

COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall Lounge on Monday 6th November 2017

Present

Mark Rischmiller, Michael Spinks, Doreen Snelling, June Lillingstone, Amanda Taylor-Pope, Bill Musson, Bob Grindrod, Mike Kirkham, Allotments Chairman Bill Dickson, District Councillor Jo Coplestone, LPC Commander Brian Sweeney, PC Greig Shepherd, Kate Lawrence from Horstead PC, and 15 parishioners.

Safety notices were read out.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Doreen Snelling and Michael Spinks declared interests in items 9, 11, 12 Pre-School, changing rooms, Village Hall Charity; Bob Grindrod in Speedwatch.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4th September 2017

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by Chairman Mark Rischmiller.

4. Matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda

Doreen Snelling noted concerns about parking at the bottom of Rectory Road which is worse than previously; June Lillingstone advised that this had been brought to the attention of the Highways Ranger during her visit to the village. She will again report the matter.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

None from County Councillor Tom Garrod.

Jo Coplestone attended a meeting at the end of October re the loss of some 150 PCSOs due to the reduction in funding, and the reorganisation of, Norfolk Constabulary. They are to be replaced by 96 full-time PCs, some of whom will be drawn from existing PCSOs. They will be more cost-effective, as the disparity between salaries for PCSOs and PCs is not great, PCs will have a greater range of powers and are able to work after midnight. It is expected that there will be little or no reduction in the service to the public due to the implementation of new technologies and equipment. Norfolk remains a low-crime area.

Broadland District Council is a close partner of the Norfolk and Suffolk Strategies. A 9% growth in the local economy indicated good prospects for the region which will benefit from the government investment of £350m.

6. LPC Commander Brian Sweeney

LPC Sweeney offered to answer questions on the future of policing in Norfolk. Some £30m was saved during 2008-10, and a further £10m must be saved between now and 2020. A plan has been devised to future-proof policing, and maintain safety in the area despite the loss of the PCSOs. Our area has gone from 12 PCSOs to four; it is recognised that they have done much to safeguard the public. There is to be another Sergeant, and Police Specials will focus on this area of concern. LPC Commander Sweeney stressed that Beat Managers like PC Shepherd will work with the community to provide an adequate level of safeguarding, and hoped that parishioners will see little difference in the service. He reassured the meeting that, as our policemen and policewomen live in the area, they have a vested interest in maintaining the safety of their communities.

Standing orders were suspended. Mike Warren asked if parishioners would still see police foot patrols in the village. He was informed that foot patrols are unlikely unless there is a reported problem, but that mobile patrols will continue; officers will now have tablets on which they can report directly to base whilst in the community. Anti-social behaviour will still be covered, and SNAP meetings will continue. Keith Childerhouse questioned the cost-effectiveness of introducing

PCSOs in the first place, given the small difference in their salaries and their limited range of powers. Robert Watson accepted the financial constraints placed upon the Constabulary, but felt that the visible presence on PCSOs provided first-line representation of the Police in the community, the value of which should not be underestimated. LPC Commander Sweeney noted that body-cams are effective, and as officers adapt to the new technology it will become increasingly effective. Trials proved positive, and officers will communicate with all local agencies to improve the service. Bob Grindrod reported that Speedwatch had re-started, and during the last two months the Police had responded to local concerns by increasing its presence in the village, and monitoring traffic. A planned meeting will report on progress.

PC Greig Shepherd advised that Bill Kerr is not expected to return to work until the New Year. LPC Commander Sweeney and PC Greig Shepherd were thanked for their reports. Standing orders resumed.

7. **Prior to Public Participation** Mark Rischmiller announced his resignation as Chairman and from the Council. June Lillingstone and Amanda Taylor-Pope had also submitted their resignations as Councillors. Mark Rischmiller thanked them both for their contributions to the work of the Council. He presented the Clerk Barbara Elvy with a gift and flowers and thanked her for her support and dedication to the Council during the past 14 years.

Public Participation

Mike Warren enquired about the posting of minutes in the notice-boards; minutes are posted after each meeting by Councillors. Mr Warren also noted that no web address has been publicised.

Bill Dickson advised that the Rectory Road gates have been repaired. There are 77 plots of which 5 are vacant. There is no waiting list, and vacant plots have been advertised in the Marlpit. Four plots have been vacated as they were not tended to the required standard. Other tenants have responded well to requests from the Committee to tidy their plots, one tenant has not complied with requests, and the plot remains a hazard. There is to be a meeting with the tenant on 18th November, to which a Councillor would be welcome; Michael Spinks will attend. An eviction would be regrettable, but the Tenancy Agreement must be upheld in the interests of public safety. The insurance company has been kept informed of the issue. Bill Musson had received a complaint that a plot run organically had been sprayed with weed-killer. Bill Dickson was not aware of the matter. He had suggested a notice-board for the Allotments.

8. **Finance Report**

Copies of the current budget to date and bank reconciliation had been sent to all councillors, and were **accepted**.

