

MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall Youth Centre on Thursday 9 January 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present: R.Soper (in the chair), R. Langley, B.Norton, D. Gough, H.StJ, I Hogg, S.Cusick and G. Matthews

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council.

1 Apologies for absence: C. Frost

2 Declarations of interest:
None

3 Minutes
Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2013 be approved as a true and correct record.

4 Matters Arising

(i) North Leigh Windmill and land adjoining

The Clerk reported that she had written to the land owner to enquire about grass cutting the land surrounding the windmill and had received no response to date. The Clerk will send a reminder.

(ii) Broadband Upgrading

BN reported that WODC had met with OCC and BT to determine precisely which areas will fall outside the BT contract; awaiting a response from BT.

(iii) Emergency plan/Grit boxes

All have been installed with the exception of the one ordered for the A 4095 junction with Common Road. Clerk to chase. RS to put a message in the Nor 'Lye News advising residents that the grit is for use on the public highways and not for personal use.

(iv) NL Website

GM has improved the registration process for the website.

(v) ROSPA 2013 Quotations

IH presented the quotations for resurfacing the Children's Play area and explained the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods. The cost will be Tiger Mulch £9459 or Wetpour£11,274. It was agreed that the project be deferred but £5000 be reserved in next year's budget towards the cost of the work.

In the meantime, the Clerk will contact WODC in April to explore the possibility of securing grant funding to support the upgrading of the playground.

IH reported that the work to repair the Cable Runway has been completed.

(vi) North Leigh Library

RS reported that he, BN and DG had met with OCC to discuss the future funding arrangements for the Library and have agreed that the Parish Council will provide funding of £5000 per year for three years from April 2015 to ensure that the library service continues to at least its current level.

Following discussion, it was agreed that RS will sign an agreement with OCC on behalf of the Parish Council and that the Council will work to establish a local fundraising group and seek sponsorship to support the continuance of local library services beyond 2017.

The Parish Council will seek funding from the County Councillor's Community budget of £2500 each year to offset the costs to the PC.

The Parish Council's contribution to OCC will be paid six months in advance, in two annual payments commencing on 1 October 2014.

5 **Thames Valley Police Report**
None received.

6 **Planning Decisions: the following decisions have been received:**

Erection of a single storey extension at Beeches, Sturt Wood: Granted

Change of use of agricultural land to form domestic curtilage and erection of two storey extension and alterations to the drive layout at The Old School Hall, Church Road: Granted

Internal and external alterations at Perrots Hill Farm: Granted

7 **Planning Applications & Correspondence:**

The Orchard, Church Road: erection of a detached dwelling, new vehicular access and carport to serve existing dwelling: comments submitted.

Gorselands Hall, Boddington Lane; erection of annex and workshop: comments submitted

51 Windmill Road: erection of first floor extension: no comments/objection

7.1 Working Group report

Erection of a single storey extension at Oakhome, New Yatt Road: no comment

8 **Finance**

8.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Cheque no	Description	Supplier	Net	Vat	IPT	Admin Fee	Total
102249	AP Cleaning December	WODC	118.36				142.03
102251	Churchyard hedge cutting	WODC		23.67			
102250	PAYE January	HMRC	88.10				88.10
SO	Clerk's salary January	Lynda Scott	352.40				352.40

8.2 Revision of Budget for 2014/15

Members revised the planned budget for 2014/15 to include the Council's financial support to the North Leigh Library and confirmed the budget for 2014/15 as £41,885.

The breakdown by cost centre is:

	£
Open spaces	6000
Play areas	6000 (including a reserve of £5000 for resurfacing the Children's play area)
Cemetery and Churchyard	5500
General administration	8800

North Leigh Library	2500
S 137 payments	350
PWLB	10,600
Youth Centre	1100
West Oxon, CAB	110
Defibrillator	925

8.3 Annual review of Clerk's salary

Following review and discussion it was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary as follows:

January to March 2014 – increase to £5,374.

April 2014 to March 2015 – increase to £5,480

From the 1st April 2015 – increase to £5,586 plus any agreed NALC increases.

8.4 Precept for 2014/15

Members discussed the precept requirement for 2014/15 in light of commitments and in particular, financial support for the Library. It was agreed that an increase in the precept will be necessary but, given that a decision concerning Council tax capping is expected in mid-January, it was agreed to delegate the decision to the Chairman. If Parish precepts are capped at 2%, the precept request will be £30,600, if not, members agreed to increase the precept by £5000 to £35,000.

9 Open Spaces

9.1 Reports:

IH reported no problems with the play areas..

10 Cemetery/ Churchyard Report

H StJ.to forward report to the Clerk.

11 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

11.1 Speeding in East End – Community speed watch

The Chairman is consulting TV Police re this matter. Clerk to seek clarification from the Council's insurer re the insurance cover for volunteers supporting the scheme.

12 Consultation

Consultation documents concerning WODC's review of street trading arrangements have been circulated to members.

13 Correspondence:

None

14 Any Other Business

Members agreed to the Clerk's request to use the Scribe accounting system for Clanfield PC accounts. She confirmed that Clanfield PC will pay 50% of the annual licence fee.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 13 February 2014 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman Date