

NORTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of North Lopham Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 on Wednesday 13th January 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. William Nunn
5 members of the public attended including Marion Chapman Allen of BDC .

Apologies received from Stephen Askew - no declarations of interest.

11th November 2015 Minutes were approved and signed
The Chairman welcomed William Nunn on to the Council.

A. Broadband

DH advised that an email had been received from Rachel Line MHE, Highway Network Co-ordinator (Better Broadband for Norfolk) to advise that a new communication box is to be sited in the village (ref Bressingham 3) and that public can check to see which cabinet they are served from and the available speed using link <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl.htm>. When operational residents will need to contact internet providers to upgrade their packages, but it is not expected that the new Cabinet will be operational for at least 6-12 months.

A further email had been passed to the Council from Stephen Askew regarding a voucher scheme where fibre optic is not an option and residents have less than 2 Mbps and are unlikely to get fast broadband in near future. Basic purchase is £400.

B Defibrillator

This is now installed and live and registered with the local ambulance Trust.. If residents need to use this they must dial 999 and the code will be given. **DH** had brought the defibrillator in to show to the meeting.

This has been installed as a result of the money raised by the village at the Kings Head auction in conjunction with CHT. There are price implications for future upkeep. The Council will sign up for the Managed Solutions package whereby the Heartbeat Trust retain "ownership" of the unit and all insurance implications but weekly/monthly checks will have to be undertaken by the PC.

DH discussed the Managed Solutions package and what this will provide and also the cost of "support package". Clarification was sought from Joe Joskow of CHT as the Defib has a warranty of 4 years but he has suggested in an email that £100 pa should be set aside to cover on going costs over the coming years regarding replacement shock pads and battery usage. As the defib was funded by private funds it was felt appropriate to ask if £100 could be set aside from the Auction at the Kings Head to which Angie and George have agreed. A separate Defib account will be opened at Barclays Bank to hold this money.

JT proposed we proceed with Managed Solution and this was seconded by **MT**. Some of those present have asked to be put on the Awareness Training programme and this will also be advertised in the Newsletter. Depending on how many come forward we can arrange a free Awareness session with CHT but there is no legal requirement for this training.

C. Footpath update

This relates to the north end of the village up to Cherry Tree Close where there is currently no footpath whatsoever and therefore a serious safety issue. An application has been made to NCC Partnership Scheme for £6,500, there have been £1500 of pledges from residents and Marion Chapman-Allen has suggested an application for the “small match funding grant” may be available for £5,000 through BDC. Application for this has been made and the necessary criteria met. **DH** thanked Marion for her support in this matter but until approval has first been received from NCC no further action can be taken,.

MT asked if there would be compensation paid to anyone whose land was being taken and **DH** advised that no one's land was being taken as the Highways Department NCC own all verges bordering the Highway including grass verges and existing footpaths.

D Speedwatch

Having thought this may have to be abandoned there are now 4 new members and a new co-ordinator. This is weather dependant. New members are always welcomed if anyone wishes to volunteer. 1 hour per month is all that is necessary.

E Neighbourhood planning

Laurie Bradley has already kindly drafted a Statement for the village but no decision has been made as to how we proceed. We now have the Local Plan directions and Laurie has seen these. **WN** has agreed to liaise with Laurie and we can then discuss whether we proceed or not. **WN** said that the first question is whether we understand what we can achieve. Kenninghall is preparing a plan because of concerns about over development and they wanted to take control. IN NL for the most part we have exhausted all the garden developments and any development plan would include where we wanted any additional development to happen and to include this land within the NP. As a parish we would need to have 50% support of residents to engage in process. The current red dotted settlement line showing the boundary, may well need defining. If Lopham decide to proceed then the NP will have to dovetail with the BDC local plan. If a NP is appropriate for North Lopham it will set out the future of village development for the next 20 years. **WN** will consider all implications with Laurie and report back at next meeting.

Marion Chapman Allen noted that Garboldisham are not proceeding with a NP even though they would have welcomed a couple of small developments, the sites proposed were declined because of highway grounds. She also added this is not just about your Parish it is a Breckland plan so if any residents have any view to speak up and comment.

F Training

MT confirmed he would like to attend PC training and **JC** will find out when next session is and where.

G Tanns Lane

The standing water was discussed and has been reported by **DE** who has had a job number for some months. Gary Overland from Highways has been asked to look at this and **DH** has spoke with Graham West and Peter Wright about whether they can help. **MM** was concerned that the road wasn't strong enough to take a lot of heavy plant and the only solution would be to pipe it. There are financial issues. Peter Wright has said he will do something but not immediately. This needs to go on next Agenda.

Concern was also raised about the road at South Lopham as it approaches the 1066 where surface water is very heavy. Marion Chapman Allen advised that she has been chasing this and it is due to be looked at but there is a delay because of power cables.

H Overhanging Trees

Still same offenders on the main street, Box Tree Farm and The White House where there have been complaints about not being able to push pushchairs. Shingle has come off the drives and onto the footpath which is dangerous in the dark. The Rangers have recently cut back the grass on the footpaths but it is the areas belonging to the properties which require attention. Gary Overland from NCC has been advised.

I Harling Flexibus

DH read out an email from Judith Powles Co-ordinator whose tel no is 01603 224353 anyone who has any views on the service should contact her. This has already been published in the Lopham News.

Finance

JC advised that there is £1184.49 in the current account with one outstanding chq for £25,50 and Jan/Feb spending anticipated to be £25.50 for newsletter, £10 room hire and £240 for Clerk salary and HMRC. Approval was given for these costs.

The precept was discussed. Should the PC increase the precept to cover the cost of additional groundwork to date done by volunteers, the PC have been pleased with the work done to date by Groundscape who are putting up their costs by £1.00 per visit. This was approved. **MM** did mention that the churchyard boundary hedge needs cutting and that Groundscape had quoted for this at a reasonable cost. **JLC** will ask them to proceed. Should this additional cost be added to the precept ? It was felt that there should be a nominal increase to the precept of £300 increasing this to £3,600. The remainder of the costs had not increased but the general view was that there should be a small increase to cover the cost of groundworks and that any costs to cover the Neighbourhood plan or footpath should be taken from the contingency fund held in the Post Office.

Approval was given for the precept to be requested at £3,600.

WN did suggest that we do still try and encourage villagers to volunteer and to try and involve new residents to get involved. The example of Back Lane which is very overgrown was discussed and this will go on the next Agenda to see if a working party can be formed. **DH** enquired as to whether some farmers could assist as they have the required heavy plant but previous lane adoption issues continue to be a problem.

Planning

Approval has been received for applications 3PL/2015/0797/F and 3PL/2015/1350/F.

There was discussion about whether permission has been granted for properties in Kings Head Lane. **JC** had not received any confirmation regarding any of the applications.

Any other business

Mike Cox had been approached about a headstone for Norman Edward Henderson which has a small photograph on the stone. There were no objections.

Mick and Tanya Scott had approached the Council with regard to whether the Parish Council have to approve their proposed changes to their driveway. It was confirmed this is not necessary. The Parish council do not have or recommend contractors. **DH** felt this was a private matter and solicitors/planning should be the correct redress.

JC will respond to their email.

JC briefly advised about the Audit options for discussion at March meeting

Finally **DH** advised we had received an email regarding celebrations for the Queens 90th birthday and the possibility of "lighting a beacon". **JC** has approached SLPC and **DH** has emailed the Village Hall Committee and Lopham Society to see whether there would be any interest in having a joint celebration.

Meeting finished at 2100.

Next Meeting 9th March 2015

Signed.....

Dated.....