

## **NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 July 2008 in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, Northorpe.

Present: Councillors E Henson, (Chairman), F Mosey, G Beaman, B Dunk and J Little

Apologies were received from Councillors B Pryor and N Montgomery.

### **1/07/08     Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mosey declared an interest in the item on planning, regarding the Methodist Church Hall and Old Post Office.

### **2/07/08     Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2008 were signed as a true record, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 8/05/08 – change ‘Pryor’ to ‘Little’

Minute 13/05/08 – change ‘Pryor’ to ‘Dunk’.

### **3/07/08     Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### **a) Playing Field**

Councillors were informed that Awards for All had turned down the application for grant aid. They considered other possible sources of funding to continue the programme of safety surfacing, including WREN’s new small grants scheme.

The Chairman reported that Mr Barrow was not able to apply a second coat of varnish to the roundabout because of other work commitments. Councillors decided to consider revarnishing the floorboards again next year.

*Resolved:*     To submit a grant aid application for safety surfacing the area under the climbing frame to WREN through their small grants scheme.

#### **b) Local Councillor Initiative Fund**

£200 had been received from West Lindsey District Council as a contribution to the cost of the roundabout repair. Councillors were asked to consider the suggestion made at the Annual Assembly that this year’s bid should be for the provision of a parish notice board. They discussed the type of board required and agreed that the most suitable location would be the churchyard.

- Resolved:*
- (i)     That the clerk should obtain quotations for a free standing 4xA4 size board with a glass or acrylic screen and a frame of metal or wood.
  - (ii)    That Councillor Mosey should ask the Parochial Church Council if they had any objection to the notice board being located in the churchyard.

c) Skip

Councillors agreed to ask Bell Waste to provide 2 more skips during 2008, from 22 August-1 September and 17 October – 27 October.

d) Street Cleaning

Councillor Dunk informed councillors about the meeting with staff from West Lindsey District Council which she and Councillor Little had attended. She was pleased that the District Council would be working more closely with Parish Councils to provide a more responsive service. Confirmation was given that street cleansing in the village had been carried out twice since the last meeting. A letter from West Lindsey had recently been received asking for a village champion to be nominated. Councillor Dunk confirmed that she would be willing to take on this role.

Councillor Little mentioned that following the electrical work and replacement of the telegraph poles in the village, the litterbins had been taken down and not replaced. Councillors agreed that these should be replaced, and if possible dog waste bins provided as well.

*Resolved:* To ask West Lindsey District Council if new litter bins and dog waste bins could be provided in the village.

e) Police Rates

Since the previous meeting it had been announced that the amount charged by the Police Authority had been capped and revised rates bills would be issued. Councillors expressed concern about the implications of this on the level of policing locally.

f) Risk Assessment

Councillor Pryor's assessment of the gravestones in the cemetery was expected at the next meeting.

g) Insurance Policy

Confirmation was given that the policy had been transferred to the Norwich Union, brokered by Came and Company. A commitment had been given to continue the contract for a 3 year period during which time the premium would be held at the June 2008 level.

**4/07/08      Audit of Accounts 2007/8 and Financial Report 2008/9**

The clerk confirmed that the internal auditor had signed off the accounts and had suggested that the Parish Council should review the valuation of its assets, and consider whether the replacement of playground equipment and fencing should be included in the insurance policy.

Councillors were asked to confirm that they had undertaken their responsibilities for maintaining a sound system of internal financial control.

A summary of the financial situation for the current financial year had been circulated to all councillors before the meeting.

*Resolved:*        (i)    That the annual governance statement for the 2007/8 accounts be approved.

- (ii) That Came and Company should be asked to confirm the cost of adding the insurance of the fence to the policy.

## **5/07/08 Planning Matters**

### **a) Future Use of Methodist Church**

The Clerk referred to contact she had had with Mr Sweeting, who was acting on behalf of the Methodist Church to dispose of the building. The Planning Office of West Lindsey District Council had advised him that that the building was unsuitable for both domestic and business use. However they had suggested that the building could be used as a village hall. Mr Sweeting had asked for the Parish Council's views on the matter. Councillors had a brief discussion, but decided to leave any formal comments on the building's future use until they received an application, or until the building started to fall into disrepair.

### **b) Old Post Office**

It was noted that planning permission had been given to replacing the large front window.

## **6/07/08 Correspondence**

### **a) Lincolnshire County Council Highways – Area Response Team**

Parish Councillors were informed of Highways' intention to set up Area Response Teams to carry out smaller works and respond more effectively to local needs. The Teams would carry out such works as pothole repairs, minor footway repairs, drainage investigations and minor highway clearance of debris. The new Area Manager was expected to get in touch with the Parish Council in the future to discuss what minor works needed attention in the area.

Councillors were informed that no response had been received from Mr Darley about the actions promised and discussed other maintenance issues. Councillor Beaman confirmed that the grass verge at the entrance to their drive had been kept down so far this year, enabling the reflector to be seen. However, Councillors felt that the grass verge bordering the playing field should be cut up to the fence at the top of the bank to improve visibility at the bend of Monson Road.

Councillors agreed that this matter should be raised with the Area Manager when contact was made with them.

### **b) Level Crossing Closure**

The Clerk agreed in place a notice in Parish News to advise residents of the closure between 2100 and 0600 hours on 15/16 October.

### **c) Payphone**

West Lindsey had written to ask the Parish Council to comment on the proposal to remove the payphone in Northorpe. Councillors acknowledged that the payphone was little used, and therefore accepted the inevitability of its removal. They felt that village residents were more reliant on the internet as a method of communication, and considered that the quality of this provision in such rural communities as Northorpe was unsatisfactory. They asked the clerk to relay their comments on the payphone and internet to West Lindsey District Council.

## **7/07/08      Payments Made and Outstanding**

### **a) Payments Made since the last meeting**

The following cheques had been signed:

Veolia	Grass cutting April/May	£191.51 (inc VAT)
Bell Waste	May Skip	£175.01 (inc VAT)

### **b) Payments outstanding**

The following cheques were signed at the meeting

Veolia	Grass cutting May	£63.84 (inc VAT)
Veolia	Grass cutting June	£63.84 (inc VAT)

Parish Councillors approved the payment for the August skip immediately following delivery to meet the terms required by Bell Waste.

## **8/07/08      Any Other Business**

### **a) Use of Cemetery for a Children's Party**

The Clerk commented that she had received an informal request from a village resident to use the part of the cemetery next to the Church Hall as an overspill area for a children's party. She had checked the insurance position on this, and had been advised that the policy did not cover the use of bouncy castles.

The majority of councillors present thought that it was inappropriate to use the area designated as a cemetery in this way, and therefore decided that the request should be refused. Concern was also expressed about the possibility of the area being occupied for other unauthorised purposes, e.g. caravans. It was suggested that that a fence should be erected between the cemetery and village hall.

## **9/07/08      Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the meeting at 7.30pm on 8 September 2008, in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, if it had not changed hands by then.

## **10/07/08      Clerk's Salary**

The clerk withdrew from the meeting before discussion on this item.

*Resolved:*      That the clerk's salary should be increased in line with the NJC national pay award still to be agreed.