

MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10th October 2016

Present

Councillors: Askew (Chair), Chapman, Coleman, Gathercole, Hook, Long, Norman.

7 members of the public

Clerk – S Thorpe

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Boyce, Peckitt and County Councillor Humphrey

2. Confirm Minutes of Meetings Held on 12th and 27th September 2016

Having been circulated before the meeting the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by all present at the meetings.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Public Speaking

Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking,

Prop: Cllr Norman 2nd: Cllr Hook

Agreed.

Meeting re-started.

5. Matters Arising

Highways had advised that they had requested a boundary search for the area with the overhanging hedge from land onto Dades Lane; this would take 6-8 weeks.

An email had been received from Karl Rands – Highways Area Manager West regarding the hedge at 164 Smeeth Road and maintenance of the trod. It advised that he had asked Andrew Wallace to contact the resident in order for them to cut back the hedge to the boundary. With regard to the trod he was sorry if the Rangers had not attended to the trod during their visits to the parish but he could confirm that the trod was on their list as a “stock item” and the rangers would consider at each visit whether work is required to keep growth trimmed back. In addition to this he had asked the Highway Inspector to keep a watchful eye on the trod during his monthly inspections. Finally, he had asked that the trod be added to the annual weed spraying schedule. On this basis he did not consider that a further meeting would be beneficial. The PC felt that the Highway boundary at 164 Smeeth Road was considerably further back than where the hedge had been trimmed to and decided to ask Highways to carry out a boundary search for this area as well and provide a copy to the PC.

6. Correspondence

Circulated prior to meeting: BC – update on Living Independently in Later Years initiative, planning workshops for PCs, consultation on Council Tax Support scheme, survey on grass cutting, info on proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (control of dogs) Play areas; Police – weekly crime summaries, rural crime newsletters, agenda for SNAP meeting, business news, info on current investigations; NCC – info on Small Schools Review; NALC – Newsletters, letter from Planning Minister, info on a precept consultation, info on NCC road safety campaign; NCF – Grant news; NPFA – newsletter; Norfolk Parish Training & Support – training update; letter from Swanton Care containing information on the proposed development at Hickathrift House.

7. Community Building Project update from MDCSC

Cllr Chapman advised that all was going well with the project and they were currently meeting with professionals dealing with the detailed plans for the new building. PFMP had been approached with regard to some of the details and arrangements regarding the site during the building process. Further grant applications had been made and some grants had been approved. It was felt that they were reaching the end of this process. They were hoping to get some money from the Tesco ground works scheme. Cllr Gathercole advised that the Buy-a-Brick Booster Fund continued to do well with nearly £15K raised so far.

8. Playing Field Management Partnership (PFMP)

The PFMP had agreed some arrangements with MDCSC for the site during the building process.

Chairman..... Date.....

The quotation for the annual playground inspection with The Play Inspection Co was no longer valid and the current price was £95 plus VAT as this was still the cheapest quote PFMP recommended accepting this quotation.

To approve the recommendation

Prop: Cllr Long

2nd: Cllr Hook

Agreed.

9. Borough Council Local Plan Review (2016-2036)

The BC had provided clarification on the answers required regarding the facilities and services in the village; this was discussed.

That the Chairman and the Clerk should complete the form

Prop: Cllr Gathercole

2nd: Cllr Chapman

Agreed.

10. Borough Council proposal to exclude dogs from all fenced in Play Areas

The proposal to extend the order to cover all play areas in the BC area was discussed. The PC felt that as all of the Playing Field was fenced it should all be included if possible. Clerk to advise BC of situation and ask for whole area to be included.

11. Clerk's Training Budget

The Clerk advised that she wished to attend the SLCC National Conference but that this would exceed her training budget by approximately £20.

To increase the training budget to allow the Clerk to attend the conference.

Prop: Cllr Long

2nd: Cllr Chapman

Agreed.

12. Public footpath between Rungays Bridge and Neeps Bridge

Cllr Coleman advised that she had asked for this to be added to the agenda as a resident had contacted her to mention that the footpath had not been cut and was overgrown. It had now been cut and it was agreed that no further action was needed.

13. Maintenance of the Trod

Cllr Askew advised that she, Cllr Gathercole and the Clerk had met with Marcus Glover from CGM earlier that day. He had been provided with information on all of the contacts made to CGM this year to ask them to carry out maintenance of the trod. He had apologised for the poor service received this year and advised that this would now improve with the new management structure in place. The trod had been cut and sprayed during the last week of September. The trod had been inspected during the meeting and Marcus Glover had agreed to provide a quotation for remedial work which would be needed to return the trod to its full width of 1.2m. Cllr Gathercole advised that he had also spoken about the condition of the playing field due to the lack of grass cutting earlier in the summer and CGM would provide a schedule for grass cutting during 2017 and would ensure that the grass was cut every two weeks.

14. Highways issues

New issues to be reported by the Clerk:

Middle Drove (southern end) needs resurfacing

Black Drove (from the junction with School Road) has grass growing in the middle

Hope Lane – dip in road needs attention

Emneth Hungate corner – white lines have not been fully reinstated

Rungays Bridge – reflectors knocked over during sugar beet harvest

Replacement of finger posts – to be chased up

Smeeth Road – pot holes already reported

15. Finance

a. *Accept accounts to 30 September 2016.*

Prop: Cllr Askew

2nd: Cllr Gathercole

Agreed.

b. The list of payments due as follows was read out:

Fenland Leisure Products Ltd – zip wire chain protector

£34.80

CGM Ltd – grounds maintenance for August - September 2016

£369.60

A direct debit mandate also needed to be signed to set up the NEST pension scheme.

Agree to sign cheques, direct debit mandate and approve payments.

Prop: Cllr Askew

2nd: Cllr Long

Agreed.

c. Half year finance review – a document had been given to all prior to the meeting showing a breakdown of the expenditure for the first six months of the year. The PC was running within budget. A brief discussion took place on the figures.

Chairman..... Date.....

16. Planning Matters

a. Applications received since last meeting:

i. **16/01699/F Formation of agricultural access at land on the NE side of School Road.** The PC discussed the application and made a decision to SUPPORT the application.

ii. **16/01714/RM Reserved Matters: Construction of new dwelling for plot 6 at land NE of 46 Smeeth Road.** The application was discussed and it was agreed by all to SUPPORT the application as long as a condition was placed on the approval which required for any damage or disruption to the trod to be repaired/reinstated.

b. Planning decisions from the BC. The following applications had been permitted:

i. **16/01211/BT Removal of public payphone outside 294 Smeeth Road.**

ii. **16/01359/RM Reserved matters of residential development for plots 3 & 4 adj to 73 Smeeth Road.**

iii. **16/00778/FM Development of the land to erect a part two and single storey acquired brain injury unit at Hickathrift Too, 211 Smeeth Road.**

17. Public Speaking

Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking.

Prop: Cllr Chapman

2nd: Cllr Gathercole

Agreed.

Meeting re-started.

18. Councillors Concerns and Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Items to remain on agenda as already agreed along with "social media for the PC"

19. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.15pm, for a Playing Field Management Partnership meeting followed by an Ordinary Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm; all meetings at St James Methodist Church.

Cllrs Hook and Peckitt to check accounts before the November & December meeting.

Cllr Long offered his apologies in advance for the next PC meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.