

North Runcton Parish Council

Minutes of the North Runcton Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Meeting Place

Tuesday 12th April 2016 7.45pm

Present: Cllr Rick Morrish (Chair), Cllr Kerry Fuller, Cllr Ann Towler, Cllr Paul Yallop, Cllr Jeremy Fuller, Cllr John Sherry, Cllr Gill Sergeant, Cllr Amanda Dobbing, Cllr Barry Houchen

Borough Councillors Anota and Gidney. County Councillor Toby Coke.

22 members of the public were also present and a member of the Press.

An audio recording of the meeting was made by a resident.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in items on the Agenda

Cllr Towler – Item 8 Planning Application – Construction of new dwelling between 18 and 24 Common Lane, North Runcton.

Item 7 on the agenda was moved to be discussed as the next item.

7. The Councillors will discuss the results of the Parish Survey and consider how they wish to proceed

Cllr Morrish briefly explained that the Parish Council has run the survey as previously planned – giving all parishioners chance to express their view. The Clerk declared the result as follows; 197 responses (from residents aged 18 and over) representing 103 households within the parish. This can be expressed as 42% of households, although it is clear that 58% have not returned any view on this matter. It is worth noting that 17 responses were received from the Hardwick ward. Of the 197 responses, 49 which is 25% were in favour of the Parish Council signing an easement relating to School Lane and 148 which is 75% were not in favour of signing it. The Clerk stated that as the officer of the Parish Council all submissions came to her, she was the only one to process them and that Councillors were not made aware of any of the personal information/views, nor will they be made public. Now that the result has been declared the responses will be destroyed.

Cllr Morrish then briefly summarised the path to this point. Planning consent was granted in April 2014 for 32 log cabins, the Parish Council had objected. The SDA expressed interest in buying the site (with the consent), and approached the Parish Council in January 2015 to ask whether there were any issues. The PC noted concerns about traffic impact. The SDA commissioned a consultant report (Peter Brett Assoc) which stated that the site would be used as a summer camp only and traffic use would be low. The PC queried planning condition 14, (NCC requirement). SDA/PBA/NCC indicated discharging this condition would not affect land owned by the PC at Church Green. Both parties agreed that an easement was appropriate. Both parties employed solicitors and advisors and it was understood that terms of the easement had been agreed in principal by early summer 2015. Subsequently SDA posted plans for site use on their website and social media which caused resident concern. Then SDA submitted variation (subsequently withdrawn) which resulted in noisy PC meetings of September and October 2015. At the October meeting the PC agreed to provide the opportunity for all residents to express their view on whether the PC signing an easement with SDA was appropriate.

He then went on to say that clearly all residents have not expressed their view – but they have had the opportunity to do so and the Parish Council has done what it said it would do in October. There is a clear majority in the response. The Parish Council then took a vote on making the following statement, 7 Councillors were in agreement and one Councillor abstained. Therefore the following statement was made **‘it is not the Parish Councils present intention to complete the easement and that if circumstances change, the Parish Council will first consult parishioners before making a decision on this matter’.**

The matter of a proposed Parish Poll was discussed (to be held 21st April 2016), it has been called by 6 registered electors who are entitled to do so under the Local Government Act, 1972. It will be run by the Borough Council, and the Parish Council are expected to pick up the bill, expected to be over £1000. The Parish Council had agreed to try to avoid this cost with the survey. The proposed 'Poll' question is similar to that already determined by the survey – and the Parish Council have already arrived at a conclusion on the matter. Cllr Morrish then asked if petitioners agreed that the Parish Poll was now unnecessary. Keith Longhurst said yes - he would contact the Borough Council and see if the Poll could be cancelled. Mr Morrish asked if petitioners would consider picking up any costs accrued.

Cllr Toby Coke was hopeful that the community would now unite behind the Parish Council, this was echoed by Cllr Gidney and Cllr Anota.

