

**MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Turner Hall on Thursday
13 October 2011 at 7 pm.**

Present: Harry St John (in the Chair), J Crew, D Gough, R Langley, C Frost, S Cusick, R Soper,
G.Feasey

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council

1 Apologies for absence: B.Norton

2 Declarations of interest:

John Crew declared an interest in agenda item 12.1, the signing of New Yatt Road.

3 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18 September, previously circulated, be taken as read and approved as a true and correct record.

4 Matters Arising None

5 Co-option of Parish Councillor

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Mr Geoff Feasey be co-opted as a parish councillor.

6 Public Session

Mrs C Kapache attended to update members on recent developments regarding the future of North Leigh Library (item 14 was therefore brought forward for discussion).

Mrs Kapache reported that, although the Friends of North Leigh Library still support consultation in principle, they have stood down as a protest gesture against OCC's bias towards the volunteer option. They consider that their expected role in managing a volunteer led library service is too onerous and not feasible. She also reported that OCC would pay for one third of the Librarian's time and the remaining two thirds would be met by volunteers or, if that were not possible, by some other means if the library were to operate as at present. Members discussed other potential options, including contributing to the cost of retaining the employment of the Librarian and the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries in this regard. Members understood that new monies had become available to OCC for the Library service and the Clerk was requested to seek further information on this point.

7 Thames Valley Police Report

H St J reported that following recent changes in staff deployment, PCSO Helen Keen will be looking after North Leigh in the future.

8 Planning Decisions

The Clerk reported the following decisions:


- Bridewell Farmhouse, Wilcote Road, North Leigh: Granted
- 1 Park Road, North Leigh: Granted

9 Planning Applications & Correspondence

None received

9.1 Working Group Report; considered the following application and had no comment to make:

Windmill Cottage, Kingston Heights; external alterations to include replacement of corrugated



iron wash house roof with reclaimed welsh blue slates

10 Finance

10.1 Accounts for Payment

It was resolved that the items set out in the attached list be paid.

10.2 Finance Report: Bank statements were circulated and a summary report given by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to produce a monthly report of spend against budget cost centres

10.3 Risk Assessment Schedule

The updated Risk Assessment Schedule was discussed and accepted and a June review date agreed.

10.4 External Audit Report

The Clerk presented the External Audit report on the Annual Return which was accepted

10.5 Budget Setting 2012/13

Members confirmed that this would take place at the December meeting of Parish Council

11 Open Spaces Reports

11.1 Reports

RS submitted reports for the Adventure Playground and the Children's play area and expressed concern regarding the amount of litter on both. The Clerk provided estimates for the repair of the rubber sleeving on the children's swings, repairs to the rubber mats throughout the playground and the replacement of bark under the cable runway. Following discussion it was agreed:

- To replace the two toddler swings (Est. cost £428)
- Review the position re replacing the bark at the next meeting. H.StJ and SC agreed to visit the playground to rake the bark and assess the situation
- Defer repairs to rubber mats until the next financial year

11.2 Adventure playground: following discussion of the cost benefit of the adventure playground it was agreed that its future use be determined during budget setting at the December meeting.

12 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

(i) Signing of New Yatt Road.

JC expressed serious concerns about the allegations made regarding his professional conduct by Mrs F Taylor in her email concerning the signing of New Yatt Road.

It was resolved that H.StJ would meet with Mrs Taylor to discuss these issues and report back to the next meeting.

(ii) Potholes/road surface deterioration on Common Close

Clerk to report to OCC.

13 Cemetery/ Churchyard Reports

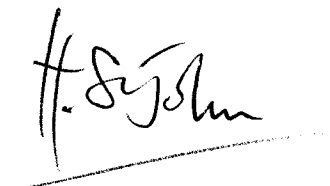
Felling of tree in Churchyard

It was agreed that the tree in the Churchyard that has been strangled by ivy needs removing; Clerk to arrange with contractor.

