

Minutes of the Blo' Norton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Those Present: John Barnet-Lamb (Chair); John Olley; Mike Bristow; Ann Lambert; Richard Edwards and two members of the public

1 Apologies for absence - none

2 Public Comment - none

3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items for consideration - none

3a Request for Dispensation on budgets: Following adoption of the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils, there was a need for all Councillors to record their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) which prohibits Councillors from taking part in any discussions which relate to a DPI. Under the previous code Councillors did not have an interest in the working of the Council on which they served – this is no longer the case. The general opinion is that Councillors who live in the parish (which is the vast majority of Councillors) have a DPI on the Parish Council's budget as it relates to the council tax for their property which is listed on the register of interest. Therefore, it is necessary for the Parish Clerk to grant a dispensation to Councillors for the setting of the precept. The Parish Clerk granted a dispensation to all current Councillors up to the date of the next election [May 2015]. It was noted that any new councillors elected or co-opted must also be granted this dispensation in the future for similar discussions.

4 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 16 October 2012: The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October were approved and signed.

5 Matters arising from the minutes held on 16 October (not elsewhere on agenda)

a) Update from Highways. The Parish Clerk had spoken to Highways Department on the following issues: Flooding in front of School Cottage: Whilst Mr Deller sympathised with the issue of flooding – he confirmed ditches alongside the road are normally the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. They maintain them even if "The Highways" discharge water and silt into them. Grips and ditches are cleared once a year, usually in the autumn. Councillor Bristow tabled plans of the particular area stating that the ditch causing the problem was not connected and therefore could not flow anywhere; he proposed that the ditch should be connected in the adjacent field, which would then allow the water to drain by the Bridge at Brick End Cottage. It was agreed to arrange a site visit with Mr Deller of Highways and a Councillor to reinforce the reinstatement of the drains. Progress with clearing of Hubbards Lane: The Highway Rangers had done as much cutting back as was possible – Mr Deller confirmed that specialised machinery would now be required and this would now be the decision of a site visit, due to budgets. Public Footpaths: Following discussion at the last Parish Council Meeting no horse riding signs had been erected along the footpath used by horse-riders. It was hoped this would deter the riders as Mr Deller suggested action could be taken to prosecute. Sam2Sign: It had been reported at the SNAP meeting that the sign in Blo' Norton was not working and it was agreed that the batteries would be changed.

b) Site at Western End of Fen Road, Blo Norton: It was noted that no plans had been submitted to build a property on this site, although it was understood that was the intention. It was noted that the trees would be lopped next year, when the weather had improved and that the caravan on site, was not being lived in permanently and the Council were reminded it could only be lived in for 28 days. It was questioned whether the trees had a preservation order on them and it was suggested that all Councillors took the opportunity to explore the village for trees that should be considered for a preservation order and then a meeting arranged with the Tree Preservation Officer (Gilbert Addison)

ACTION: COUNCILLORS

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Chairman

.....21 May 2013
Date

The Parish Clerk was asked to find out the criteria for tree preservation

ACTION: CLERK

- 6 Parish Precept Requirement 2013-14: The Chairman stated that following the letter of 25 September from Breckland Council with regard to the District Council agreeing at their meeting of 20 September that as from May 2015 all Parish Councils would be recharged the cost of running the Parish Council elections consideration would need to be given to raise the precept over the next three years to cover this cost – which could range from a flat rate of £75 to cover uncontested elections, up to £1500, based on calculations for the 2011 District and Parish Elections. This topic raised much debate amongst the Councillors and following discussion the following proposals were made:

Proposal 1: The Chair proposed that an extra £500 be asked as precept for the next three years, to cover the possibility of having to pay the full costs of an election. This would equate to approximately 40 pence per household per month.

Proposal 2: Councillor Edwards proposed that an extra £250 be asked as precept for the next three years, to cover 50% of the full cost of an election. This would equate to approximately 20 pence per household per month.

Proposal 1 received the majority of votes. Therefore, Blo' Norton Parish Council would ask for an annual precept of £3,350.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

- 7 Consultation by Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk on his 2013/14 Precept

Proposal – to consider attendance at meeting on Thursday 17 January 2013 at 1830-2030 hours. This correspondence was noted

- 8 To consider Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils letter: As per last year, Highways were offering Parish Councils to come forward with projects and if approved, highways would pay 50% of the costs, expecting the Parish Council to raise the remainder of the money.

- 9 SNAP meeting

- (a) To receive an update from Councillor Ann Lambert re meeting held on 24 October
Councillor Lambert reported that following attendance at the SNAP meeting, Blo' Norton had received more hi-viz policing, especially around the Village Hall where problems had been reported with youths disturbing classes and the bottle bank. The Hi Viz policing would continue until 21 January and then consideration would be given to sometime in the lighter months. The issue of a suspicious van in the area was raised and Councillor Lambert would speak to PCSO Kate Watson

ACTION: COUNCILLOR LAMBERT

- (b) To agree attendance for next SNAP meeting - Tuesday 22nd January 2013 @ 2 pm.
at Attleborough Police Station. Councillors Lambert and Bristow would attend this meeting.

ACTION: COUNCILLORS LAMBERT AND BRISTOW

- (c) Items for agenda – any items should be forwarded to Councillor Lambert and Bristow prior to 22 January.

- 10 Finances

- (a) To receive an update on Parish Accounts – the Clerk provided an update.
(b) To consider Poppy Wreath invoice – it was agreed to send a cheque for £25
(c) To consider Parish Clerk invoice – approved and cheque issued
(d) Councillor Edwards submitted invoices relating to footpath signage and this was approved and a cheque written and passed to Councillor Edwards.

- 11 Planning

- a To consider the following Planning Applications:
No applications received to date

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Chairman

.....21 May 2013
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- b To consider any applications that arrived following the issue of the agenda but prior to the meeting. - none
- c To note the following Planning Decisions were noted:
 - Dutch Barn Nurseries (reference: 3PL/2012/1048/CU) – change of use – Proposed café facility within existing retail area
 - Saddlers (reference: 3PL/2012/1053/F) – erection of upvc Edwardian conservatory

12. Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

Yellow Portacabin: had appeared in the pig farm in Fen Road.

Bird Deterrent: It was noted that nails had been put along the full length of a garden gate at Rectory Cottage and thought to be used as a bird deterrent. However one of the Councillors would check.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR LAMBERT

Suggested dates for 2013:

The following dates were agreed:

12 March; 23 April;

The following remained provisional:

May(AGM and APM); 11 June; 13 August; 8 October; 10 December

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Chairman

.....21 May 2013
Date