

GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Great Withingham Parish Council held at Great Withingham School on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 7:30pm.

Present:-

Herbie Burton

David Beaumont

David Sayer

Maria Fraser

Nicki Marshall

Rowan Banks

Jane Wisbey (In the Chair)

(1501)	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors AGREED to have photographs taken at the next meeting for the parish council website.</p>
(1502)	<p>To consider Apologies for Absence</p> <p>No apologies for absence were received.</p>
(1503)	<p>To approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting (27 November 2014)</p> <p>The minutes of the last council meeting were approved.</p>
(1504)	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>HB reported on an issue being suffered by two elderly parishioners whose house adjoined the school. Trees belonging to the school had grown over the parishioners garden fence. The schools Health and Safety Committee had discussed this on 19 March 2014 and had agreed to prune the trees. This had still not been done by 30 May and so the school had been contacted and had confirmed that they would carry the work out. On June 2nd the chair of the Health and Safety Committee reported that the County Councils quote to do the work was too high and that they would approach Easton College to carry out the work soon. Subsequently the school then contacted the parishioners to state that if they wanted the trees to be pruned they would need to carry out the work themselves. HB then contacted Andy Marsh at the Diocese who advised that if the Parish Council as a whole approached the school to request that the trees were pruned then the Diocese would become involved. Councillors AGREED that they fully supported the parishioners and that the school should prune the trees on its land. MF, NM, HB and RB AGREED to attend the school to discuss this issue on behalf of the parish council and then feedback to Andy Marsh.</p> <p>(1458b) The clerk would chase Bernard Matthews for a response to the letter regarding turkeys for parishioners at Christmas.</p>
(1505)	<p>To Record Declarations of Interest</p> <p>NM, in respect of item 1520, as an employee of Lenwade House Hotel.</p>

(1506)	<p>To Adjourn the Meeting to Allow Public Participation</p> <p>No items were raised.</p>
(1507)	<p>Update on Environment Agency</p> <p>Regarding the mill, it was reported that the quote that had been received was higher than expected. Therefore a reassessment was being carried out as to how to spend the available funding, by undertaking new surveys in order to access alternative options. RB would be the PC liaison for this.</p>
(1508)	<p>Update on Broadland District Council complaints</p> <p>DB gave the following updates:-</p> <p>Clayhill Farm. Planting / landscaping still had not been carried out. Mr Baker had stated that he was considering using the original planning permission for commercial use. The Environment Agency had responded that this was acceptable but if this did happen they would enforce the full planning conditions. An outcome would be known by the end of March 2015.</p> <p>Park Farm / wildlife farm. Malcolm Black from BDC was investigating whether the wildlife park had operated without a zoo licence. It was noted that he had attempted to close the complaint before satisfactory responses had been received.</p> <p>A conversation was held around the complaints procedure at BDC not being fit for purpose as the investigations were not independent. DB AGREED to try and organise a meeting with Malcolm Black, the Chief Executive of BDC, the Head of Planning and the local MP.</p>
(1509)	<p>To discuss NCC highways issues affecting parish</p> <p>HB reported that his actions had been completed from the last meeting, with the exception of the white lines being painted on the Loke – this would happen once the weather improved.</p> <p>Crossroads - Caroline Comer had been asked to confirm in writing that she had given permission for Highways to carry out work on her land.</p> <p>It was reported that some bus drivers had difficulty in seeing the bus stop since the speed sign had been located on it. Consideration would be given to moving this when the battery needed to be changed.</p> <p>NCC had advised that Wood Lane was in the process of becoming a B-road, and then an A-road in order to become a main HGV route to the A47. Councillors AGREED to write to NCC to ask for details on when the changes would happen and what changes would be made to the crossroads in order to support this change.</p>
(1510)	<p>To discuss the pedestrian crossing on the A1067</p> <p>The Chair reported that the local PCSO had met with school and then passed the issue to the school crossings officer at NCC. They had responded that as a pedestrian crossing was available they were unable to provide a crossing person. Volunteers could be sought to do this but would be liable if anything happened. NM / MF AGREED to discuss the possibility of the school funding a crossing person with the school.</p>

