

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

Present: R.Soper (in the chair), H StJohn, D. Gough, I Hogg, R Langley, C Frost and G. Matthews

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council and Mr and Mrs Power

1 Apologies for absence: B. Norton and S. Cusick

2 Declarations of interest: None

3 Residents' Concerns

3.1 Local organisation information on PC website

Mrs Power raised the question of access to the PC website by local village organisations. GM confirmed that if local clubs/organisations provided him with content, he would ensure that it was included on the PC website. Mrs Power also expressed concern that the website had not been updated with PC Minutes since May. GM apologised and agreed to remedy the situation.

3.2 Letter concerning the Chairmanship of the MH Committee

Mrs Power expressed concern about a letter published in the Nor 'Lye news seeking volunteers to join the MH committee and also the appointment of a new chairman. She considered the letter to be inappropriate and outside the provisions of the MH structure where the committee chairman should be appointed from the users on the committee. As custodian trustee, she asked what action the PC would take on this matter. Following discussion, RS confirmed that although the PC is custodian trustee, it has no role to play in the day to day running of the Hall or its Management Committee and suggested that Mrs Power raise her concerns with the acting Chairman.

Mrs Power also considered the message to imply that the MH might close down should a new chairman not be found. HStJ and CF assured Mrs Power that this was not the case and agreed to raise all her concerns with the Management Committee.

4 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September be approved as a true and correct record.

5 Matters Arising

(i) North Leigh Windmill and land adjoining

RS had received an email from Heather McCulloch concerning the triangle of land at the junction of Common Road and Park Road suggesting that the appearance of the land be improved by replacing the signpost and placing a new bin and bench there. Given that the land belongs to OCC the Clerk was asked to contact them for a costing.

The Clerk reported that she had had a site meeting with Dave Clack, OCC Area Steward to discuss the proposals. He agreed that OCC would agree to the upgrading of the land and will provide a costing. Awaiting a response.

Members discussed the Windmill and the land adjoining with a view to identifying it as a community asset and HStJ provided a link to Planning Practice Guidance on this matter. To be discussed further once the WODC Local Plan has been finalised.

(ii) Broadband Upgrading

No further information.

(iii) NL Website

The Clerk was asked to contact local organisations to encourage them to provide content for the PC website.

(iv) Refurbishment of WI bench in the cemetery

Mr Kerpache has now completed this work.

(v) Parking for NL memorial Hall

RS has been in discussion with the school governors who consider the proposed parking arrangements for the MH as a risk to the security of the school, both in terms of its timing and nature. They are of the view that if the school car park were to be used for MH parking, there would need to be an approved security person on site at all times. CF to report back to the MH committee.

(vi) Land at the end of Evenlode Close; residents' ground maintenance requests

The Clerk has had a site meeting with the OCC Area Steward who has agreed to the land being improved in line with residents' suggestions, subject to a legal agreement with the PC and provided the project is funded and on-going maintenance costs met by the PC.

Having discussed OCC's requirements and the potential costs and complexities of this issue, Members agreed that the PC could not reasonably achieve what residents' propose without significant cost and resolved not to take responsibility for upgrading this piece of OCC land.

(vii) Renewal of lease for the Children's play area/ Grant application to resurface the Children's Play area

Awaiting a response from OCC

(viii) Adventure Playground seats

IH reported that the cost of the new seats would be £490.39 +VAT. IH to report back on the additional cost of fittings.

(ix) Grounds Maintenance Contracts/WODC issues

Members considered the issues raised by WODC and made some minor amendments.

(x) Letter from Jim Wiggle

Awaiting response from HStJ

6 Thames Valley Police Report

None received.

7 Planning Decisions: the following decisions have been received:

Replacement of existing shed with single storey extension at Wylcott, New Yatt Road:
Granted

Insertion of dormer window at Arden, New Yatt Road: Granted

8 Planning Applications & Correspondence:

Church Farm House, Church Road: Alterations and erection of rear extension and detached garage. Conversion of existing barn to dwelling with associated works: No comments or objections

8.1 Working Group report

Holbrook Farm, East End: Removal of conditions to planning permission: comments submitted

10 Perrott Close: alterations and erection of single storey extensions; no objection/ concern re loss of light to neighbours.

9 Finance

9.1 Accounts for payment: approved: see attached.

9.2 Spend against budget report: approved.

9.3 External Audit report

The Clerk reported that the Council's accounts had been approved by the External Auditor and were available for inspection from residents; this has been advertised on the notice board. The auditor has raised one minor issue for future action in respect of the precept entry on the annual return. This income (receipt) must be split to include the Council Tax grant part in Box 3 and not Box 2.

9.4 Defibrillator – quotation for electrical installation

RS has received a quotation for £248.86 +VAT from Stephen Wiley. Members agreed to go ahead with the installation on this basis.

10 Open Spaces

10.1 Reports:

Reports received from IH and CF.

11 Cemetery/ Churchyard Report

11.1 H StJ: no reports tabled.

12 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

12.1 Community speed watch

RS to contact other councillors to arrange a speed watch session in the village and in East End. Clerk to purchase six Hi Vis tabards.

12.2 Dropped curbs

CF advised that there were places in the village where residents were struggling to cross the road in their mobility scooters because of insufficient dropped curbs. CF to obtain more specific details. Clerk to contact OCC regarding the costs of making the necessary changes.

12.3 Road Markings at 'The Pinch/junction

The Clerk was asked to contact OCC regarding the road markings and the 'SLOW' sign at the junction with park Road/New Yatt Road and Church Road. The paint is worn off and needs re doing.

13 Consultation

WODC Local Plan: PC response submitted.

14 Correspondence

A request received for an additional dog bin in East End. The Clerk reported that the cost would be £250 plus servicing costs. Members noted that there are already two dog bins in East End and agreed not to purchase a third.

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind requesting a financial donation. Members agreed a contribution of £50

15 Any Other Business

GM reported that there has been a traffic survey undertaken by a residents' group in New Yatt. The results will be put on the website.

GM reported that New Yatt farm House is being rented out for events and the noise level is unacceptable. Clerk to contact WODC to enquire about change of use permission and any conditions imposed.

CF reported that Stagecoach have still not repaired the bus stop sign on Park Road, opposite Windmill Road. Clerk to follow up.

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

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman Date