

Blo' Norton Parish Council Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 23 July 2013 at 1930 hours in the Village Hall

Those Present: John Barnet-Lamb; John Olley; Ann Lambert and two members of the public

- 1 Apologies for absence –Mike Bristow and Dick Edwards
- 2 Public Comment – None
- 3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items for consideration - None
- 4 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 21 May 2013: Agreed as circulated and signed.
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes held on 21 May 2013 (not elsewhere on agenda)
 - (a) Footpaths in General – The Chairman said he had now spoken to Joan Keeble with regard to the Ramblers advising the Parish Council when footpaths needed clearing, although she requested confirmation of where the footpaths were and Councillor Edwards would provide details to Mrs Keeble **ACTION: COUNCILLOR EDWARDS**
 - (b) Sam2Sign – Highways Department had confirmed that the Sam2Sign should be back in the village early in the New Year.
 - (c) Slow down in our Village Signs –Councillor Lambert stated there were now no signs left to purchase and no one in the village had shown an interest in purchasing them, following an article in the Bugle, as a result of the Annual Parish Meeting.
 - (d) Site visit of River works at Knettishall Heath – The Chairman had an on-site meeting with Penny Hemphill, Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Water for Wildlife Officer, who leads on river restoration projects which he found most interesting. Following Dr Holmes' Report the work that had been carried out was excellent and he would fully recommend that similar work be done in this parish.
 - (e) Pigs at Fen Road – The Chairman met with Andrew Grimley from Breckland Council, together with a local resident. Mr Grimley felt the smell was not excessive and there was no action that the Council could take. Planning Department had also made a site visit and confirmed there was no violation of planning.
 - (f) Bench by Church – It was intended to replace the bench which had been removed as it had become unfit for purpose.
- 6 Police and Crime Update: PCSO Lynne Dobson was unable to attend the meeting, although had sent information stating that between 18 May and 23 July there had been two reports of thefts within the Village. Whilst it was disappointing that there continued to be crime within the village, it was progress that these were now being reported directly to the police.

There had also been reports of speeding vehicles and dangerous driving around the village and this seemed to be ongoing. It was noted this was both residents and visitors to the village. It was agreed to report all speeding and dangerous driving to the police and the Chairman encouraged all residents to take registration numbers and descriptions of such vehicles and report to police via the 101 phone number. **ACTION: ALL RESIDENTS**
- 7 SNAP meeting
 - (a) Last meeting 23 July – there was no attendance at today's meeting from Blo' Norton
 - (b) To agree attendance for next SNAP meeting (date awaited) at Attleborough Police Station. Once a date had been set, attendance would be sought.
 - (c) Items for agenda – speeding vehicles and dangerous driving.

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Chairman

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Date

Finances

- (a) To receive an update on Parish Accounts – the Parish Clerk provided a verbal update.
- (b) To consider Parish Clerk invoice – agreed
- (c) To consider donation to Village Hall Committee – This was an annual donation made from the Parish Council to cover maintenance and use of the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings and business at other times as required by the Parish Council or LOHP; last year the donation was £350 and a suggestion had been made to raise the sum – views of those not able to attend the meeting in person had been sought prior to the meeting. Ann Lambert proposed a sum of £375 and John Olley proposed a sum of £400 – the Chairman, having the casting vote decided upon the sum of £380 and those present agreed. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (d) To consider transfer of monies from current account to deposit account: The Clerk stated that following tonight's expenditure there would be enough money, if it was decided, to transfer from the current to the deposit account. Following discussion it was agreed to transfer £1000 from the current account to the deposit account **ACTION: CLERK**

- 9 Blo' Norton Hall Moat – to consider correspondence. Mr Lorimer stated that he bought the Hall in 2007 and had already done some renovations to the Estate and he saw this as a continuing programme to restore the Hall to its former condition. One of the aspects of the process was his wish to excavate the moat where it had been filled in and thus return it to a state where it would completely encircle the Hall.