HStJ reported that a section of wall at the west end of the Churchyard is in need of repair and undertook to look into the matter.

14 Water Conservation:

GF updated Members following his discussions with David Grantham of Thames Water regarding a water conservation project for North Leigh. It was agreed that the project



should focus only on the core village of North Leigh which would include a number of key sites, other than dwelling houses ie a school, the Memorial Hall, a business park and Shakenoak. In order to progress matters GF requires statistical information about the village and the Clerk agreed to assist with this.

15 Localism Bill and the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

H.StJ led a discussion on the draft NPPF expressing concern that this will impose many more responsibilities on Parish Councils and yet they have not been included in the current consultation exercise. H.StJ emphasised the importance of Neighbourhood Development Plans in respect of this forthcoming legislation and, following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk will:

- Make urgent enquiries with The Dept. for Communities and Local Government regarding their intentions to consult with Parish Councils
- Respond to the letter from CPRE and invite them to address a future meeting of the Parish Council.

16 OCC Snow Guidance for Oxfordshire

The guidance was further discussed and H.StJ reported back on his 'Snow day training' outlining the key action points for the Parish Council. Various options were discussed and it was resolved that a Working Group be set up to devise a plan for the village. H.StJ, RS and SC offered to be members of the group and report back to the December meeting with a plan.

17 Community Transport Schemes – Share A Taxi

The Chairman asked that this item be deferred for future discussion.

18 JOJu Competition

GF reported that this has now closed

19 Use of Youth Centre for PC meetings

Harry is in the process of negotiating an arrangement and will advise members of the outcome before the next meeting.

20 Consultation

Proposal for the transfer of properties in Wilcote to the Parish of Ramsden

The Clerk reported that WODC had confirmed that no further action will be taken on this proposal.

21 Correspondence

A request for a donation from Oxfordshire Repatriation Memorial Bell Appeal. Following discussion this was deferred to the next meeting.

22 Any Other Business (For Mention Only)

Diamond Jubilee Beacons: Members discussed briefly and agreed that the PC would not participate

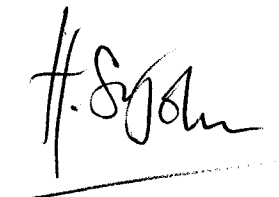
It was noted that the notice board at East End needs re varnishing.

Flooding at East End outstanding matters to be put on the agenda for the next meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the personal accident cover for members over 70 years of age has been arranged with AON, subject to receipt of medical fitness letters from the members concerned.

23 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 10 November 2011 at 7 pm. Venue to be confirmed by HStJ

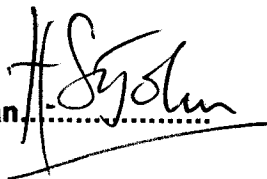
The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.



Accounts for payment: Parish Council meeting 13 October 2011

Cheque no	Description	Supplier	Net	Vat	IPT	Admin Fee	Total
102059	Donation	Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	50.00				50.00
102060	Spraying and mowing adv. Playground August	MV Firmin	293.30	58.66			351.96
102061	External Audit fee	BDO LLP	285.00	57.00			342.00
102062	Mowing July and August	NPJ Green	212.00				212.00
102064	Windmill Heights/Cuckamus Green maintenance	David Green	474.00				474.00
102065	Adv. Playground cleaning September	WODC	141.73	28.35			170.08
102066	Turner Hall rental	North Leigh PCC	20.00				20.00
SO	Clerk's Salary October	Lynda Scott	316.80	-			316.80
102067	Spraying and mowing Adv. Playground	MV Firmin	413.30	82.66			495.96
102068	Annual Licence fee re rent of land off Windmill Road	WODC	25.00				25.00
102069	Adv. Playground cleaning	WODC	141.73	28.35			170.08
102070	Grass cutting August	WODC	574.56	114.91			689.47

Chairman



Date

10th November 2011