

~~February~~

**MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall Youth Centre on
Thursday 12 April 2012 at 7 pm.**

Present: Harry St John (in the Chair), J Crew, R Langley, B. Norton, G. Feasey, R. Soper and D Gough

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council. CC Louise Chapman

1 Apologies for absence: C. Frost and S. Cusick

2 Declarations of interest:

Geoff Feasey expressed a prejudicial interest in item 4 (vi) – Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

John Crew expressed an interest in item 12(i) – traffic calming through 'the pinch.'

Barry Norton expressed an interest in item 4(i) – the future of the Adventure Playground.

3 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8 March, following minor amendment, be approved as a true and correct record.

4 Matters Arising

(i) Adventure playground

Members considered one resident's suggestion for the creation of a bike track at the playground and discussed, at length, the pros and cons of potential closure of the Adventure Playground generally. It was agreed that members needed further information to inform a final decision and it was resolved that:

- Harry StJohn and the Clerk would present a paper to the next meeting providing the necessary information required to make a decision on the matter.

(ii) LDF

BN advised that, in light of the MOD's reduced housing requirements, and following legal advice to WODC re the requirement for further consultation, there will be a further delay in finalising the draft core strategy of the LDF which will now be determined in late autumn. It is anticipated that the Core Strategy will then go to Public Inspection in the spring of 2013.

(iii) Localism Act

No further information. RS expressed concern that no member of the Parish Council had attended the recent briefing session on Neighbourhood Development Planning at Kidlington and emphasised the importance of this issue to the Parish Council.

(iv) NL Windmill, Windmill House and land adjoining

The Clerk reported a letter from WODC Planning Department confirming that, following inspection of both premises, no evidence of breaches of planning control had been found regarding their poor state of repair. The matter will however be reviewed in 12 months time.

(v) The future of North Leigh Library

CC Chapman confirmed that North Leigh library would not be closed and the County Council will monitor the situation on an ongoing basis over the next 12-18 months; it may prove possible for the CC provide further financial support. In answer to a question from Richard Langley of 'will the parish council need to fund the library in the next twelve months?', Councillor Chapman answered no.

(vi) Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

HStJ confirmed that a team of volunteers were arranging events and outlined the planned activities which would focus upon a tea party for children on Cuckamus Green, stalls, Hog roast and a 1950s fancy dress. Both pubs will be involved. Members agreed to the use of Cuckamus Green at no charge and RS has arranged for the necessary road closures. No further update.

(vii) Broadband Upgrading

The clerk reported a response to her enquiry to the County Council. OCC confirmed that:

- It is putting together a project to bring *next generation broadband* to the county.
- It is investing £10m and seeking further funding from *Broadband delivery UK*
- The Digital Strategy will be launched in June 2012 for public consultation
- The County Council will be in a better position to provide specific information regarding locations in November at the conclusion of consultations.

(viii) PC Elections

The Clerk confirmed that she had posted the results of the uncontested election at NL PC on village notice boards. She reported receipt of expressions of interest from two residents who wished to be considered for co option as Parish Councillors and confirmed that the issue of co option was a matter for consideration by the new Council that comes into office on 8 May 2012. It was agreed that further expressions of interests be invited through the Nor 'Lye News..

5 **Public Session** – No members of the public were present.

6 **Valley Police Report**

HSTJ reported that the recent Neighbourhood Policing newsletter reported a 17% reduction in reported crime in the Eynsham area over the past twelve months.

Police had visited North Leigh School as part of their crime week.

Members noted with pleasure, that Alice Dore had been appointed to lead the Youth Club at North Leigh

7 **Planning Decisions**

Two applications have been granted:

- Installation of solar panels at The Old School, Church Road
- Refurbishment of the existing dwelling to include conversion of attached workshop and utility to form a new kitchen at Crispins, East End.

8 **Planning Applications & Correspondence:**

None received

8.1 **Working Group Report;**

The following applications have been considered by the working group since the last meeting; no objections to any of the three:

Puddle End Farm: Alterations and erection of a single storey and a two storey extension.

Briarwood, East End: Single storey rear extension and front porch; conversion of part of a garage to provide additional living accommodation.

Green Close Cottage, East End: Two storey rear extension and change of use of adjoining land to a residential garden.

