

NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 January 2008 in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Northorpe.

Present: Councillors E Henson, (Chairman), J Little, F Mosey, D Ledgerwood, B Pryor, N Montgomery and G Beaman

1/01/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2/01/08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2007 were signed as a true record, subject to changing the date of the minutes referred to in item 2/11/07 to 17 September 2007.

3/01/08 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Playing Field

The 'no kite flying' sign was given to Councillor Ledgerwood to attach to the playing field gate.

Confirmation was given that an order had been placed to repair the floor boarding of the roundabout with Mr Barrow. It was not possible to apply for a grant towards the cost of this from Awards for All as their scheme specifically excluded maintenance work.

Councillors confirmed that they wished to apply for funding to continue the installation of safety surfacing under play equipment in the playing field, giving first priority to the climbing field, followed by the small swings.

Resolved: (i) To apply for Awards for All Funding to continue the programme of safety surfacing.

b) Dangerous Trees

Councillors were informed of the reply received from the Divisional Highways Manager of Lincolnshire County Council that the Council's Arboricultural Officer had been asked to inspect the trees and advise if any remedial work was necessary.

c) Verges

Concern was expressed about the state of the roadside verges, which were becoming rutted by heavy lorries travelling through the village towards Scotton. Many of these were using the road as a short cut and were not visiting the village for business reasons. Councillors reaffirmed their view that repairing the damage by filling in potholes was unsatisfactory, and wanted a more permanent solution to the problem.

d) Grass Cutting Quotation 2008 Season

Three quotations had been requested, and two had been received: from Veolia and D.W.G Groundcare. The Chairman said that Veolia's quotation was the cheapest. She reminded councillors that the company had invoiced the Parish Council for additional cuts completed to the 12 contracted in 2007, but the Parish Council had not paid for these.

Resolved: To accept the quotation submitted by Veolia, £22.79 per cut for the play area and £31.54 for the cemetery, making it clear that the Parish Council would pay for only 12 cuts.

e) Cemetery Charges

Councillors discussed the report circulated with the minutes, which set out charges made by other Parish Councils.

Resolved: To make no change to the Parish Council's cemetery charges.

f) Precept 2008/9

Resolved: To sign West Lindsey District Council's precept form authorising a precept of £2750 for the year 2008/9.

4/01/08 Planning Matters

a) Windfarm

The Chairman referred to West Lindsey District Council's letter dated December 2007, which had been circulated to councillors with the agenda. The letter confirmed that there would not be a public enquiry. A decision would be based on written submissions and a site visit by the inspector. The Parish Council decided not to make any further written comments to those that had already been submitted.

5/01/08 Lincolnshire County Council – Council Tax Survey

The Parish Council had been asked for its views on the level of council tax to be charged in 2008/9 by selecting one of 3 options, to improve, maintain or reduce services. The clerk explained that the survey had been received after the last meeting, but thought that the deadline for reply had already passed. Councillors decided to reply to the survey, commenting that insufficient time had been allowed to respond and the parish council did not wish council tax payers to be charged more for the same level of service.

6/01/08 West Lindsey District Council – Local Councillor Initiative

The Parish Council had been invited to apply for funding from the local councillor's £1000 allocation. The clerk commented that this was the same amount as last year's allocation, when the Parish Council had been awarded £100. Councillor Parry had asked to receive applications by 28 January 2008. If successful, schemes had to have been completed, with proof of purchase submitted with the claim, by 7 March 2008.

Councillors agreed that a bid should be submitted for the cost of the playing field sign, and repair of the roundabout floor boarding.

7/01/08 Payments Made and Outstanding

The following payment was made:

Elite Signs	Playing field safety sign	£45.00 (in. VAT)
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8/01/08 Any Other Business

a) YEDL Activity

Councillor Ledgerwood mentioned that YEDL were currently replacing telegraph poles in the village. He had had to ask the company to display warning signs and clear up the mud they had left on the road, which was a serious health and safety hazard.

Councillors thanked Councillor Ledgerwood for the action he had taken, and were pleased to learn that the company had responded satisfactorily to the request.

b) Post Office Closure

Councillor Mosey confirmed that the post office would close on 30 January. Councillors thought that the occasion should be marked in some way. It was agreed that the Chairman should contact the local paper and arrange for a photograph to be taken.

c) Methodist Church Closure

Councillor Mosey said that a meeting was being held on 24 January about the future of the church because of the reduction in the number of people who attended services. He thought it probable that the church would close later in the year.

Councillors discussed the need to find alternative premises in which to meet, but Councillor Mosey confirmed that the room would still be available for the Parish Council's next meeting.

9/01/08 Date of Next Meeting and Annual Assembly

It was agreed to hold the Annual Assembly at 7pm on 17 March 2008, and the normal Parish Council Meeting should follow that this.

The clerk agreed to invite Councillors Parry and Underwood-Frost and a representative of the County Council's Highways and Planning Department to attend the meeting.