

Minutes of the Meeting of Norton Lindsey Parish Council held in the Church Room at 7.45pm on 10 February 2015

Present: Cllr N Burns (Chairman); Cllr A Fowkes; Cllr J Stobart; Cllr Mrs J Lawton-Smith; Cllr T Fowler; Cllr R Mann; Cllr Miss A Birch; WCC Cllr L Caborn

Apologies: -

The Chairman welcomed Mr K Sparkes and Mr M Neale to the meeting as observers.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2015: discussion took place regarding the requirement of the Code of Conduct that all Councillors living in the Parish declare their interest when ratifying the Precept, which had taken place at the meeting on 13 January but which had not been fully recorded in the Minutes. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January will be amended to reflect this, and that they will be passed at the meeting to be held on 10 March 2015.

Matters Arising:

1. Elections:

The Vice Chairman advised the Meeting of the process that WDC will go through in preparation for the Elections in May, and discussion took place regarding this and cost implications to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange a meeting at the end of April for the current Councillors to sign off outstanding minutes and ensure a smooth hand over to the newly elected Parish Council in May.

2. Superfast Broadband:

The Clerk advised that the latest update to the availability of Superfast Broadband in Warwickshire had been received. This shows that Norton Lindsey is due to receive Superfast Broadband in the next stage of the rollout between the summers of 2016 and 2019. Unfortunately, the timescale can be no more specific than this because but funding has to be agreed and in place before work can commence.

Correspondence:

1. WCC - Warwickshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy consultation: The Clerk to forward to the Vice Chairman.
2. WDC – Boundary Changes: no action required.
3. WDC - Warwick District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2015: no action required.
4. WALC - No Capping of Parish or Town Councils' Precepts 2015-16: no action required.
5. Oil Buying Club – Introduction: the Clerk to respond that there is already a club in the village.
6. Various Village Organisations – Acknowledgement of donations: it was noted that the Playground Committee is still looking for a new Chair Person, and it was agreed that a request would be included the Parish Report.

Finance:

1. Accounts

The Vice Chairman advised that he has inspected the accounts and they are up to date and have been signed off. The Vice Chairman confirmed that the money invested in a Santander Bond (part of the Depot Fund) has been received back and transferred to the Depot Fund Savings Account. He also advised that WDC still owe a Grant of circa £1,000 which was agreed towards the cost of the Jubilee Memorial, and a substantial VAT refund will be claimed shortly. The Vice Chairman confirmed that presently there are no bonds around offering decent interest rates for Parish Councils. The Clerk to consult with the Society of Local Council Clerks to see if it can recommend higher interest savings accounts.

Planning:

1. New planning application: The Willows, Wolverton Road – Cllr Stobart declared an interest. NLPC has no objections to the application but would express concerns regarding the roof height and the configuration of the roof and the front elevation in relation to its neighbours.
2. New planning application: The Burrow, New Road – The Vice Chairman and Mr Sparkes declared an interest. NLPC has no comments or objections to the application.

Parish Report:

1. Road issues:
 - Henley Road - verge (opposite Norton Curlieu Lane): concerns have been raised regarding the poor state of the verge due to frequent vehicular parking which is also causing the verge to collapse onto the highway, and also the debris/rubbish that is accumulating on the verge. The Clerk to report to County Highways.
 - Discussion took place regarding a recent near miss at the junction of New Road and Warwick Road, and also the dangerous turn into Curlieu Lane off Henley Road. Cllr Caborn suggested the Parish Council arrange a walk through the Parish with a representative from County Highways to discuss all issues. The Chairman to arrange.
 - It was noted that the carriageway is collapsing on the bend at Littleworth Wood (near the brook) on Warwick Road. The Clerk to report to County Highways.
 - The street light outside The Old Post Office which has recently been repaired by Western Power is once again not working. The Clerk to report to WDC.
 - The drains on Snitterfield Lane at the end of the Blacon Farm drive are full of debris which is causing flooding when it rains. The Clerk to ask County Highways to have the drains jetted.
 - Concerns have been raised about recent fly tipping on the Warwick Road by the motorway bridge. It was reported that the rubbish has now been moved, but there had also been an incident at the end of Littleworth Farm drive where needles, etc, used by drug-takers had been dumped, most likely from a moving vehicle. This has been reported and cleared up.
2. It was agreed that thanks should go to Ian Gold for putting out the ice warning signs at the bottom of Snitterfield Lane, and John Hartwell at Red Horse Corner for putting grit down at end of Curlieu Lane. Both have been very diligent in ensuring safety on the village roads during the inclement weather.
3. Concerns have been raised that the hedge at the back of Furlong, Canada Lane, has been cut away, and that preparation works for the building of a boundary wall are very close to the Church Field. These concerns have been discussed with the Vicar.
4. Cllr Caborn reported the latest WCC budget news to the Parish Council.