9 **Finance**

9.1 The following documents, previously circulated were discussed, confirmed and signed as appropriate:

- Bank Statements
- A summary finance report of spend against budget
- End of year bank reconciliations
- A comparative spending analysis
- Annual Return

9.2 **Accounts for Payment** It was resolved that the following items be paid.

Cheque no	Description	Supplier	Net	Vat	IPT	Admin Fee	Total
102105	AP cleaning March	WODC	141.73	28.35			170.08
102106	Ass of Local Councils subscription	LCR	15.50				15.50
102107	Repairs to Children's play equipment	R. Allsworth	200.00				200.00
102108	Annual subscription	ORCC	30.00				30.00
102109	Clerk's Salary March In lieu of failed SO payment	Lynda Scott	316.80		–		316.80

102110	APM Photocopying/ postage	Lynda Scott	22.27	22.27
SO	Clerk's salary April	Lynda Scott	340.00	340.00
102111	Annual subscription	Wychwood Proj.	15.00	15.00

9.3 Review of financial regulations

Members reviewed and amended the Financial Regulations

9.4 Review of Assets list

Members confirmed the list as accurate.

9.5 Review of Standing orders

Members considered and discussed the revised NALC Standing Orders and agreed to defer further discussion/amendment until the new Council takes office following the election on 3 May.

10 Open Spaces Reports

10.1 Reports received

10.2 Tree survey:

Outstanding HStJ

10.3 Children's Playground

RS reported that the aerial swing had been damaged and would need replacement by the original contractor. Clerk to action.

11 Cemetery/ Churchyard Reports

RS reported that a number of the graves on the right hand side of the Cemetery were sinking. The Clerk confirmed that a professional inspection of the Churchyard and Cemetery was due this year and it was agreed that advice be sought from the inspector. Clerk to get a quote.

The Clerk reported a letter from the Beaver Scouts who were seeking permission to plant an oak sapling in the cemetery to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Members agreed to the proposed planting along the northern edge of the cemetery and HST J will meet with the Beaver Scout Leader to discuss the details.

12 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

'The pinch' – traffic calming measures

JC expressed continuing concern at the speeding of vehicles through the Pinch and updated members regarding his discussions with OCC. CC Louise Chapman advised that she had visited the junction with the Area Steward who was going to look at a costed design solution and report back in the next few weeks. Councillor Chapman expressed confidence that funding to address the traffic calming issue could be found from the local Area Stewardship fund.

Proposed Bus Stop on Park Road

Members noted that there had been a lack of response from residents on this issue through the Nor 'Lye News and, following discussion, agreed that there was no evidence that the proposed bus shelter is required in the village, in any location. The Clerk was asked to contact OCC and enquire if the available funding for the bus shelter could be transferred to other village transport projects.

Resident complaint/Road safety

BN reported that he had received a complaint from a local resident with disabilities who was experiencing difficulties travelling from North Leigh to Long Harborough using the footpath/cycle path. The grass verge is encroaching on the cycle path pushing users nearer the curb and causing safety issues, particularly from passing HGVs that sometimes overhang the curb. BN has raised the issue with officers of OCC.

13 Consultation

None

14 Correspondence

Dial a Ride new service posters; now displayed in the village.

A Letter from Candy Kerpache expressing concern regarding the use of Cuckamus Green for

informal/impromptu football games. The Clerk reported that she had received a second complaint about this matter from another resident who preferred not to give his name. Following discussion and suggestions that residents' call the PCSO when the problem was happening, it was agreed that HStJ would contact Mrs Kerpache to discuss the matter.

15 Any Other Business (For Mention Only)

RS requested that the Emergency Plan be reinstated as a standing agenda item.


GF reported that the village notice boards were in need of repair/replacement.

GF raised concerns regarding the management of the allotments in the village. HStJ confirmed that this was a matter for Eynsham Hall who owns the allotments; any enquiries/concerns should be directed to Savills, its agents at Botley, Oxford.

Members noted that this was the last meeting for Councillors Crew and Feasey who had stepped down from office. The Chairman will write to both Councillors expressing the sincere thanks of the Parish Council for their service to North Leigh.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 10 May 2012 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chairman  Date 10/5/12