

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Windmill Room, Wood Norton Village Hall on Monday 4th March 2013

Mrs. J Marchant chaired the meeting with Councillors M. Crowe, R. Hunt, and P. Bell.

Also in attendance were PCSO Keith Clarke and District Councillor Russell Wright

Apologies: R. Condon, J. Johnson, T. Lidstone-Scott and L. Jennings (Clerk)
The minutes were taken by J. Marchant, in the absence of the Clerk.

There were no members of the public.

The minutes of the previous meeting on Monday 21st January were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

4 Acre Farm, Holt Road, the District Enforcement Officer (DEO) is believed to have made a site visit, but neither Councillor Russell Wright nor the Chair has had a report from her. Chair to contact R. Wright if she does not hear from the DEO shortly.

Planning application, The Grange, Church Road. Installation of first floor to pantry, insertion of loft staircase and creation of storage room above M. Crowe proposed that the Council support this application; seconded by P. Bell. All in favour.

Planning Decisions, The Grange, Church Road, Conversion of Barn to ancillary residential accommodation. Refurbishment and alterations to barn to facilitate conversion. Both applications have been approved.

Finance

A sum of £500 has been transferred into our current account to cover payment of Clerk's half-yearly salary plus tax, both due before the next instalment of the precept at the end of April. The transfer and payments were proposed by R. Hunt and seconded by M. Crowe with all in favour.

Allotments

There is now a notice about the Stibbard allotments in the current Parish Magazine. The Chair has visited the site. The quality of soil looks good and there is plenty of free manure. There is also good space for parking. However no-one has as yet commenced work anywhere on the plot. It was felt that the plot is rather exposed, potentially quite vulnerable because it is on a main road and it was noted that users would have to bring their own water. The chair has contacted those people who expressed an initial interest.

Update on Wind Turbines

Oulton Parish Council have very recently received an application from Bernard Matthews for the wind turbine to be constructed there. R. Wright had no additional information.

Correspondence

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- Vacancy for a Sponsor Governor at All Saints School, Stibbard. P. Bell and J. Marchant outlined the role. Some possible candidates to be approached.
- North Norfolk District Council, Energy Box & Collective Switching Schemes. This will be publicised 3 ways. The Clerk will keep the box in her office.
- Fakenham High School & College, Gardening in Fakenham Town: The Gift Project. This is another opportunity for an allotment. There is a poster on the notice board, and there are leaflets in the village hall.
- Norfolk County Council, Delivering local Highway Improvements Parish Partnerships. The County Council will fund up to 75% of parish improvement schemes for highways, but speed-curbing activities are not eligible for funding.
- Norfolk Association of Local Councils, Initial training for Clerks and Councillors, Seminar to acknowledge Climate Change Week.
- Norfolk County Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Any Other Business

- A report was tabled by PCSO Keith Clarke. There had been 7 calls to the office, 4 of which related to public order issues in the village following a party held at the village hall on 22nd Feb. The others related to a lost dog, a minor RTC at the crossroads on the B1110 and a concern for the safety of a person found walking on the B1110.
- Councillor Russell Wright's report
 - The District Council has upheld the government-supported 0% increase in council tax. Such increase as there is, is due to Police Authority and the parish precept.
 - The superfast broadband contract is in place. 85% of the County is in line to receive it by 2015. For the remaining 15% the service will also be significantly improved.
 - it is hoped that a contract to improve the mobile phone network will be signed shortly
 - He is now a cabinet member of the district council with special responsibility for economic development. He spoke about measures he is introducing to improve opportunities for young people through an apprenticeship scheme targeting local micro-businesses.
 - Another initiative, Enterprise North Norfolk, aims to assist new businesses in drawing up business plans. Currently the number of start-up businesses in Norfolk is very low.
- The chair requested suggestions for a speaker for our annual AGM on May 14th. To be decided at the next meeting - April 15th.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm