

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Windmill Room, Wood Norton Village Hall, on Monday 31st October 2011 at 7.30.

Mrs. J Marchant chaired the meeting with Councillors : P. Bell, J. Johnson, M. Crowe, T. Lidstone-Scott and R. Condon. R. Condon took the minutes in the absence of the Clerk.

Apologies : R. Hunt, District Councillor Russell Wright and the Clerk.

PSCO Sarah Kirby joined the meeting and gave a report of events for the last month. There had been one crime reported: a battery, which powered an electric fence to contain horses, had been stolen from a field on the B1110. A small horse had been bound in some of the electric wires and left in some distress. It was agreed that PSCO Sarah Kirby would talk to the owner of the horse and liaise with J. Johnson to get a report in the Parish Magazine, making parishioners aware of the incident and asking for information.

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were read and approved.

Matters Arising

- £40 had been paid as membership of NALC (Norfolk Association of Rural Councils); this will be £80 next year for a full year. The Clerk has reported that so far she has received useful information from the membership.
- An update of the response from BT regarding the permission to renovate the BT phone box will be chased up for the next meeting.

Finance

- Ladywell is to be appointed to handle the administration of the Clerk's salary, on behalf of the Parish Council. Proposed P. Bell, Seconded T. Lidstone Scott; unanimously approved.
- The Clerk's Salary was debated at length. In view of the extra costs of NI and PAYE being imposed by the Government it was proposed to increase the hourly rate by 20% from April 2012 from £8.90 per hour to £10.68 per hour. This should almost cover the extra costs imposed by Government changes. The decision to increase the hourly rate was based on the value to the village of the Clerk coming from within the community. Proposed P. Bell, Seconded T. Lidstone Scott.
1 abstention. It was proposed that a summary of Parish Council meetings should be recorded in the Parish Magazine.
- The Precept for 2011/12 was set at a 4% increase. It is anticipated that this would mean an average increase of £2 per household and would raise just in excess of £80 in increased revenue. The Chairman is going to liaise with J. Johnson to get notification of this in the March edition of the Parish Magazine. The Parish's expenditure currently exceeds its income and will continue to do so. However, there are sufficient reserves at present to cover the deficit
- Parish Plan Finances. These will be used to help the Pightle Project with setting-up costs, as already agreed.
- It was agreed that flowers would be sent to Sue Pearson as a thank you for her service at the Post Office. Proposed T. Lidstone Scott, Seconded J. Johnson.

Planning

- Planning approval has been granted for the Installation of a standalone photovoltaic array at Sun Cottage, Church Road.

Pightle Project

- The Pightle Project is still awaiting legal status.

Surveyors Land

- After extensive research Wood Norton Parish Council accepts and acknowledges that they have no rights of ownership over any of the Surveyors Plots within the village. It has been established that the Highways Agency ultimately own these plots and that in consequence the aim of registering them as parish property and managing them on behalf of the community cannot be achieved. Proposed P Bell, Seconded M Crowe and unanimously approved.

Proposal for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

- No objections were raised.

Correspondence

- Further clarification of the value to the village of obtaining qualifications from the Society of Local Council Clerks requested before any expenditure is approved.
- Came & Co Parish Council Insurance was not felt to be relevant.
- The NNDC Health & Wellbeing event was felt to be primarily aimed at larger villages with more infrastructure.
- The Norfolk Social Services Severe Weather policy was discussed. It was felt as the village was relatively small the social infrastructure currently worked well in looking after anyone vulnerable.
- It was decided that the Grit Bin offered by the Highway Services at a cost of £65.00 was not needed for the village at the present time.
- The Breckland Site Specific policies & Proposals were not logistically relevant to the village.
- J. Johnson will give a view on the future role of Small Schools in Norfolk.
- J. Marchant is to represent the village at the NRCC meeting on the 23rd November. Fuel Poverty and bulk buying of fuel are on the agenda and felt to be of particular interest to the village.

Any Other Business

- The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations deferred to next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th December 2011,
7.30pm

Chairman

Date