

## **NORTHORPE PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm, on 13 March 2006, in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Northorpe.

Present: E Henson (Chairman), S Jones, B Pryor, F Mosey, D Ledgerwood, G Beaman, J Little, H Cameron, E M Eminson

Apologies were received from Councillors W Parry and C Underwood-Frost

### **1. Minutes of the Assembly held on 7 March 2005**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

### **2 Police Report**

PC Leggott and Carl Anderson, Community Support Officer, attended the meeting to explain current policing priorities and their roles in policing the area. PC Leggott was responsible for dealing with the most serious incidents; the Community Support Officers had recently been created to deal with more minor matters. PC Leggott commented that many incidents whilst causing great concern to those affected, were not criminal. In such cases, West Lindsey District Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team were the best people to consult.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had already made contact with the Anti Social Behaviour Team. Mr Pryor asked if the police could maintain a visible presence in the village, for example by walking through it at times when children were about. Mrs Eminson asked that this should include walking around the church, as this was an area where the children spent much of their time.

The Chairman thanked PC Leggott and Mr Anderson for attending the meeting.

### **3 Scotter Primary School Report**

The contents of the report presented at the school's last annual general meeting on 7 April 2005 were summarised. The attendance record of pupils at the school continued to be good. As well as the normal subjects covered in the school's curriculum, French was offered to year 6, visits were arranged to local museums and archives, and extra curricular activities included sports activities, music and a computer club. There had been developments to the buildings and grounds, improving storage facilities, the ICT suite and providing a resources room and bike shed.

The Chairman referred to Lincolnshire County Council's consultation on the proposal to withdraw free transport to post 16 students attending local schools and colleges. She pointed out that, although Education Maintenance Awards provided financial support to some young people, which could be used to offset the cost of transport, the problem for students living in Northorpe was the lack of public transport provision.

#### **4 Village Hall Report**

Mr Cameron circulated his annual report. He was extremely concerned that the low use of the hall now meant that it could not support itself financially. There was insufficient income to meet the fixed and unavoidable costs. 2 windows needed to be repaired and quotations had been requested. The repair work was likely to use up the remaining balances held by the village hall committee. The diocese had been informed of the hall's precarious financial position.

There was a discussion about alternative uses for the hall that might secure its future as an amenity for the village. Its use as a youth club was impractical, however Mr S Jones' suggestion that it might be a suitable building from which to run a business was welcomed.

Mr Cameron confirmed that an entertainment licence had been obtained for the hall.

#### **5 Playing Field**

Mr Cameron mentioned his latest inspection report, which confirmed that the small swings were in good condition but the sandpit was overgrown and unfit for play. A seat had been installed and Mr Cameron hoped that this would remain in its present position. Mr Cameron closed his report by commenting that he would be leaving the village soon, and was therefore resigning from his position of playing field inspector.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cameron for his services, which had been greatly appreciated. The Parish Council continued to carry out the necessary work to the playing field and play equipment to keep it safe and in good repair. As recommended in a recent ROSPA safety inspection, the cradle seats for the small swings were to be replaced as well as the shackle pins on the large swings. The Parish Council was also considering installing safety surfacing.

#### **6 District Council Report**

Although he was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Parry had updated the clerk on matters of interest to the Assembly:

- West Lindsey had set their Council Tax at a level below inflation
- The District Council offices were to be relocated from the Guildhall to Marshall's Yard.
- A swimming pool was to be provided in Market Rasen
- Improvements were planned to the pool at Gainsborough Leisure Centre
- Improvements to the planning service had attracted government funding
- There had been improvements to the recycling service.

Councillor Parry had noted the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the refuse collection service in the village. Mr S Jones advised that the District Council would provide blue plastic sacks to supplement the wheelibins, for example on occasions when the bins had not been emptied. It was agreed that residents should be notified of this in Parish News.

## **7 Public Transport**

The Chairman referred to the letters to Mr Cameron, the local press and Lincolnshire County Council, asking for a Saturday bus service, which had been written anonymously by a village resident. It was unlikely that there would be any regular services serving the village, apart from the exiting weekly buses to Gainsborough and Asda, although free transport shortly to be available to people over 60 might stimulate some additional demand. Lincolnshire County Council's Dial-a-Ride service had been publicised within the village and a new Interconnect Service would be available to village residents later in the year.

The Chairman asked anyone who knew the identity of the person who had written the letters to put them in touch with the Parish Council so that they could be provided with more details about each of these schemes.

## **8 Any Other Business**

The Chairman referred to the Your Energy's proposal to site a wind farm at Laughton. The appeal against West Lindsey District Council's decision not to grant planning approval had been upheld, but was unlikely to be the end of the matter. She expected Your Energy to submit a revised application but commented that Laughton and Scotton Action Group may have found new grounds to oppose it.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Assembly.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.