	<p>It was reported that a planning application had been received for a Norfolk food hub to be located from the Showground to the Easton roundabout. Concern had been raised by Honningham and Matishall parish councils regarding this as there would be limited road infrastructure in place to support it.</p>
(1511)	<p>To discuss Grit Bins on The Street</p> <p>The Chair advised that an email complaint had been received regarding grit bins on The Street not being filled – NCC had now remedied this. One parishioner had volunteered to grit one end of the Street when the weather was icy. A volunteer was requested to man the second grit bin. MF AGREED to ask if the school would do this.</p> <p>Councillors AGREED to contact NCC to establish whether a grit bin could be placed on Hubbards Loke, due to the new houses and village hall being located in this area.</p>
(1512)	<p>To discuss the dog bin on Mill Lane / The Street</p> <p>BDC had visited The Street due to dog fouling complaints and had placed signs in the area. Residents were encouraged to contact the Environmental Contracts Officer to report all incidents of fouling to ensure that BDC were aware of the level of the problem.</p> <p>Councillors AGREED to fund a dog bin on the public footpath adjacent to the field in Hubbards Loke if BDC would not.</p>
(1513)	<p>Update on bus shelter</p> <p>The furniture licence been granted. As soon as authorisation was received from the account holder the shelter would be purchased.</p>
(1514)	<p>To consider planning applications/matters</p> <p>(a) Planning applications</p> <p>20142006 - 41 Fakenham Road. Further to the last meeting it was noted that this application had been approved. The resident had queried how approval could be given when she would be unable to maintain her gutters etc. due to the new boundary adjoining her property.</p> <p>(b) Planning Application: 20141937 (Park Farm – Solar). It was reported that the application had been approved, despite the PCs objection.</p>
(1515)	<p>To discuss finance issues</p> <p>a) The following payments were agreed:- Clerks salary, tax and expenses Nov – Jan (Sonya Blythe) £420.26 Annual payroll & HMRC correspondence (Ladywell Accountancy Services) £55.00 Remembrance Sunday Wreath (British Legion) £17</p> <p>b) Following discussion it was AGREED to keep the 2015-16 precept at the same cost per household as 2014-15 (£19.51) making the precept £4487.</p> <p>c) The parish accounts were considered. Councillors AGREED to change the litter picking from eight to four hours a month. This could be reconsidered as and when necessary.</p>
(1516)	<p>To discuss Village Hall</p>

	<p>The village hall was complete and an opening ceremony would be held on 31 January. All councillors would be in attendance.</p>
(1517)	<p>To discuss the request to buy land next to 11 Hall Walk</p> <p>An email had been received from BDC stating the owner of 11 Hall Road would like to buy the land next to his property. Councillors AGREED to support the sale in principle subject to the village hall trust being in agreement, final plans and the cost.</p>
(1518)	<p>To discuss playground</p> <p>A response had been received from BDC regarding this. The clerk would go back to BDC to establish what changes would be made to the trust deed and to request a copy of the accounts on completion again, in order to consider the matter further.</p> <p>The biodiversity plan had caused concern as there would be a large amount of costs to cover in order to maintain it to the levels stated, which could affect the parish precept. It was suggested that a site meeting be arranged to discuss further.</p> <p>NM AGREED to contact Hazel Ellard at BDC regarding grants for the Playground – There was also the possibility of “new homes money”, which BDC would confirm shortly.</p>
(1519)	<p>To discuss Jubilee Wood public access agreement, Public Rights of Way and update on Centenary Fields</p> <p>NCC were in the process of arranging a site meeting with Caroline Comer to start the process.</p>
(1520)	<p>To discuss Lenwade House Hotel</p> <p>The owner had requested that the PC write a letter to BDC supporting an extension to the marquee for a year. Noise levels in the parish had been much reduced the past 18 months due to proactive action by BDC and so Councillors AGREED to carry out this request as long as the reduction in noise pollution was maintained.</p>
(1521)	<p>To discuss the BDC changes to Housing Allocations Policy</p> <p>BDC had put new restrictions on its housing policy stating that applicants needed to have lived in the Broadland area for the previous two years. The clerk was asked to write to BDC to ascertain whether this also applied to the local let agreements which were already in place.</p> <p>NM would provide details of a local resident who was in need of family locating nearby. The clerk would contact BDC regarding this and also query a three bedroom empty house within the parish which could be used.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The meeting closed at 21:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The date and time of next meeting were agreed as Thursday 26 March, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, memorial room.</p>

Signed:
Chair to the Parish Council

