

MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2018

Present

Councillors: Askew (Chair), Boyce, Chapman, Coleman, Gathercole, Hallett, Long, Norman & Wilkinson

7 members of the public

Clerk – S Thorpe

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Humphrey (County Councillor)

2. Confirm Minutes of Meetings Held on 11th December 2017

Having been circulated before the meeting the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by all present at the meetings. Following the minutes being accepted Cllr Long queried the accuracy of the proposal made by him under item 17. A brief discussion took place on this and then it was mentioned that the minutes had already been approved and the matter was not for discussion.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Public Speaking

Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking,

Prop: Cllr Gathercole 2nd: Cllr Wilkinson

Agreed.

Meeting re-started.

5. Matters Arising

A reply had been received from the BC Planning Department in relation to the request for a condition to be placed on some planning applications that any damage to the trod during construction be repaired. It advised that this was works within the highway and would be dealt with via discharge of conditions attached to the outline permission. It advised that NCC Highways should ensure appropriate steps are taken to address the PC concerns. *Action: Clerk to contact Highways on this matter.*

6. Correspondence

Circulated prior to meeting: BC – new property address at 198A and B Smeeth Road and land North East of Walton Road, planning update meeting; Police – rural crime newsletters, parish newsletters, police connect newsletters, appeal following assault in King's Lynn; NALC – newsletters; NCF – grant news; NCC – adoption of the Norfolk Minerals – single issue silica sand document; Festival Too – request for donation.

7. Community Building Project update from MDCSC

Cllr Gathercole advised that all doors were now fitted, office nearly completed, flooring down, changing rooms completed, slabs for top soil had been laid, kitchen equipment ordered and would be delivered when required. Electricity to be connected on around 15th January, water supply by end of this month, sewerage connection not yet finalised. Some of the containers used by the construction company had recently been broken into, the police had been informed but nothing appeared to have been stolen. Mr Andrew Stephens OBE (Chairman of MDCSC) was present at the meeting and advised that work was ongoing for planned events to take place once the centre was open. Cllr Norman asked for confirmation that the water supply to the pavilion building was to remain connected and be used for the bowling green.

That the water supply outside the pavilion be moved to within the bowls green.

Prop: Cllr Norman 2nd: Cllr Long

Agreed.

8. Playing Field Management Partnership (PFMP)

The electric power supply to the pavilion building would need to be disconnected prior to removal of the building.

9. Venue for future Parish Council meetings

A discussion took place on the venue for future PC meetings once the new community centre was open. The following proposal was made:

The PC will begin to use the new community centre for PC meetings, subject to cost.

Prop: Cllr Wilkinson 2nd: Cllr Gathercole

Agreed.

Action: Clerk to obtain cost and advise PC at next meeting.

10. Additional street lights on Smeeth Road

A discussion took place on installing an additional street light at the junction with School Road/Walton Road and also Walsoken Road. The issue of safety at the junctions were discussed along with the likely cost of additional lighting.

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

The following proposal was made:

That the Clerk should contact Highways to ask how they think safety of the junctions could be improved including options of illuminated signage and better road markings. Prop: Cllr Askew 2nd: Cllr Coleman Agreed.

11. Street name sign for Walsoken Road

A discussion took place on why there was not already a sign at the junction with Smeeth Road.

That the BC should be asked to install a street name sign at the junction.

Prop: Cllr Norman 2nd: Cllr Chapman Agreed.

12. Request for financial contribution towards the running costs of the Marshland Hall for years one and two of operation

A reply had been received from MDCSC to thank the PC for the offer of £2000 every 6 months from April 2018 onwards and a loan of £5000 for a period of three years. They were happy to accept the £2000 every 6 months but after careful consideration they had decided to decline the loan offer. They felt that it would not be prudent or advisable for them to take a loan on as they seek to achieve the financial sustainability of the community centre. The reply gave mention to the £5712, which was due to be repaid to the PC from the Jubilee Hall committee once the site had been sold, and said they would welcome the PC giving further consideration to making this available to MDCSC. The reply also provided information on upfront costs of approximately £7000 which they expected to incur over the next few months. The matter was discussed at length with various views being expressed on why the money was needed by MDCSC and if the PC should use public money to support the new community centre. The following was proposed:

That the £5712 should be passed on to MDCSC as a donation when it was repaid to the PC from the Jubilee Hall.

Prop: Cllr Wilkinson 2nd: Cllr Gathercole

A second proposal was made:

That the PC should offer the £5712 to MDCSC as a loan with review in three years.

Prop: Cllr Coleman No seconder was obtained

A recorded vote was requested on the first proposal:

In favour: Cllrs Askew, Boyce, Gathercole, Norman and Wilkinson

Against: Cllr Coleman

Abstaining: Cllrs Chapman, Long and Hallett

The first proposal was agreed by 5 votes in favour.

13. Highways issues

Issues that had been resolved:

Walton Rd – dip in road near Harps Hall corner

Black Drove and Moyses Bank – grass in middle of road

New issues to report to Highways and residents as appropriate:

Rands Drove (near Rose Cottage) – pot hole

School Rd (No 33) – stones placed on verge

Martin Edwards from Highways to come out and meet with Cllr Askew and Gathercole regarding outstanding issues.

Issues that had previously been reported to be followed up as appropriate:

Walton Rd & School Rd (junction with Smeeth Rd) white lines need repainting

Smeeth Rd – Rangers had siding out as asked but missed strip in front of No 269

Walton Rd – hedge overgrowing onto footpath from No 3

Walton Rd – footpath resurfaced by resident when doing drive entrance

Walton Rd – possible commercial business being run from property

School Rd – moving of 40mph signs

“Walton Rd” and “Hope Lane” street name signs need repair to posts

14. Finance

a. *Accept accounts to 31st December 2017*

Prop: Cllr Boyce 2nd: Cllr Askew

Agreed.

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

Miss S J Thorpe – Clerk’s arrears of pay and mem subs

£116.57

The standing order for the Clerk’s salary also needed to be amended from January 2018.

Agree to sign cheque, and amended to standing order and approve payments.

Prop: Cllr Gathercole 2nd: Cllr Hallett

Agreed.

- c. Budget for 2018/19
Revised budget figures had been circulated for 2018/19 along with notes to accompany the information. The figures were discussed and concern was expressed by Cllr Coleman that it was not yet known the cost of hiring the new community centre for future PC meetings. Mr Andy Stephens OBE advised that as the PC had very generously agreed to donate the £5712 to MDCSC he was happy to offer the PC the use of the new community centre for meetings without charge for the first year.

That the Precept should be set at a zero-percentage increase to residents which would be approximately £20824.76.

Prop: Cllr Chapman 2nd: Cllr Long

Agreed.

15. Planning Matters

- a. Applications received since last meeting:

- i **17/02253/F Proposed storage shed for existing machinery, tools and other items for the sole purpose of maintaining the apple orchard at land on the South-East side of Smeeth Rd.** The application was discussed and it was agreed by all to SUPPORT the application.

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

- i. **17/01939/F Addition of access to create in/out driveway at Windyridge, 308 Smeeth Rd.**

- ii **17/02034/RM Application for one dwelling (plot 1) at land south of 26 Smeeth Rd.**

- iii **17/01823/F Conversion of office/commercial space to residential at Old Chapel, Middle Drove.**

16. Public Speaking

Resolved that meeting be adjourned for public speaking.

Prop: Cllr Chapman 2nd: Cllr Gathercole

Agreed.

Meeting re-started.

17. Councillors Concerns and Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Items to remain on agenda as already agreed.

18. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th February 2018 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 Askew and Boyce to check accounts before the February meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm.