

NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Assembly in Scotton Village Hall on Thursday 27th March 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Brenda Dunk
Councillor Paul Marasco
Councillor Neil Montgomery
Councillor Julie Ann Montgomery
Judith Bates (Acting Clerk)
Lynn Dunk

Also in attendance Mr Alan Dunk
Mrs Christine Watson

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynne Marasco and reasons accepted

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 07.03.2013

Minutes of the Parish Assembly meeting from 07.03.2013 had been circulated, proposed by Councillor J Montgomery and seconded by Councillor B Dunk and **RESOLVED** that these be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a very full and in depth report of all the activities that had taken place over the last year, including the sale of the Church Hall which is an ongoing project. The Church would like to sell the Hall and use the money for the upkeep and maintenance on the Church. The Parish Council are actively seeking funding for the ability to purchase the Hall for the village. The Chairman had learnt that if you have a structure within the community which is considered an asset then you are able to take steps to safeguard it by contacting West Lindsey District Council and when it does go up for sale the Parish Council has 6 months in which to purchase it - the sellers have to give the Parish Council first choice, dependent on what funding the Parish Council would be able secure, of which the Chairman had also learnt that through Community Lincs there is the possibility to secure a loan of up to £10,000 , a grant specifically designed to help Parish Council's Village Halls.

Over the last year the Parish Council have been in constant contact with Highways re: pot holes and the local farmers asking that they keep the hedgerows etc tidy. Northorpe Hall proved slightly harder to reach but by constant pressure from the Chairman they had used contractors to tidy up their hedges and boundaries to the property

Councillor Montgomery had secured funds from Kirton Co-operative through the Community champion and with vouchers received the Council are hoping to have events in the warmer weather for the village, to be arranged.

Sadly the clerk had resigned earlier in the year but had done an excellent job whilst she was in the post and would be missed, but the new clerk Mrs Lynne Dunk would be welcomed into the first council meeting later in the evening.

The village entered the 'Best kept Village Competition' last year, unfortunately there were no prizes but the village did look very neat with everyone keeping their gardens in good order.

Precept Report

The precept had been set for the upcoming year for £2687.00

Any items to be raised by the Public

Mr Dunk mentioned the saga of the stray dog problem. Councillor Dunk advised there now is no dog warden available, letters have been sent to the owner on several occasions, she had also been advised that in order to get anything done then photo evidence was required along with a written statement from the complainant or complainants and this could then go to the Police. It will go onto the May agenda and the Parish Council will begin the process again.

Mrs Watson pointed out that the village had secured approximately £90,000 in grants in the last few years and would like to know how the money has been spent. She pointed out that this had not been minuted properly, explaining exactly what had been spent and where. Councillors pointed out that everything purchased is recorded on the asset register, and the books are inspected annually by external auditors who have found no fault. Acting clerk Judith Bates explained to Mrs Watson, the electors rights to inspect the accounts pre audit, this would be advertised on the public notice board and could be arranged by appointment with the new clerk if necessary. Mrs Watson’s only grievance was that she felt the information had not been recorded properly in the past, this issue Councillors felt has since been rectified.

With no further business to discuss the Parish assembly meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chairman

Date