

## LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm in the Village Hut on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**Present:** Cllr Jane Harding (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr Ian Harding  
Cllr Paul Stebbings  
Cllr Malcolm Parker  
Cllr Steve Treavett

County/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris  
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Jane Harding took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr's Simon Fowler and Henry Kilvert, and PC Paul Gilluley.

### **2. To receive any declarations of interest.**

There were none declared.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

Cllr Stebbings proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by Council. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **4. To discuss any matters from the July 2018 minutes (not on the agenda).**

There were no matters to discuss.

### **5. County/District Councillor reports.**

C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris gave the following report:

In respect of the Parish Partnership Scheme, if the Council wished to apply for a grant for village gates then it would have his support.

The council tax for 2019/20 is now being considered although a four year period had been agreed last year. However, it now appears that government will not approve another 3% increase for adult social care and there could be a £95M shortfall in the next two years.

The Police and Crime Commissioner continues with his bid to take over the fire service. The County Council are unanimous in their opposition to this. The consultation has now closed and the Secretary of State will make the final decision.

The railway bridge, being discussed later in the agenda, is a Heritage Railway Asset and is the responsibility of Highways England. It would have been assessed for weight in 2003 and is

examined annually. Both C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris and the Council agreed that no further action is required.

In respect of road junction mirrors, Highways will not grant permission but will tolerate, assuming there is no detrimental impact on traffic.

In respect of the speed limit extension request, although Highways are yet to carry out a survey, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris was able to confirm that the road in question will not meet the criteria.

Cllr Stebbings took this opportunity to thank the Cllr for his hard work on behalf of Little Dunham which was very much appreciated, this was fully endorsed by the Council.

## **6. Introduction and Questions to Breckland Engagement Officer (Norfolk Constabulary).**

In the absence of PC Gilluley, there was no introduction etc.

## **7. Open Forum for Public Participation.**

There were no members of the public present.

## **8. To discuss any correspondence for circulation.**

- Norfolk Constabulary Newsletter – August Edition – noted.
- Battle's Over – WW1 Commemoration – noted.
- Donation request from Citizens Advice Bureau – it was agreed not to make a donation.

## **9. To discuss planning issues:**

### **a) Applications for consideration.**

There were no applications to consider.

### **b) Decisions to note.**

- 30 Necton Road Little Dunham PE32 2DW - Demolition of porch etc and erection of single storey side and rear extensions, new front porch and garage. Rendering & cladding (part) – no objections submitted – this application has been approved.

### **c) Any other planning issues.**

In respect of an on-going enforcement issue, action is being taken by Breckland.

## **10. To receive an update in respect of the proposed Vattenfall Offshore Wind Farm.**

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris informed the Council that the DCO had been accepted and the application is progressing. There will be an opportunity for public comments but, if the council do wish to make comment, they must register prior to 16<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Ian Harding will register on behalf of himself and Cllr Fowler.

## **11. To discuss any Highways matters.**

### **a) Mirror at entrance to Barrows Hole Lane.**

This had been discussed at item 5 and a decision was deferred to the next meeting.

**b) Condition of Bridge no. MTD 2370.**

This had been discussed at item 5 and no further action was necessary.

**c) Village Gates.**

It was agreed, that due to the prohibitive costs and lack of a good location, not to pursue this matter.

**d) Old Railway Bridge Pothole.**

The pothole has been repaired.

**e) Any other highway issues.**

Cllr Ian Harding reported that repairs had been carried out on the road edge degradation in the village and an excellent job had been done. Cllr Stebbings reported an area on the Necton Road which required repair.

Council understood that progress still awaited in respect of the new passing places on the Necton Road relating to the recent Roger Warnes expansion planning application. C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will investigate.

At this point in the meeting, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting, the Chairman thanked him for his input.

**12. To discuss the Playing Field.**

**a) A plan for the future with funding options.**

Cllr Parker reported that the swings had been replaced and anti-bird fouling equipment installed, together with new football nets.

An inventory of the equipment, with replacement costs, had been taken and it was estimated it would cost in the region of £22,000, plus VAT and installation costs, to replace everything, .

However, much of the equipment is in a reasonable condition and, with the correct treatments now, it's life could be extended for up to another ten years. He requested immediate approval for the purchase of paint and wood preservative, Cllr Stebbings proposed a budget up to £100, this was seconded by Cllr Treavett and agreed by Council.

Cllr Parker is also investigating replacing some wooden parts with longer-lasting plastic, on an as and when basis, Council were supportive of this course of action.

Cllr Parker also requested approval to try to obtain outside funding from Waitrose and Tesco and Council were happy for him to proceed.

**b) Any other playing field issues.**

There were issues with some overhanging branches and Cllr Parker requested permission to cut these off – Council agreed.

**13. To discuss the Amenities area.**

It was noted that some overgrown trees needed attention and Cllr Kilvert will address this in due course.

**14. To discuss the Footpaths.**

The Clerk had submitted a request for the annual cut as the paths are now quite overgrown.

**15. To discuss the Village Hut.**

**a) Water provision for the hut.**

Cllr Parker reported that the paperwork had been submitted to Anglian Water and the survey will be carried out shortly. Once the quote is received, it will remain valid for three months, although renewal is possible.

**b) Any other Village Hut issues.**

Cllr Parker reported that he had installed new counters, there was a new bookcase and the seats had been re-upholstered.

The Chairman thanked Cllr and Mrs Parker for their much-valued work.

**16. To receive an update on the Community Speed Watch Scheme.**

Cllr Stebbings reported that checks were continuing and earlier in the year they were averaging around 13 to 14% of vehicles checked which were breaching the prosecution speed limit of 35mph. However, overall, breaches were now averaging at 16% for the year. If checks were targeted at appropriate times, from information obtained by the Sam II sign, a higher number of breaches were being detected which was increasing the average. However, checks around school times now resulted in fewer breaches than before which was encouraging.

Cllr Stebbings was pleased to report that they had two additional volunteers with one now active and the other in progress which will allow more checks to take place.

**17. To receive an update on the Speed Limit Extension Request.**

This matter had been dealt with at item 5 and no further action was required.

**18. To receive an update re the installation of a defibrillator in the BT Box.**

Cllr Treavett requested approval to proceed with an application for lottery funding, which was agreed by Council. Cllr Treavett reminded the Council of the ongoing costs of the equipment.

**19. To receive a financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

The report was noted by the Council. Cllr Parker is now a signatory for the bank account and Cllr Stebbings will remain in cases of emergency.

**20. To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

Cllr Ian Harding proposed appointing Mr Faulkner, at a nil cost to the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by Council.

**21. To consider financial support for Clerk's CiLCA training.**

Cllr Stebbings proposed full support for the Clerk's training at a cost of £182, this was seconded by Cllr Ian Harding and agreed by Council.

**22. To authorise financial payments as detailed below.**

Cllr Ian Harding proposed approval of the payments as detailed below, this was seconded by Cllr Stebbings and agreed by Council.

- Clerk Pay & Expenses (August/September) £246.80  
(includes office allowance).
- Fenland Leisure (play parts) £464.16
- Football Nets £24.48
- Blackbox (website) £140.00

**23. To receive items for the next agenda.**

There were no new items for the agenda.

**24. To note the date of the next meeting which will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm.**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:

Date:

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