The budget for 2018-2019 had been given to Councillors in September for their consideration and discussion at this meeting. Bob Grindrod had met with Jon Winnett re the Ling Way/Rectory Road/North Walsham Road junction, and discussed various options. They agreed that a Safer Crossing System was preferable to the other options. It monitors pedestrians, warning drivers by means of LED lights that they are on, or very close to, the road crossing. It does not guarantee the safety of pedestrians, but will be an improvement to this junction especially for school-children and the elderly. It was accepted that it will not be ideal for partially-sighted residents. Bob Grindrod advised that it would cost the Council £12,000, and be match-funded via the Parish Partnership Scheme. He **proposed** that he should progress a bid for funding and arrange a consultation evening before December in order to submit a bid before the 11th December deadline, to which Highways engineers would be invited. Councillors **agreed** in principle, Amanda Taylor-Pope **objected**.

Doreen Snelling requested that the grant of £660 towards insurance for the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity be included in the budget for 2018-2019, **unanimous**.

Coltishall PCC had requested a donation towards grass cutting costs £1000.

Payments since last meeting

J B Elvy salary	484.90
URM	39.60
Colt VH&RGC	660.00
Zurich insurance	1557.78
Total	2742.28

Receipts since last meeting	
Bank interest	0.47
Broadland DC precept	16500.00
RPA	276.00
Norfolk CC	153.04
Coltishall Commons Trust	66.67
	16996.18
Bank accounts as at 6 th November 2017	
Current account	41033.31
Deposit account	58731.00
Total at bank	99764.31
Outstanding cheques	NIL
Total	99764.31
Payments due this meeting	
JB Elvy salary	484.90
JB Elvy – expenses Sept-Oct	109.15
Coltishall Commons Trust dyke clearance	275.70
CPRE membership	40.00
British Legion	17.00
Citrus Shredding	45.00
Coltishall PCC	1000.00
Coltishall PCC (2 x £18.00)	36.00
Randalls	45.00
Total	2052.75

The Randalls invoice was for hire of a rotovator by the Bure Valley Conservation Volunteers for the Millenium Orchard. Ann Cryer had paid the invoice; Bill Musson asked the Council to reimburse her. He will provide the clerk with her bank details. Bill Dickson requested approval for Jeremy Hall's invoice re gates £505.00.

Payments **unanimously** approved.

The **proposed budget for 2018-19** was **approved**, to include a grant to the charity of £660.

Richard Church had quoted £3900 to complete all work itemised in the tree survey. Bill Musson noted that there was nothing of any urgency in the report. He would discuss it with the Tree Wardens and set a priority for works and review the remainder. He will then obtain costings for approval at next meeting.

9. Grant request changing-rooms, Pre-School

Ted McCarter had provided Doreen Snelling with a list of work completed to date. Trudy Hubbard-Fines reported that their commitment to the project was renewed at their AGM, and a Committee had been formed to manage alterations. She had requested confirmation from the Charity of plans to install new toilets.

10. Planning

A planning meeting had preceded the Council meeting. There were two outstanding items : the development at Rectory Road is ongoing, and an application for change of use at the Scottow Enterprise Park to further utilise existing facilities. Local residents expressed concern about noise from driver training and vehicle testing. An open evening aimed to reassure residents that speeds will not exceed 40 mph. The area concerned is primarily in North Norfolk DC's area but is of concern to Coltishall parishioners. As sugar beet will no longer be stored in the hangars HGV traffic through the village will decrease. The application for Seven Acres had been withdrawn. The minutes of this meeting were taken by Bob Grindrod.

11. Charity Report presented by Doreen Snelling.

Finance update

The balance at 31st October was £2937.93 with an estimate of £1463.00 at the end of December 2017. The forecast for the coming year is poor. There is no indication of potential revenue from the Pre-School, but Trustees consider that overheads should be apportioned.

A letter had been received by the clerk from Ray Thompson requesting that action be taken to remedy the overgrown hedge behind the bowls pavilion, which causes damp in the building. He had discussed the matter with Bill Musson, and considered the options. Mr Thompson had received quotations to remove the hedge and the earth bank, and replace with fence panels costing either £3250.00 or £3550.00 dependent on the height of the panels. An alternative option to replant the hedge was not practicable. Funding will be sought for a permanent solution. In the short term, Garden Guardian will cut the top and road-side face of the hedge, Bill Musson offered to cut the inside face.

12. Sheds

Youths have been seen running on the recycle bins and shed roofs, and rubbish and glass has been strewn around the area. Two sheds are in poor condition. As it is a priority to address these problems it was **agreed** that a skip should be hired, saleable items in the sheds should be sold, sheds either demolished or renovated by volunteers. Doreen Snelling is to arrange a skip and advise the clerk and councillors accordingly.

