

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HUT ON THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM.

Present: Councillor Simon Fowler (Chair)
Councillor Jane Harding (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ian Harding
Councillor Paul Stebbings
Councillor Steve Treavett

Mr Malcolm Parker
Mark Kiddle-Morris – County Councillor
Elizabeth Gould – District Councillor
Sheryl Irving – Clerk to the Council
Four Members of the Public

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Cllr Henry Kilvert.

Mr Malcolm Parker was invited to join the council as an observer, pending his co-option in March 2018 – Mr Parker accepted.

1. To declare any interests re items on the agenda

There were no interests declared.

2. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017

Cllr Ian Harding proposed, with Cllr Jane Harding seconding, that the minutes be signed as correct – all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

3. To discuss any matters from the minutes of July (not on the agenda).

Mr Parker, referring to item 9 (Highway Matters), observed that some of the 30mph signs remained obscured by overgrown hedges. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to find out when the Highway Rangers are due and if this is not imminent will arrange for clearance.

Cllr Ian Harding, referring to item 4 (matters from May minutes), requested if obtaining a village defibrillator should be progressed. It was agreed that this matter should be taken forward and the Clerk was instructed to research costs. It may be possible to raise the funds via grants. Cllr Gould confirmed Breckland may be able to assist with grant funding.

There were no other matters arising.

Public Participation

The following items were raised:

- Pot Holes on Station Road – Cllr Ian Harding is the officer with responsibility for pot holes and he will take this matter forward.
- David Walker informed the meeting that the term of office for representation on the Little Dunham Charity was coming to an end and there needed to be either a replacement or re-election – he confirmed he was willing to continue to represent the council's interest. Cllr Fowler proposed, with Cllr Jane Harding seconding, that Mr Walker be re-elected as the representative – all in favour.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gould reported that the Local Plan was in the consultation period, which is due to end on 2nd October 2017. It was agreed that Cllr Fowler and Cllr Ian Harding should review the plan and comment on behalf of the Council.

County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

Highways – the Highway Engineer has been moved to cover a long-term absence at Aylsham, however, details of his replacement had been emailed to the Clerk.

Minerals and Waste consultation – consultation is currently ongoing looking for new sites for use up to year 2036. The process is likely to take up to 15 months with the sites approved going into immediate operation. The Chairman raised concerns regarding route management.

Budget – the budget process is now commencing with committee meetings being held in October through to February and will look at the four-year period up to 2021. Until the Government has announced funding to county councils it is not known what savings may have to be made. However, it is likely funds will have to be found from business rates and finding innovative ways of working.

Council tax is likely to be raised by the maximum allowed this year and probably next year too.

Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd – Necton are protesting against the current site location.

Cllr Harding informed Cllr Gould that the dog bins on the playing field were not being emptied. Cllr Gould requested a location plan and when received she will deal with the matter.

Cllr Fowler questioned whether Breckland were reaching residential planning targets, Cllr Gould replied that it was on the edge and if villages have land suitable for development and was supported by the Parish Council then it would be looked upon favourably.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors and Cllr Kiddle-Morris then left the meeting.

4. To discuss progress with obtaining a New Clerk/RFO

The Chairman confirmed the new clerk was now in post.

5. To discuss correspondence

No correspondence had been circulated.

6. To discuss planning issues

3L/2017/6685/VAR – Brick Kiln Pightle, Barrow Hole Lane – variation on access – no comment from the Council.

Cllr Harding informed the meeting that an application had been submitted by 'Ambleside' to convert the garage into a holiday let and site a shepherds hut in the grounds – no comment from the Council.

7. To discuss the Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd proposed offshore wind farm

Cllrs Fowler and Ian Harding reported that they had met with the Lead Officer who confirmed the location will be south of the A47. Cllr Harding added that the site is likely to be DC (rather than AC) due to cost factors which will mean very large buildings on the site will be necessary. A protest continues at East Ruston where the power come onto land.

The Chairman advised there was nothing useful council could do and that he and Cllr Ian Harding should continue to monitor the situation – the council were in agreement.

8. To discuss any Highways Matters

Previously discussed during Public Participation item.

9. To discuss the Playing Field

Cllr Treavett reported that a rung is loose on the bridge. Cllr Kilvert is responsible for the playing field and he will be notified.

Two location signs are to be erected at the entrance.

Cllr Stebbings had received a request from a parishioner who wished to volunteer to maintain the War Memorial – the Council agreed this can take effect from 2018.

10. To discuss the amenities area

The Chairman had recently walked the area, which was slowly turning into woodland, and reported that all was well.

11. To discuss the footpaths

The Chairman had recently walked the majority of the footpaths and, apart from some which were overgrown, all was well.

12. To receive an update on the Community Speed Watch Scheme

Cllr Stebbings advised that there had been over 750 offenders reported in the first eight months of the year – just ten less than the whole of 2016, with 134 in August alone. He was also pleased to report that 127 caught by the Police CSW Enforcement Officer on his separate support visits to the village had been prosecuted or attended a speed awareness course.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Stebbings and his team for their efforts.

13. To authorise any necessary financial payments

The council approved the following payments:

Clerk's salary (August)	£98.90
HMRC	£24.60
Clerk's Holiday Pay in lieu	£86.45
Clerk's Expenses	£95.15
Blackbox Web Design (Website)	£120.00

No further cheques were available, however, the council also approved the following payment:

HCI Data (website domain)	£83.33
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14. To appoint an internal auditor

The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes and the Council agreed the Chairman can make a decision prior to the next meeting.

15. Progress on the removal of the BT Box

The box was due to be removed by BT shortly, however, it was agreed that the BT Box may make a good site for a defibrillator, if acquired, as electricity was already installed. The Clerk to investigate.

16. To receive items for the next agenda

Mr Parker requested that the Pond in Barrow Hole Road be added as he wished to improve it, however, he was advised to contact Cllr Kilvert who owns the pond.

There were no additional items for the next agenda.

17. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____