The PPC had planned and advertised an event in the VMP on the 21st April and it was proposed by Cllr Sergeant and seconded by Cllr Sherry that the Parish Council cover the cost of re-printing their flyer and rescheduling their event, this was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Morrish said that over the last few months feelings had run high and some residents have taken it upon themselves to promote their own views by numerous emails to the Clerk and Councillors, in submissions on other media and in sometimes heated 'debate' with other residents. All correspondence to the Parish Council, factually correct and relevant or not, takes time to review, consider and, if necessary, reply to. The tone of much of this correspondence has been unpleasant, unhelpful, divisive and sometimes personal and potentially libellous. He said this type of correspondence must stop. If it continues the Parish Council would seek advice on whether to take legal action on this matter.

The significant costs already incurred in this matter were discussed. The Clerk has spent additional time (mainly on the sub- committee process – but also the survey and answering the many emails – to name some). Cost of additional Clerks time from November 2015 to date - £850. Additional legal advice from the Parish Council's solicitor from November 2015 to date - £820.

Some additional expenditure which could cover these costs had been budgeted for in the precept for this year. Cllr Morrish said the Parish Council have agreed to listen to the majority view of parishioners – but sincerely hope that parishioners will now support the Parish Council as and when required.

- It is worth pointing out that the PC will still have to maintain their section of School Road.
- The VMP roof has leaked twice in recent rains.
- Options are being investigated to try to reduce traffic speed on New Road and Rectory Lane – and one option is vehicle activated speed signs. Indicative cost £5k each.
- Also - the PCC have stated they need to raise £200,000 to repair the church roof.

Grants may be available – but in most cases initial funds are required in order to match fund.

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters, PCSO's Report

- Cllr Coke reported that talks are ongoing regarding devolution for the area, which could mean a mayor for Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk.
- Cllr Anota spoke of the new vehicle activated speed signs in Gayton.
- Cllr Gidney spoke of the BCKLWN 5 year land supply issue, there is a meeting at the Borough Council on 19th April. And the conservative group are to elect a new leader in May, contenders are David Pope and Brian Long.

Cllr Coke left at this point

Item 9 was brought forward on the agenda.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The CIL consultation is out and the Parish Council will send a response. There is concern that a CIL consultant advised that the West Winch growth area should now be nil rated for CIL. The Parish Council have been under the impression that it would get 15% of CIL (25% if Neighbourhood Plan in place). Without

CIL all developer contributions would be levied by Section 106. This would appear to side line the Parish Council in respect of decisions on community infrastructure delivery. Cllrs Gidney/Anota will lend their support and think the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan team should be fully involved in planning future community infrastructure.

BCKLWN have published proposed modifications on their Local Plan – for consultation. West Winch Parish Council are holding an open afternoon on 7th May at the William Burt Centre 1 – 5pm to inform residents how to submit comments. Consultation closes on 18th May.

Proposed changes to the Neighbourhood Plan were submitted to the Borough Council at the beginning of April. It is hoped that this will lead to completion and submission by early summer.

4. Public Participation – all members of the public welcome – 15 minute session

Comments and questions from the public were as follows;

- Keith Longhurst presented the Clerk with correspondence from the Insurance company and Highways regarding proposed planters on Church Green. This will be discussed at May's meeting.
- A parishioner noted that a recent planning consent for 17 houses at the Winch pub site, West Winch, had a boundary with Hardwick Common, which is in North Runcton. Fencing would be required.
- Parishioners noted potholes on Twisty Twiney and New Road.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th March 2016.

The Council approved the minutes with the following addition: 'A member of the public brought up the matter of the proposed 'ballot' process potentially being 'illegal'. This resulted in the Parish Council changing their plans to a 'survey' at EGM on 14th March'. The Chairman duly signed.

To approve the Minutes of the EGM Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2016.

The Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 12th January 2016 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this meeting

- **Replacement Clay Pit – Middleton Aggregates** - The Parish Council has responded with written comments following on from the presentation in March. Tharros have confirmed if planning consent is agreed they would provide a public right of way around the area.
- **Twisty Twiney** – Highways have sent correspondence to the Clerk to say they are happy the matter of flooding is resolved. However, the Clerk will monitor as there seems to be surface water continually around the area.
- **Rangers Visit** – Cedar Grove has been swept and footpath cleared.

