC will be writing to thank them. No costing have yet been provided by Tudor Printers. The whole printed are will be produced on a white aluminium board which should be eye catching. He hopes it will be fitted by the next meeting.

McM did suggest that screws with keys might be used to secure the board to prevent theft and this will be looked into.

Once the information board is installed the telephone box will be finished.

Footpath Update

DH confirmed that the £6.5k applied for from the NCC Partnership has been approved but we have not had this in writing. 40 households have pledged a total of £1600. Breckland have been approached for Match funding. The cost of the footpath (Trod) is £11.5k and the cost of moving the telegraph pole is £1.3k. BDC have been asked to contribute £4,000 which is currently in the process of being considered. This will leave a shortfall of £704.00. BDC have asked what the Parish Council will be contributing and so **DH** asked for a vote to confirm whether the PC will agree this sum as the contribution toward the trod. This was agreed unanimously. **JLC** advised she would update the meeting re funds later in the meeting.

MMC asked about a start date and in reality this is not likely to be until the autumn. We will be given notice and it is possible that the road will have to be closed or at least single

file traffic while this is in progress.

Speedwatch

DH confirmed this is going well. He thanked all volunteers. Noted that DPD vans are noted to be consistent offenders and once one has been caught on camera they appear to pre warn colleagues which does slow further traffic down. The Crown lorries do deserve a letter of thanks their drivers do an excellent job and there have been no complaints.

There was a general discussion about traffic/lorry volume and speed of HGV's and access to Crown. **DH** advised he had been to the Mill several times and Nigel Armes has always been extremely helpful but there is a limit to what they can do.

Laurie Bradley suggested a repeat of the lorry count exercise perhaps in the summer to count the number of HGVs outside the 7.5 restriction. The problem is how much can be done about these.

Local Plan/Neighbourhood plan

JLC and LB had attended open sessions regarding the Local Plan preferred directions and Laurie had assisted in deciphering what was required to respond to the numerous points within this. An extraordinary meeting had been held in February to go through these and the relevant questions had been responded to on the BDC planning website. **JLC** had spoken to the Planning Department today. They have advised there will be another consultation in the summer, BDC will look at the proposed new sites and changes to the boundaries. They confirmed that the PC would have the opportunity to put this to the residents before a final decision is made. It could be that nothing will change. **LB** asked if a flyer could be sent round before the next consultation so that we have more time to consider and plan for this. If BDC do decide to move the settlement boundary and the village are against the decision then we could proceed with a Neighbourhood plan.

DH said that he was not sure at what point we would need to think about whether or not we do a Neighbourhood plan. Who decides whether it is worth doing. He suggested that William might liaise with Marion Chapman Allen regarding this.

External audit for smaller authorities

JLC explained the changes to be made to the financial audits. The Council has to decide whether to opt out in which case we would need to appoint our own auditor and communicate that decision to Local Audits in London. If the Council do not opt out then we will need to complete an annual exemption form provided by SAAA and submit this or an auditor specified by SAAA by an agreed date. With effect from 2017/18 very few authority with income or expenditure not exceeding £35k will be required to undergo a limited assurance audit or to pay any audit fee.

The PC proposed to stay in, **MT** and this was seconded by **DH**.

Village open meeting

Not an agenda item but **DH** noted that he had spoken to Roy Clarke (Lopham Society) and John Crisp (SLPC) about whether this should proceed this year. It was poorly attended last year. A member of the public felt that this was because it was poorly advertised. It

was felt that if the view was that this meeting should go ahead next year then it would be supported but it should be properly advertised and better attended.

JT who is on the Lopham Society committee said that even the free refreshments had not encouraged attendance.

Village Clean up

Saturday 15th May 2016 at 09.30 at the Mere (pond) gloves and bags and grabbers provided.

Increase in the Newsletter costs

Julie Cundick who has now taken over from Lee Baker has asked that the cost be increased by £2.50 (£28.00 per month) to cover costs. There has been no increase for the previous 5 years.

Proposed by **McM** seconded **RC**

DPD vans

Several complaints have been received about speeding. **DH** will contact the Manager at the Snetterton Depot.

Planning applications

Hew Tree Cottage, 7a The Green and Kings Head Lane have all been approved the latter with outline planning permission.

Any other business

DH discussed lorry ban reported in EDP this week relating to Coltishall Village. He will contact the Parish Council there to discuss further.

JT said that there had been complaints about dog mess in particular very near to the dog poo bin near Cherry Tree Close. To be put in newsletter. **DH** expressed real concern that young children are put at severe risk from inconsiderate dog owners as disease and blindness can happen in young children,

McM mentioned the overhanging hedges and muddy footpaths. **DH** advised that NCC are aware and will be contacting owners direct.

Member of public from Octavia House was concerned about works being done opposite her house at Meadow Lane and was concerned it was going to be an unsightly box and wanted to know if the PC were aware. The PC had been not been advised. It was thought this may be a spur from the Water Tower box. Open Reach would be able to put these where they felt it necessary on the highway. She will complain to them direct.

Meeting closed at 20.30. Next meeting will be the AGM on 11th May 2016

Signed Dated.....