

MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th October 2017

Present

Councillors: Askew (Chair), Boyce, Coleman, Gathercole & Norman.

Four members of the public

Clerk – S Thorpe

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Chapman, Long and Humphrey (County Councillor)

2. Confirm Minutes of Meetings Held on 11th & 25th September 2017

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 Gathercole

2nd: Cllr Coleman

Agreed.

Meeting re-started.

5. Matters Arising

PCSO Alice Johnson had advised that they had taken a look at the parking of a car-transporter vehicle outside 105 Smeeth Road and were satisfied that there was not an issue with the way the vehicle was parked.

Alison Balfour-Lynn from the British Horse Society had advised that she had heard that NCC Highways had decided to monitor the situation, rather than taking enforcement action, following putting up of signs about fly grazing in the local area. She had contacted the EDP and planned to make an official complaint to NCC. She had asked for the PC to also make a complaint but as no official confirmation had been received of this decision by NCC then no action was to be taken at this stage, other than a reply to the letter sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner was to be chased up.

6. Correspondence

An email had been received from Cllr Martin Peckitt giving his resignation from the PC, due to a lack of time as he was caring for an ill family member and managing several businesses. Letter to be sent to him thanking him for his contribution to the PC.

Vacancy advertised on PC notice board and website.

Circulated prior to meeting: BC – upgrade to planning portal, new property addresses at 40 & 367 Smeeth Rd, info on voting for St George's Guildhall (to be included in a list of 100 buildings which best tell England's remarkable tale); Norfolk County Farms – invitation to regional surgery and annual tenants meeting, info on appointment of Norse to carry out repairs/maintenance; Police – rural crime newsletters, parish newsletters; NALC – newsletters, training update; CAN – newsletter, funding news, details of thinking fuel (oil buying scheme); NCF – Grant news; NPTS – training updates; CPRE (Norfolk) – invitation to meeting in Dereham on 27th November; Civic voice – war memorial news; NPFA – invitation to AGM; KL Community Cinema Club – info.

7. Co-option of Parish Councillor

Informal interviews had taken place with both applicants prior to the meeting.

A decision on co-opting one of the applicants should be made by signed ballot.

Prop: Cllr Norman

2nd: Cllr Gathercole

Agreed.

A signed ballot took place and Wayne Hallett was elected by a majority.

8. Community Building Project update from MDCSC

Cllr Gathercole advised that the project was still on schedule. Mr Askew informed the PC that at this stage only 90% of the grant had been received from Sport England, which left a shortfall of £6500. It was hoped that the rest would still be received.

9. Playing Field Management Partnership (PFMP)

The PFMP had asked the PC to make a planning application for shipping containers to be permanently sited at the playing field to store sports equipment. Swann Edwards had quoted £300 plus VAT (not including application and consultant fees) to submit the application for two 20-foot containers to be sited adjacent to the bowls green.

The containers were needed for storage of football, bowls and other activities and therefore the PC should go ahead with submitting the application.

Prop: Cllr Gathercole

2nd: Cllr Norman

Agreed.

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

10. Allotments

Cllr Gathercole advised that he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda due to concerns about the condition of one of the plots but recently the tenant had given notice to surrender the plot and had agreed to pay the cost of returning the plot to a good condition. The Clerk advised that one name of a resident was currently on a waiting list and it was agreed that this resident should be offered the plot. Cllr Gathercole to meet with resident and show them the plot.

11. Broadband service in the parish

Cllr Askew advised that MDCSC had contact Karen O’Kane, from the Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) team, to advise her of the new community centre and the number of new dwellings which were due to be built in the parish. The BBfN team were responsible for deciding which areas should receive an upgraded service. It was agreed that the PC should also write to the BBfN team and ask for the parish to receive a further upgrade in light of the planned development in the parish, as this could result in a reduction in the current service, as more properties tried to use the service.

12. Update on expenditure of funds from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Clerk advised that she had undertaken the training from the BC on the expenditure and accounting procedure for CIL payments. It was now expected that £1710 would be received on 28th October 2017. The Clerk advised that the PC would have 5 years to spend any CIL payments but that most of the already approved new development in the village would not be liable to pay CIL. A further discussion took place on possible options for how this money could be spend.

13. Decorative Village Gateways

The Clerk advised that the Highways Engineer had said that NCC now preferred the plastic village gateways. A leaflet showing design options was shown to all and two possible choices were selected. Clerk to obtain quotations on these options before the next PC meeting so that an application could be made for funding from the Parish Partnership Scheme in 2018/19.

14. Highways issues

Trod – CGM had advised that the additional spraying of the trod had been carried out on 12th September but it was felt that this had not been effective as there had been no evidence of the spraying. Clerk to ask CGM to carry out another spraying free of charge.

The Clerk had issued more than 30 letters to residents asking for trees/bushes/hedges to be cut back from the highway. Some residents had replied to ask for a visit to discuss the work which was needed and Cllr Askew and Gathercole would be dealing with this over the next few days, some of the other residents had replied to say that the work would be carried out.

Gate had still not been removed next to No 41 Smeeth Road. The Clerk had chased this up with the BC twice but had received no reply; further follow up action to be taken. 135 Smeeth Rd to Jubilee Hall – path still needs spraying. Cllr Coleman provided photos of the condition of the footpath which were to be sent to Highways.

Smeeth Rd (from School Rd junction to St James Church) footpath in poor condition. Several issues that had previously been reported were still awaiting attention.

New issues to report to Highways:

Smeeth Road – hole in footpath near post box close to junction with Trinity Rd.

School Road – pot hole between Marshland Arms and first cottage.

School Road – pot hole about half way along, past Gatehouse, towards Moyses Bank

School Road – culvert near 2 Church Farm Cottages needs attention.

15. Finance

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

| | |
|--|---------|
| CGM Ltd – grounds maintenance July/September | £793.20 |
|--|---------|

Agree to sign cheque and approve payment.

Prop: Cllr Askew

2nd: Cllr Norman

Agreed.

b. Mid-year financial update – 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 generally running within budget. A brief discussion took place on the figures.

16. Planning Matters

a. Applications received since last meeting:

i. **17/01728/RM Reserved matters application for proposal 3 no 4-bed new dwellings at 171 Smeeth Rd.** The application was discussed and it was agreed to

SUPPORT the application.

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

i. **17/01407/F Variation of condition 12 of previous application to remove south west side boundary hedge at land south of 26 Smeeth Rd.**

ii **17/01445/F Proposed side rear extension at 23 Jubilee Lane.**

iii **17/01461/F Extension to cottage at The Gatehouse, Black Drove.**

iv **17/01603/F Proposed stable and barn at Fenhaven, 326 Smeeth Rd.**

v **17/01522/F Installation of first floor windows to facilitate office space on the front elevation at Eastern County Foods, 97 Smeeth Rd.**

c No reply had been received from Geoff Hall at the BC in relation to the letter sent about errors and inaccuracies with documents submitted by agents. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase this matter up.

17. Public Speaking

Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking.

Prop: Cllr Askew

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.

19. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th November 2017 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 Long and Norman to check accounts before the November meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.42pm.