

MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall Youth Centre on Thursday 11 September 2014 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council and Mr Russell Sharpe from Hailey PC

1 Apologies for absence: R. Langley, C.Frost and G. Matthews

2 Declarations of interest: BN expressed a non-pecuniary interest in discussions concerning the draft Local Plan. HStJ expressed a prejudicial interest in this item due to a potential conflict of interests relating to his professional employment.

3 Consultation on WODC's Housing Consultation Paper

Members discussed in detail the proposals for housing development in North Witney expressing serious concern about the potential impact of this on North Leigh, Hailey, New Yatt and on other villages along the A4095. RS reported that he and HStJ had met with councillors from Long Hanborough and Freeland who had similar serious concerns. Mr Sharpe outlined the concerns of Hailey PC, as detailed in a separate letter sent to NLPC.

The key areas of concern focus on:

- The inadequacy of the infrastructure and road network of the area to support **existing** communities and the potential impact of the proposals for North Witney on this infrastructure/traffic.
- Fundamental disagreement with the housing numbers proposed across West Oxfordshire; far too high
- North Leigh has already grown significantly in respect of housing development and cannot absorb any additional housing.
- The proposed growth of Witney is far too large

It was agreed that RS would respond to the consultation on behalf of the PC before 19 September.

4 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2014 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.

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. Clerk to circulate.

(ii) Broadband Upgrading

BN reported that meetings were underway between WODC, OCC and BDUK to clarify the details of the BT contract which will identify those areas not covered by the BT contract. No

further information.

(iii) NL Website – no further update

(iv) Refurbishment of WI bench in the cemetery

Mr Kerpache will renovate the bench before the end of September.

(v) Parking for NL memorial Hall

No further information; RS awaiting a response from the school re a meeting.

(vi) Land at the end of Evenlode Close; Beaver Scouts request to place a bench there/residents' ground maintenance requests

BN reported that the land in question is owned by OCC who require the Beaver Scouts to insure and maintain any bench that they locate there. OCC also suggest that local residents are consulted before any action is taken. BN to discuss the matter further with the Beaver Scout's leader and report back

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, provided the project is funded and on-going maintenance costs met by the PC. This matter to be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that, following protracted discussion with OCC Estates Department, the County Council has advised that is unable to offer a lease sufficiently long in length to meet the requirements of the WODC grant application. The rear access to the school is difficult, being via an access way off Windmill Road which is licenced in from WODC. The licence may be terminated with one month's notice which compromises the future expansion of the school in the event that there was no other access. For this reason, the County Council will not offer the lease requested and is consulting its solicitors to determine what can be put in place to replace the current agreement with the Parish Council..

(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.

6 Thames Valley Police Report

None received.

7 Planning Decisions: the following decisions have been received:

Land to the north of 71-81 Park Road: refused. Appeal submitted by developer; PC objections submitted to The Planning Inspectorate.

Church Farm House, Church Road; alterations and erection of rear extension and detached garage; conversion of barn to dwelling: granted

Lyndon, East End: erection of new two storey dwelling: granted

Memorial Hall: erection of roof light: granted

Thatch Cottage, East End: extension to dry stone wall: granted

Harcourt Cottage, Church Road; alterations to remove lean to and erect two storey extension: granted

8 Planning Applications & Correspondence:

8.1 Working Group report

Thatch Cottage, The Green, East End: extension to existing dry stone wall: no comment

The Orchard, Church Road: erection of detached dwelling; new vehicular access and carport: objections submitted to WODC

Home Close Green: Construction of replacement dwelling: objections submitted to WODC

Wylcott, New Yatt Road: replacement of shed with single storey extension: no comment

Arden, New Yatt Road: insertion of dormer window: no comment

24 Common Road: erection of detached dwelling and garage: objection/comments submitted to WODC

Wilcote House, Wilcote: Alterations to include new doorway and terrace to rear: no comments

9 Finance

9.1 Accounts for payment Approved: see attached.

9.2 Spend against budget report Approved.

9.3 Revised staffing costs: NL Library

RS reported that as a result of revisions to staffing arrangements, the staff costs payable by the PC have reduced from £5152 to £4561per annum..

10 Open Spaces

10.1 Reports:

Reports received from IH and CF.

10.2 ROSPA Inspection

Report received with no urgent issues raised.

11 Cemetery/ Churchyard Report

11.1 H StJ: no reports tabled.

11.2 **Letter received from NL branch of British Legion requesting permission to plant 19 WW1 commemorative trees in the cemetery.**

Members discussed the request and considered that there is insufficient space in the cemetery for the planting of 19 trees. Members suggest that one tree is planted with a plaque listing the 19 names. Position to be agreed with the PC.

12 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

12.1 Community speed watch

Councillors and volunteers have now been trained.RS to organise speed watch sessions and the purchase of hi-vis jackets.

13 Renewal of PC Contracts from 1 December 2014

The Clerk provided details of the contract specifications requiring review and members confirmed their agreement to minor changes. Clerk to advertise 3 year contracts in the Witney Gazette, Nor ' lye News and write to existing contractors.

14 Consultation

Oxfordshire Transport Plan (circulated): no comments sent to the Clerk for submission

Proposed diversion of part of footpath 26; no objections/comments received

15 Correspondence

CAB request for financial support; £110 agreed as per budget

Riding for the Disabled requesting financial support; Resolved that a donation of £100 be given

Letter from Jim Wiggle re land on north side of Windmill heights: HSt J to speak to Mr Wiggle re the matter of landownership.

16 Any Other Business

SC reported that the footpath between Windmill Road and Park Road is overgrown with grass and bramble. Clerk to write to the Gorman's and ask that they cut back any overgrowth from their garden..

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 9 October 2014 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman Date