

MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall Youth Centre on Thursday 12 July 2012 at 7.30 pm.

Present: R. Soper (in the Chair), B. Norton, R Langley, D Gough, C.Frost, I. Hogg, G.Matthews and S. Cusick

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council and one member of the public, Mr M Davis

1 Apologies for absence: H. St John

2 Parish Council operation

The Chairman welcomed Ian Hogg and Greg Matthews as new members of Council and emphasised the importance of the Code of Conduct highlighting the importance of the role of the Council in working for the community of North Leigh, always ensuring that members' personal interests are raised where relevant. He also emphasised the need for individual members to take a proactive role in the business of Council and, following discussion, the following areas of responsibility were confirmed:

- **Planning Working Group:** RS/CF/HStJ and SC; to ensure a timely response to planning applications, it was agreed that comments will be sent to the Clerk by email from individual WG members and that she will make submissions to WODC based on 3 out of 4 responses.
- **Emergency Plan:** RS/SC/RL/HStJ
- **Cemetery and Churchyard:** BN/RL/RS/HStJ
- **Open Spaces reports:** IH
- **NL Website:** GM
- **Localism:** CF/SC/RS/HStJ
- **PC visitor hospitality:** CF

3 Declarations of interest:

BN expressed a pecuniary interest in the planning application for 19 Perrott Close

4 Public Session

Mr M Davis spoke in support of his revised and resubmitted planning application for the erection of a detached dwelling on land adjacent to 1 Parkside emphasising that the revised application addressed the issues raised by the WODC Planning Committee in respect of reducing the proposed ridge height and narrowing the gable of the dwelling. He asked that the Parish Council support the re submitted application.

Following discussion by members, it was agreed that the matter be dealt with by the Planning Working Group in the usual way.

5 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21 June be approved as a true and correct record.

6 Matters Arising

(i) Adventure Playground

BN expressed an interest in this item.

The Clerk confirmed that WODC Cabinet would be discussing Council's request for the early surrender of the lease on the Adventure Playground in August.

(ii) LDF

The Clerk reported the following update received from WODC:

Significant change relating to the proposed Cogges Link Road (CLR). The Secretary of State for Transport has advised OCC that it supports the decision of the planning inspector not to confirm the necessary compulsory purchase orders needed for the scheme to go ahead.

This is a significant material change in circumstance, the implications of which need to be fully explored before the Core strategy can be finalised. Consideration now needs to be given to alternative ways of relieving Witney's traffic congestion and improving air quality in the absence of the CLR. It is also necessary to re-appraise the various growth options at Witney in light of the scheme not going ahead.

For this reason there will be further delay; the revised draft Core Strategy will now be considered by Cabinet in the autumn with a view to further consultation towards the end of the year and formal publication in spring 2013. Expected to go to the Government inspector in late spring 2013 and adopted in early 2014.

(iii) Localism Act

CF and SC reported back on their attendance at WODC's Localism Forum on 4 July and raised the following key points:

- A well organised and well attended event which provided excellent networking opportunities
- Covered a range of briefings on Neighbourhood planning, Policing and Health, Social and Community issues
- Possible opportunities to work with other Councils on some of these issues
- Attendees requested that other similar sessions be arranged
- Raised concerns about the cost and complexity of preparing Neighbourhood plans
- PCs will only have a greater influence over planning matters if they have a Neighbourhood Plan in place
- Both agreed that more information and guidance is needed to inform future decisions re the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for North Leigh.

BN confirmed that preparation of Neighbourhood Plans could be expensive and that they must comply with the Local Plan Framework; he suggested that Council may wish to consider Community led planning as an alternative.

Following discussion it was agreed to invite a Planner from WODC to a Council meeting to advise on progressing the matter. Clerk to action

(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. **No further information**

(v) The future of North Leigh Library

CC Chapman confirmed that North Leigh library would not be closed and the County Council will continue to monitor the situation on an ongoing basis over the next 12-18 months; it may prove possible for the CC provide further financial support, depending upon budgetary constraints.. **No further information**

(vi) 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.
- Members will consider what can be done to make North Leigh priority location.
- No further information at present.