8. Planning

Any applications to consider – 16/00532/F – Erection of a free standing modular retails (Class A1) pod a Sainsbury's supermarket, 2 Scania Way, Hardwick Industrial Estate, King's Lynn

16/00533/A – Advertisement Application: 4 x externally illuminated fascia signs and 4 x non-illuminated signs at Sainsbury's Supermarket, 2 Scania Way, King's Lynn - **No Objections.**

16/00391/F – Construction of new dwelling between 18 and 24 Common Lane, North Runcton – **Support Application – with comments that it is preferable to keep rural hedge character and mature trees.**

Decisions received from BCKLWN – 16/00050/F – 52 Common Lane, Single Storey extension – Application Permitted

Comments made to BCKLWN – None

- In future there will not be paper copies of applications sent to the Clerk, the system will be paperless. Clerk to investigate costs of a laptop to be met from the transparency fund and an overhead projector for the VMP.

- FW Properties would like to give a public presentation in May relating to land at Church Farm. This would be open to all residents and held in the VMP. Also to attend the Parish Council meeting in June. Clerk to offer dates in May.

10. The Clerk read out the correspondence list as follows;

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| A | 14 th March 2016 | Keith Longhurst | Mr Longhurst requested that his correspondence not be read out. |
| B | 15 th March 2016 | Lyndon Baker | Mr Baker had left the meeting at this point, the Clerk was advised to seek his views on whether the item should be deferred until May meeting – confirmation was received that he did not wish his correspondence to be listed prior to typing these minutes. |
| C | 18 th March 2016 | BCKLWN | Crime and Commissioner Elections will take place, voting for the North Runcton Ward will be at the Village Meeting Place. |
| D | 24 th March 2016 | Sally Garrett | Requesting that the survey run by the Parish Council be halted. A written response was not given to S Garrett by the Clerk or Chair. |
| E | 5 th April 2016 | Anglian Water | A new campaign has been launched called ‘Pollution Watch’, ensuring everyone who spots pollution, reports it to ensure incidents are stopped as quickly as possible. There is a pollution hotline 03457 145 145. |
| F | 5 th April 2016 | BCKLWN | To inform the Parish Council that a parish poll has been requested and will be held at the VMP on Thursday 21 st April between 4pm and 9pm. |
| G | 6 th April 2016 | Lyndon Baker | Mr Baker had left the meeting at this point, the Clerk was advised to seek his views on whether the item should be deferred until May meeting – confirmation was received that he did not wish his correspondence to be listed prior to typing these minutes. |
| H | 7 th April 2016 | Lyndon Baker | Mr Baker had left the meeting at this point, the Clerk was advised to seek his views on whether the item should be deferred until May meeting – confirmation was received that he did not wish his correspondence to be listed prior to typing these minutes. |

11. Finance

- a) **The Council agreed to appoint Chris Reeks as internal auditor for 2015/16 accounts.**
- b) **The Council agreed to make the following payments;**

| Supplier | | Description of Service | Amount on Invoice | VAT element - non recoverable |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | £ | £ |
| <u>From VMP Account</u> | | | | |
| 10/03/16 | Mr Brights | Cleaning 1 st Feb – 26 th Feb | 124.80 | |
| 12/04/16 | R Curtis | Salary for VMP work | 20.52 | |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | 145.32 | |

From NRPC Account

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------|---|---------------|------|
| 31/03/16 | NALC | Annual Subscription | 141.63 | 0.00 |
| 12/04/16 | Mrs R Curtis | Clerk Salary, 9 th March – 12 th April 2016 | 351.74 | 0.00 |
| 12/04/16 | Mrs R Curtis | Stamps and coffee morning refreshments | 8.78 | 0.00 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | 502.15 | |

12. Items for next meeting agenda

- Planters on Church Green.
- For annual residents meeting on 17th May – speakers from local clubs / societies and possible guest speaker would be sought.

13. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10th May

(Future meeting dates – 17th May – Annual Parish (Residents) Meeting, 14th June 2016, 12th July 2016)

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed 10th May 2016