

Northorpe Parish Assembly

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm, on 12 March 2007, in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Northorpe.

Present: E Henson (Chairman), B Pryor, F Mosey, D Ledgerwood, N Montgomery, J Little, E M Eminson, Councillor W Parry

Apologies were received from Mrs G Beaman

1. Minutes of the Assembly held on 13 March 2006

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Parish Precept Report

A report explaining the way in which the precept was spent was circulated. The chairman commented that compared to other parish councils, Northorpe's precept was high. This was because of the facilities, for example the playing field, it maintained and its small population. Villagers present commented that the small number attending the meeting and lack of comment about the precept could be taken as tacit approval of the level of spending and facilities provided.

Resolved: to publish the precept report in Parish News

4 Church Hall

Mr Montgomery mentioned that the report on the hall given at the previous year's assembly indicated that its financial situation was precarious. Since then he had investigated possible sources of funding by attending a funding fair. Although funding was available, to qualify, applicants had to demonstrate that there was a local need. Mr Montgomery commented that he had circulated a questionnaire to each household, and received a 50% response. He then sent a second questionnaire to non-responding households, but was still unable to obtain a response. He had held a public meeting to discuss the future of the hall, but very few village residents attended. In the meantime more money needed to be spent on the hall and the electrics had recently failed.

Mr Montgomery felt that it was necessary to know what it would cost to keep the hall running in a reasonable condition so that alternative uses, e.g. as a storeroom, could be considered, at least on a temporary basis.

The Chairman thanked Mr Montgomery for all the work he had done. Village residents presents agreed with his summary, and concern that, if the hall could not support itself, it would revert to the church and then might be sold. They were happy for the Church Hall Committee to look into the cost of turning the hall into a storeroom, which would require planning approval and

changing the insurance cover. They advised the Committee to consult the church about the plan.

5 Playing Field

The Chairman explained the work the Parish Council had undertaken in the playing field recently. It had been fenced and the equipment had been repaired as recommended in the safety inspection report, as far as resources would allow. The Parish Council did not have sufficient funding to provide the standard of equipment Scotton Parish Council had recently done for their playground. However, having received a grant from Awards for All, a programme of safety surfacing would begin this year, with the covering of the area under the large swings.

The Chairman referred to the roundabout, the maintenance of which was a continuing problem. She commented that the Parish Council would need to decide whether to remove or replace this item.

Councillor Parry confirmed that the District Council's Initiative Fund had awarded a sum of £100 to Northorpe. It was intended that this money would be spent on improvements to the playing field. The Chairman thanked Councillor Parry for the award.

6 District Council Report

Councillor Parry gave details of the recent budget settlement. He said that the Council Tax for 2007/8 would be under the 5% increase limit. He confirmed that the collection of bulky waste would be a free service next year and that £2,000,000 would be invested in leisure facilities. Parking in Marshall's Yard would be free for the first 2 hours.

Councillor Parry agreed to find out if the garden waste collection service available to many communities in West Lindsey could be extended to Northorpe.

7 Public Transport

Since the last assembly the public transport service available to village residents had greatly improved. Although the regular scheduled service was unchanged, there were now demand responsive services Call Connect and Dial a Ride which were much appreciated by village residents without their own transport.

Resolved: to remind village residents of the services available by referring to them in Parish News.

8 Any Other Business

The Chairman mentioned that the planning meeting to discuss the wind farm application was being held on 14 March. Local households had been informed and Councillor Montgomery would be speaking on behalf of the Parish Council. Confirmation was given that ambient noise levels were to be recorded at Northorpe Hall. These would be compared with the figures stated by Your Energy. Concern was expressed about the status of the company 'Your Energy'. The ownership of the development was likely to be passed on

to another company once planning permission had been received. West Lindsey District Council was aware of this.

A revised application for the development of a sports academy by Investorin had recently been received. This would shortly be circulated to parish councillors for comment.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Assembly.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.