

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HUT ON THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM.

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

Mark Kiddle-Morris – County Councillor
Sheryl Irving – Clerk to the Council

Julia Jacques – Planning Consultant
Two Members of the Public

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Cllr Henry Kilvert and Mr Malcolm Parker.

2. To declare any declarations of interest.

There were no interests declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th September 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.

4. To discuss any matters from the minutes of September (not on the agenda).

The Chairman, referring to item 3, noted there were road signs still obscured by overgrown hedges. The Clerk had had no success contacting the Highway Rangers. Cllr Stebbings volunteered to cut the hedges back which was gratefully welcomed by the council.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

- The Council must save £100M over the next four years, when the Government grant will have reduced to zero. Contrary to recent press articles, there are no plans to close libraries although some could be moved to other public buildings. In addition, new ways of working are being considered in respect of the mobile library service, possibly leaving books in village halls with specific books being ordered online if required and delivered to the local Village Halls.

In addition, the One Public Estate committee are looking at joining police and fire stations together, if feasible, thereby freeing up public buildings for sale.

- Norfolk PCC have put together a business case to take over the management of the Fire Service in Norfolk. The County Council are against this move as it will be very difficult to extract the Fire Service from the County Council as it is so deeply embedded. In addition, the Fire Service also act in ways other than putting out fires – first responders/first aid/social care/health & safety etc – the Council feels this will be lost if the PCC take control. A final decision will be made by the Secretary of State.
- The Council now have county farms totalling over 16,000 acres of land and the current remit is to maintain the estate.

- Cllr Kiddle-Morris will be attending a meeting at County Hall this month with the Lead Officer in respect of Vattenfall. The Chairman stressed how important it was that before the DCO was granted, there must be confirmation that the site will be AC and not DC due to the large accumulation of industrial building required for the DC option. The Chairman had been assured that the decision was cost neutral. If DC was selected then this would go against planning and industry guidelines. Cllr Kiddle-Morris assured the council he would take this issue forward.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no comments raised.

7. To discuss any correspondence for circulation.

There was no correspondence to circulate.

8. To discuss planning issues:

8.1 Applications for consideration.

3/PL/2016/1024/0 – Land to the south of 43 Necton Road - Ms Julie Jacques, on behalf of the applicant, addressed the council and informed them of the amendments which had been made to the original application and which addressed the reasons for refusal. The Chairman thanked her for her input and looked forward to receiving the application.

The Chairman raised the issue of enforcement proceedings which had been commenced against the owners of the Black Swan due to parts of the internal public areas being converted to residential. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Breckland to find out the current situation.

The owner of the Black Swan, who was present at the meeting, was invited to update the council. He was able to say the matter had been resolved but declined to say how.

The Chairman also raised the issue of a car port which had been built at No. 9 Necton Road, a Flagship Housing property. The council understood this was in breach of tenancy agreements and the Clerk was instructed to contact Flagship to raise the matter.

8.2 Decisions to note.

There were no decisions to note.

9. To receive an update in respect of the Proposed Vattenfall Offshore Wind Farm.

This issue had been discussed earlier in the meeting at item 6. However, the Chairman suggested it may be useful if he contacted both Fransham and Necton parish councils to suggest a joint input which may have more impact than separate representation. Cllr Ian Harding and the Chairman to draft a letter for consideration.

10. To discuss any Highways matters.

Cllr Ian Harding was pleased to report that all potholes and verge degradation had been repaired.

11. To discuss the Playing Field.

Cllr Treavett reported that the signs had not yet been erected. The Council agreed that Malcolm Parker be requested to take over responsibility for playground inspections.

12. To discuss the Amenities area.

It was reported that all is well albeit a bit muddy which is to be expected at this time of year.

13. To discuss the footpaths.

It was reported that all is well, a tree had fallen and blocked one path but this had now been moved.

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

Cllr Stebbings was pleased to report that there had been a fall in the number of vehicles speeding recently.

In addition, he reported that there had been some recent contact with Norfolk Constabulary, the outcome being that the team had been allocated a police constable who will join them on the checks. In addition, Lorne Green, the Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner, will be invited to join a session in the new year.

Furthermore, Cllr Stebbings had been invited to a meeting with the Chief Constable to discuss the future of Speedwatch in the county.

15. To consider the installation of a defibrillator in the BT Box.

Provisional costs and grants available had been circulated to the council and it was agreed to go ahead with the project, given that costs to the council should be minimal. The Clerk to go ahead with the purchase of the phone box. Cllr Treavett was appointed to lead the project.

16. To consider supporting the case to retain PCSOs within the Norfolk Constabulary.

It was agreed that the council were happy to support the Chief Constable's recommendations. No action required.

17. To determine attendees at the 2018 'Battle's Over' commemoration.

The parish will hope to send 12 parishioners to the commemoration.

Items 18 – 20 were dealt with at the end of the meeting.

18. To note the external auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2017.

19. To appoint an internal auditor.

20. To appoint a councillor with responsibility for monitoring the accounts.

21. To consider part-funding the Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The council approved part-funding the Clerk's membership – pro-rata with Brisley and Fransham.

22. To authorise any financial payments.

The following payments were approved and cheques signed.

- Clerk's pay £242.56 (Sept & Oct - includes office allowance and monthly holiday pay).
- Clerk membership of SLCC - £19.38 (if approved)
- Gary Lake (grass cutting) - £500.00.

23. To consider the proposed budget for the year ending 31st March 2019.

Cllr Harding proposed, with Cllr Jane Harding seconding, that the budget, as circulated by the Clerk, be accepted with no increase in the precept for the year ending 31st March 2019. The Council were all in favour – agreed.

24. To receive items for the next agenda.

The following items were received:

- The Black Swan – enforcement proceedings.
- No 9 Necton Road – the car port.

25. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th January 2018 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman instructed that members of public withdraw from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following business (as allowed for in Standing Orders).

- 18. To note the external auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2017.**
- 19. To appoint an internal auditor.**
- 20. To appoint a councillor with responsibility for monitoring the accounts.**

The external auditors report has not been signed off as there are still outstanding matters to be resolved.

It was agreed that an internal auditor be appointed to review the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 – Clerk to progress.

In addition, Cllr Stebbings was appointed as councillor with responsibility for account monitoring.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____