(vii) PC meeting with Chief Inspector Paine:

The Clerk confirmed that CI Paine will attend the Council's October meeting.

(viii) Emergency plan

Sub Committee meeting to be arranged.

(ix) Appointment of Water Conservation Project representative

None appointed

(x) PC Letterhead

Awaiting a quotation

7 Thames Valley Police Report

No local matters to report.

RS advised that he had joined the Police Community Messaging service and suggested that all

members log in.

- 8 **Planning Decisions:**
- Erection of a detached dwelling on land adj. to 1 Parkside: **Refused** (re submitted)
 - The Barns, Cuckoo Lane: change of use to storage of aggregates: **Approved**
 - New vehicular access gates at 26 Park road: **Approved**
 - Internal/external alterations at Wilcote House, Wilcote: **Approved**
- 9 **Planning Applications & Correspondence:**
- Walnut Tree Cottage: No comments
 - 19 Perrott Close: No comment
 - 22 Bridewell Close: Portacabin: WODC planners reviewing the planning situation in light of the removal of a tree that heightens the visibility of the portacabin
- 9.1 **Working Group Report;**
- Green Close Cottage, East End: No comments
 - Woodside, East End: No comments

10 **Finance**

10.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque no	Description	Supplier	Net	Vat	IPT	Admin Fee	Total
102126	Grass cuts	NPJ Green	215.00				215.00
102127	Grounds maintenance at Cemetery/churchyard	WODC	574.56	114.91			689.47
102128	Adventure playground cleaning April to June	WODC	299.76	59.94			359.70
SO	Clerk's salary July	Lynda Scott	340.00				340.00

10.2 **Spend against budget report:** Approved

11 **Open Spaces**

11.1 **Reports:** No reports received

11.2 **Tree survey:** HStJ to review once the trees are in leaf.

12 **Cemetery/ Churchyard Reports**

12.1 **Cemetery and Churchyard inspection**

The Clerk reported one response to the notice re unstable headstones in the Nor 'Lye News..

12.2 **Churchyard damage to headstone**

The Clerk reported that WODC had badly damaged a headstone in the Churchyard during grass cutting. The matter is being addressed by WODC and Rev Miri Keen.

12.3 **Notice Board Lock**

The Clerk reported that she was unable to open the Notice Board to change contact details. RS will ask someone to look at the lock

12.4 **Donation of a Memorial Bench**

The Clerk reported a request received from a resident wishing to place a memorial bench in the cemetery. The request was approved but deferred until the new layout of the Cemetery is determined.

12.5 **Exclusive Rights reservation markers**

The Clerk reported that the cost of markers would be £25 +VAT and at present 12 were needed. It was agreed to purchase 20 to be stored at RL's premises

12.5 **Review of Cemetery Charges**

In light of the costs of 'reserved markers' it was proposed by RL and seconded by BN, that purchase of exclusive rights to burial plots be increased by £25

15 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

15.1 The pinch' – traffic calming measures

Awaiting information from OCC following the site meeting with the Area Steward.

15.2 Village Walk with OCC

The Clerk reported that OCC had offered to conduct a village walk accompanied by Parish Councillors to review the works outstanding in the village. Following discussion it was agreed that a list of relevant highways matters be compiled prior to the walk and members agreed to work together to identify these. The Clerk was asked to access a parish map from which specific areas could be allocated to members.

16 Consultation

Members considered a proposal from Long Hanborough PC to pilot an evening bus service along route 242 and agreed that though they support the proposal in principle, further details and costs are needed to inform further consideration.

17 Correspondence

None received

18 Youth Project

The Clerk reported a request from Mr Dave Broughton to have a Climbing Wall on Cuckamus Green on 3 August from 6pm to 9.30pm. Members approved the request in principle, subject to Mr Broughton providing evidence that the necessary insurances are in place and that residents living on the perimeter of Cuckamus Green are informed of the plans. Clerk to confirm with Mr Broughton

19 Any Other Business (For Mention Only)

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 13 September 2012 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman Date