13. Correspondence

1. Mr and Mrs Howell from Dairy Farm House, Wroxham Road had complained about speeding, and asked for the limit to be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph. The clerk had spoken to Mrs Howell advising that speed limits are set by Highways, but that the Council had ordered a SAM machine and re-started Speedwatch. Her letter would be passed to the Speedwatch team. The team may request permission for an additional site to address this matter.
2. Keith Childerhouse deplored the poor state of the Village Hall and its facilities. His letter was answered by Doreen Snelling who was unaware of some issues, and had addressed others. Mr Childerhouse suggested that the Parish Council should improve the Hall before making donations to other groups.
3. Ms Sandra Robinson suggested that a pedestrian route could be made from Ling Way under the railway line to Rectory Road. Bill Musson had contacted Ms Robinson, and considered that the plan was feasible but would incur a significant cost. It was suggested that the developers of the Rectory Road site should be prevailed upon to create a safe path. Keith Childerhouse asked if the money to be allocated to the Safer Crossing System would not be better spent on this idea, as it would be safer for all, including the partially-sighted.
4. Natural England's grant will in future be an advance payment of 70% with the remaining 25% paid at the end of the year.
5. Broadland DC confirmed that no election request had been received for the three councillor vacancies.
6. Scottow Enterprise Park – see Planning
7. Bure Navigation Trust advised that they intend installing information boards along the Bure between Aylsham and Coltishall Lock. They requested support either with planning applications or funding.

14. Police report

Amanda Taylor-Pope reminded the meeting that the Christmas drink-drive campaign would again be in operation, with the introduction of next-day courts to deal with offenders.

15. Highways

June Lillingstone had arranged a meeting with Meryl Sherry from Highways on 17th October, also attended by the clerk. The emphasis was on safety matters, particularly the Rectory Road junction with the North Walsham Road, which Ms Sherry promised would be taken to Jon Winnett. She later reported that this matter had already been discussed with Bob Grindrod. The railway bridge is being re-boarded and repainted.

16. SAM 2 machine

Ordered on 13th October, awaiting delivery.

17. Speedwatch

There are now 12 volunteers, thus four teams of three who will do one session per week as a minimum. The Police are supporting with an added presence.

18. Phone mast

The clerk had received an apology that the work is not yet finished. Mark Rischmiller had spoken to the contractors re the trench. Subsequently, Open Reach had re-dug the trench which has again fallen. The clerk will contact the contractors again.

19. MUGA

Standing orders were suspended.

Following complaints about noise, and balls being kicked over into residents' gardens and onto the bowls green, meetings had taken place with Mr Yaxley and Mr Robinson. The culprits are older teenagers, who appear to be deliberately causing a nuisance. Broadland DC was consulted, and proposals to address the problem are :-

1. To close and padlock the MUGA from dusk or 8pm, whichever is the earlier. Signs could be put up, and a rota arranged with councillors. This had been done when the MUGA was installed to allow the surface to harden, but the padlocks were removed when it was noted that children were attempting to climb over the fencing. There might be objections to closing the facility at 8pm during the summer.

2. Reduce the noise with rubber inserts. Our installer does not supply them, but other suppliers are known to have them.

3. Install signs asking users to be considerate.

4. Fix a net across the top of the MUGA. This could encourage climbing, but councillors agreed that they could not prevent young people from climbing without constant surveillance.

Bob Grindrod was investigating anti-climb paint; he was trying to find acceptable solutions whilst keeping a valuable facility open, and would welcome any other suggestions.

It was **proposed** that options 1 and 2 should be implemented; Mr Yaxley asked that a sign stating the health and safety risk should be installed. It was accepted that children have tried to kick balls over the hedges and fences for as long as anyone can remember. Amanda Taylor-Pope reiterated her advice that deliberate anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police. Bob Grindrod had discussed the problem with PC Shepherd who had added it to the patrol list. Mark Rischmiller **proposed** that padlocks and signs should be bought, **agreed**, Amanda Taylor-Pope and June Lillingstone **objected**. Standing orders resumed.

20. Parish Risk Assessment

An addendum to the Risk Assessment to cover the MUGA had been circulated to councillors. Broadland DC will be asked to advise on the legal protection afforded by health and safety signs.

21. Cricket field benches

A quotation had been received for three concrete pads costing £600-800. The cheapest bench available was £81, but is not of sufficiently good quality or appearance. Benches costing £257 each would be better but the Charity would need to obtain grant funding. Mark Rischmiller asked if the cricket club might help to fund them; Doreen Snelling to investigate.

22. Delegated grass cutting

Jon Winnett had asked if the Council is prepared to continue with the delegated grass cutting arrangements for the next financial year. Councillors **agreed**; a draft agreement from Highways will be sent to the Council in March. The clerk to advise Mr Winnett.

23. Any other business

June Lillingstone noted that the perspex in the notice-board had still not been replaced. The clerk had chased it up earlier in the day with Jeremy Hall, who had promised it would be done this week.

**Meeting closed at 9.25pm. Next meeting is on Monday
8th January 2018 in the Village Hall Lounge at 7.30pm**