

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Norton Lindsey Parish Council held in the Church Room at 7.45pm on 14 February 2017

Present: Cllr J Stobart (Chairman); Cllr M Neale; Cllr R Mann; Cllr Miss A Birch; Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska; Cllr K Sparkes; WDC Cllr P Phillips; WCC Cllr L Caborn

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jennifer Bendall

Public: None

Apologies: None

1. Chairman's notice regarding the recording and filming of the meeting

The notice regarding the recording and filming of meetings was displayed for those present to read.

2. Record of members' present

Noted. The Chairman welcomed two representatives from WDC Development Services to the meeting.

3. Apologies and acceptance of reasons for absence

Noted.

4. Declaration of interest (existence and nature) on items on the agenda

None.

5. Public comments

None.

6. To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 January 2017 and the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 January 2017

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 January 2017 and the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 January 2017 were taken as read, approved and signed.

7. To Discuss the Planning Process with WDC Head of Development Services

The WDC Head of Development Services and the Development Manager attended the meeting at NLPC's invitation to discuss the planning process and to address concerns that the Parish Councillors had regarding recent planning decisions in the village.

Discussion took place regarding the Green Belt and the National Planning Policy, and WDC confirmed that regarding extensions it used the 30% increase rule as its guideline. The 30% increase is taken from the original size of the property, and Planning Officers will search the WDC archives which date back to the 1940s as well as viewing the property concerned to ascertain what the original size was. It was noted that due to their original size, smaller buildings would not be able to extend as much as larger buildings.

It was noted that in the case of infill, up to 2 properties were allowed in the space between houses. The Parish Council was urged to be clear in its response to planning applications, be it neutral, an objection or support. If the Parish Council objects or supports an application, and this varies from the Planning Department's view, the application automatically goes to Planning Committee. If this was the case, the Parish Council was strongly encouraged to attend Planning Committees to put their views forward.

Discussion also took place regarding the recent planning application on the Poultry Farm site, and what would be allowed in the Conservation Area. It was suggested that the WDC Conservation Team be contacted to look at the existing design statement for the Norton Lindsey Conservation Area and to consider undertaking a new appraisal. There was also a discussion about recent planning applications in the Stratford District side of the village.

Advice was given regarding searching for planning applications on the website, and WDC confirmed that the suggestion put forward by NLPC for a parish notification alert was being investigated.

8. Chairman's report

None.

9. Matters arising

None.

10. Parish Council Action Plan Update

10.1 Website – the Clerk advised that NLPC had been unsuccessful in securing additional funding from the Transparency Fund to cover the cost of a paid website. A suggestion had been made that NLPC share a website platform with the Norton Lindsey Community Pub Ltd as a means of keeping down costs, and it was agreed to invite Mr M Goosens to the March meeting to discuss the options available. Discussion took place concerning the benefits of having a paid website over the free one currently in use, although the question was raised that as the number of visitors to the existing website was so low was it worth having a paid website.

10.2 Dog bins – it was noted that the Contracts Manager at WDC had now returned to work following a lengthy sick leave, and the matter would now be pursued with him as a matter of urgency.

10.3 Community Speedwatch Programme – the Clerk advised that the CSW trainers had advised that they would be happy to train 6 volunteers from Norton Lindsey. The Clerk confirmed there were 6 volunteers, but that 2 were unable to attend a day-time training session. Cllrs Sparkes and Neale offered to become volunteers to enable training to take place as soon as possible.

10.4 Traffic Calming - WCC Cllr Caborn advised that he had budget available for the forthcoming year, and was now able to pursue options for additional traffic calming on Curlieu Lane.

11. To discuss issues within the Parish relating to highways (eg. the state of the roads, parking, overgrown hedges, etc)

Following the recent traffic accident on Warwick Road, it was noted that there was a lot of debris left on the verge. Cllr Sparkes offered to clear it.

It was noted that the farm sign on Snitterfield Lane which has broken away from its post has still not been fixed. It was agreed that the Clerk should report the matter to the Locality Officer at WCC County Highways, with a copy to WCC Cllr Caborn.

Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska reported that with the recent cold weather, a sheet of ice had formed across the highway by Rose Cottage, Canada Lane. It is believed the water is rising from a spring in the verge by Rose Cottage and that it has become worse over the years. It was agreed that WCC County Highways would be notified, and Cllr Mrs Mace-Leska offered to meet the Locality Officer to discuss the issue in more detail. It was noted that the carriageway on Wolverton Road from Curlieu Lane to Mill Close was in a very poor state. The Clerk to notify County Highways.

Cllr Mann requested that when the WCC Locality Officer visits the Parish to discuss the issue on Canada Lane, he would like to meet with him to discuss the state of the road at the end of Littleworth Farm drive.

12. Correspondence and Communications Report (circulated to Councillors prior to meeting)

Noted. Discussion took place regarding correspondence received from the residents of Hawkes Hill Close regarding the installation of an additional street light outside Hawkes Hill Close, and it was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries with WDC regarding costings. Following receipt of an updated Parish Emergency Plan template from WCC, it was agreed that the Clerk would look at updating the existing Norton Lindsey Parish Plan and would report back at the March meeting.

13. Finance Matters

13.1 Payments received since last meeting:

NatWest Bank – interest – noted.

13.2 Payments made since last meeting:

Clerk's Salary – January 2017 – noted.

13.3 Expenditure for approval:

HMRC – PAYE – approved.

13.4 Income and expenditure year to date

Noted.

14. Planning Matters

14.1 Planning applications received:

None.

14.2 Update to planning applications received:

The Old Post Office, Wolverton Road W/16/2146 – application withdrawn – noted.

14.3 Planning application appeal decisions received:

The Barn, Big House Farm APP/T3725/W/16/3163433 and APP/T3725/W/16/3163438 – permission granted – noted.

14.4 To discuss matters of concern regarding building works within Norton Lindsey Parish

Whilst not in Norton Lindsey Parish, it was noted that in the design statement of a recent planning application next to Wolverton School reference had been made that in the WDC Local Plan Norton Lindsey is expected to have 30-80 houses. Cllr Neale had queried this with the architect who was not aware that Norton Lindsey had been downgraded to a Category 3 village. Following general discussion regarding planning applications within the village but in Stratford District, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact SDC to request that NLPC receive neighbour notifications.

15. Parish Report

WCC Cllr Caborn gave a brief update on the recent budget setting within WCC, and advised that following this process council tax would be going up 2%, infrastructure within the county was to be looked at, and budget was available for the community forums to continue.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 March 2017 – Ordinary Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.43