A planning application was submitted to Breckland Council on 11 November 2011 (planning application number 3PL/2011/1236/F) which included this work, together with permission to hold weddings in the barn (approximately 15-20 a year), together with a manager's on-site accommodation. The original planning application was withdrawn on 16 January 2012. Mr Lorimer now intended to do the work in three separate stages. He had spoken to Mr Hamilton Senior Historic Environmental Officer (Planning) at Historic Environmental Services, NCC with regards to his intentions to excavate the moat; however Planning Department appear to be concerned that the 1776 plan was not surveyed; it was also envisaged that there would be archaeological investigation of the area to be excavated before the excavation took place so that if there are any interesting deposits, they might be recovered. Mr Lorimer was working with a Professor at the UEA with regard to the archaeological interest and he encouraged those in the village to visit the Hall to see at first-hand what he wanted to achieve and he asked for the Parish Council's advice in assisting him with the planning and obtaining views of the village.

The Chairman suggested that Mr Lorimer contact Councillor William Nunn (Leader of Breckland Council) and Stephen Askew (County Councillor) and Mr John Dixon, Chairman of the local History Group as they may all be able to assist and the Clerk would provide Mr Lorimer with email details. It was noted that Councillor Bristow had reference to a book and the Clerk would forward Mr Lorimer details. It was suggested Mr Lorimer may encourage the village to see what he wished to achieve by holding a Charity Open Day at the Hall, as previous owners had and thought could be given to a local charity such as the War Memorial Trust. The Chairman asked the views of those present with regard to the proposals and all were supportive. The Chairman agreed to write to the Council in support of any plans that may be received in the future for such work. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**

Mr Lorimer mentioned with regard to his offer to provide railings at the front of the Church which he was still happy to supply and the Chairman said he would contact Petal Haskins to remind her of this. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**

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With regard to guests, Mr Lorimer was asked if he could ensure if fireworks were going to be used for celebrations, if the village could have prior warning (an email to bnparishclerk@googlemail.com), so people could ensure they took necessary action if they had livestock. Mr Lorimer apologised if fireworks had caused inconvenience and said he would have it written into the contract that fireworks would not be permitted unless prior consent had been agreed.

ACTION: MR LORIMER

10 Planning

a To note the following Planning Applications:

3PL/2013/0559/LB – Replace rear timber window to ground floor – 5 Fairfields

3PL/2013/0505/F – Proposed replacement of garden shed/outbuilding Button Whitehouse Farm

b To consider any applications that arrived following the issue of the agenda but prior to the meeting.

c To note the following Planning Decisions:

None

11. Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

(a) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Councillor Lambert was keen to commence a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and asked for others views; it was thought a good idea and the Chairman had previously explored the idea; he said it would be limited to approximately 18-20 houses, so a few schemes would be required in the village. Councillor Lambert would contact Attleborough Police Station to get further details.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR LAMBERT

(b) Cesspit leakage: Councillor Olley said the previous problems appeared to be re-occurring and it was thought a new system had been installed. The Clerk would ask for an update.

ACTION: CLERK

(c) Field at back of Fen Road: It was noted that this had non-residential use and it appeared that in the last couple of weeks, somebody seemed to be living there in a car. It was agreed the Parish Council would send a letter to Planning Department with regarding to possible misuse of property.

ACTION: CLERK

(d) Highway Rangers: The Clerk reported that any issues for the Highway Rangers needed to be reported by Friday 26 July. It was noted that The Street from Broadway Lane to the 30mph sign was in poor repair and at the junction of Hall Lane with the B1111 a huge hole had been repaired numerous times but needed repairing again or perhaps a more robust repair to it. The Chairman encouraged individuals to report problems with the highway via the Council website

(http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Travel_and_transport/Roads/Road_maintenance/Potholes/index.htm)

12 Dates of meetings for 2013:

5 November

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Chairman

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