

**Minutes of the Blo' Norton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st June 2010 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

Those Present: John Barnet-Lamb; Ann Lambert; Mike Bristow; Caron Finlay; Michele Collins (Clerk) 1 parishioner

- 1 Apologies for absence - John Olley
- 2 Public Comment - none
- 3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items for consideration: Ann Lambert – Village Hall donation (item 11).
- 4 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 13th April 2010 – approved and signed.
5. To receive an update re Former Highway Surveyors Land Charity (FHSLC) new tenancy agreement: It was noted that the plot of land was not agricultural and Councillor Finlay would liaise direct with the office who provided the legal advice. **ACTION: COUNCILLOR FINLAY**
- 6 To receive an update on Speedwatch – No further Speedwatch sessions had taken place. Mr Biggs felt that Speedwatch was not an adequate deterrant to decrease speeding motorists within Blo' Norton and wanted further action as per his previous correspondence to the Parish Council as discussed at April's meeting. Following discussion to was agreed that the Chairman would write to NCC with the assistance of Mr Biggs experience as a traffic police officer asking that Blo' Norton be provided with vehicle activated signs or the speed limit reduced to 20mph in Fen Road. Speedwatch had been tried and it was felt was not adequate for the village in slowing motorists. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**  
[Secretary's Note: Letter sent to NCC 3 June]
7. To receive an update re problems reported caused by the smell from the slurry pit of Gressingham Duck Farm, Fen Road: The Chairman had attended a meeting at Gressingham Foods with their Environment Manager, who assured us that their waste products were held in enclosed tanks, apart from the waste water which is allowed to evaporate into the pond. Planning permission had been sought from Mid Suffolk Council for a water treatment plan, which would do a final treatment of the water which evaporates and it would be "cleaner" than the pond water. This was at a cost of approximately £750,000-£1m. Mid Suffolk Council appeared to be delaying the decision. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Mid Suffolk Council asking them to expedite the planning permission and write to those parishioners who had raised the issue initially. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK**  
[Secretary's Note: Letters to parishioners sent 2 June 2010/Letter to Mid Suffolk sent 15 June]
8. To receive an update regarding the John Dyer Charity – No further update forthcoming from the John Dyer Charity. It was agreed the Parish Council would write to the three trustees of the Charity asking them to call an extra ordinary meeting to find out how much money is available and how it can be devolved to Blo' Norton **ACTION: CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK**
- 9 To receive an update on the St George's Day Pagent – A full report of the day appeared in the Blo Norton Bugle and a copy of the report had been sent to Norfolk Association of Local Councils. It was noted that the craft weeks prior to the event had been well attended by children and mums. The children had made a fantastic display on the day. PR has been excellent and the day was superb. Lucky with the weather – all came together well on the day; A total of £688 was raised on the day and split between the Village Hall Committee and the Church.

Chairman: .....

- 10 To receive an update on the Funding Fair – particularly with reference to Play Area and War Memorial - Councillor Lambert reported that the Funding Fair she attended on 18 May had been worthwhile with lots of information of how to obtain grants and funding for different projects. With the Play area the main object would be to prove consultation with those in the village, particularly those that may make use of the area. Councillor Lambert had already spoken to lots of children age 11 upwards. All would be in favour of a “teenage shelter” of the cell variety. Location of the shelter was important – as whilst it was Parish Council land it had to be in full agreement of the Village Hall Committee. It was also suggested that consideration of a bin be budgeted for. It was agreed that participation of the Youth Committee was essential. It was agreed to arrange for SMP to attend the village to do a site visit at the beginning of July and prior to this Councillor Lambert would arrange for questionnaires to be completed by villagers as to what they would like to see on the green.

It was agreed that a flyer would go out to the whole village mid July to let them know that SMP would be attending and that Councillor Lambert would be doing a door-to-door questionnaire. If further work was required a sub committee of the Parish Council would be held and those who had an interest would be co-opted to follow the project through.

War Memorial – funding available through lottery heritage fund can assist. It was asked that the parish council write to Mike Scott further to discussion at village meeting understand there is the remains of funding available for refurbishment of war memorial pc would be grateful to be informed as to the scope of those funds and how and when it could be accessed by parish council to refurbish war memorial.

11. To receive an update on the Village Hall with regard to refurbishment and funding. Councillor Lambert reported that due to necessity the village hall was to have major refurbishment – concentrating on the kitchen and bar areas. A consultation day would be held which would be open to all those who lived in the village to obtain their views and ideas for how they wanted to see this project progress. It was noted that in other parishes the Parish Council had sometimes made a donation and Councillor Lambert asked for this to be considered. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee presently paid for the maintenance of hedges and land which was shared with the Parish Council.

Councillor Lambert left the meeting

The Chairman proposed that with immediate effect the Parish Council should correct its error of not paying 50% maintenance of the shared land costs (the Parish Council owned 50% of the land) and this was agreed and would be paid annually.

Discussion took place as to a donation towards the village hall refurbishment. It was noted that the Parish Council had reduced the number of meetings held and in turn this reduced the Village Hall Committee revenue. It was agreed that in future a donation should be discussed prior to setting the precept. It was suggested that the Parish Council could have a stand at the Village Hall open day to ask the villagers their thoughts on how the Parish Council could support the Village Hall. Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation of £250 for this year, which would be in lieu of rent and reviewed next year.

Suggestion was made that perhaps the Parish Council and Village Hall could join together to obtain better insurance quotes for next year and this would be researched.

Councillor Lambert returned to the meeting. The Chairman was pleased to report that a donation of £250 would be made for this year, and this would be reviewed on an annual basis (and would include Parish Council meetings). It was asked that the Parish Council had a stand at the open day to obtain villagers views on how else the Parish Council could support the Village Hall. Fifty per cent of the maintenance costs would be paid with immediate affect and this would be £65 pa.

Chairman: .....

12. To consider Homewatch – The Chairman would arrange to set Homewatch up initially in The Street and go forward from there. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**
13. To consider expenditure on noticeboards – It was thought that minimal work was required in the first instance and the Chairman would explore this issue, otherwise Councillor Lambert could recommend someone to do further work. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**
14. To consider a donation to Little Ouse Headwater Project – Following the opening of Beswick Fen and Blo' Norton Fen a short while ago it was appreciated that the village was incredibly lucky to have this facility on its doorstep. It was asked that the Parish Council attempt in some way to support them more. It is quite a special project. Anything we could do donate support Little Ouse Headwater Project. It was asked if the Village Hall Committee would consider this project using the village hall free of charge on occasions and Councillor Lambert would take this to the Village Hall Committee meeting on Thursdy 3 June. **ACTION: COUNCILLOR LAMBERT**
15. To consider Adoption of the Telephone Kiosk – Parish Clerk to email Mr Podd. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**
16. To receive an invoice from the Clerk – The Parish Council received and agreed this invoice.
17. To receive an update on Parish accounts – The Parish Council received an update on parish accounts.
18. To approve the annual accounts for 2009/2010: The Parish Council approved the annual accounts for 2009/10. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**
19. **Planning**
- a. To consider Planning Application 3PL/2010/0442/F – erection of “permastore” dirty water storage tank
- Following sight of the plans, the Parish Council had no objection if Environmental Health did not raise any. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**  
 [Secretary's Note: Form completed and returned to Breckland Council 2 June]
- b. To receive and consider any planning applications received after the posting of the agenda but prior to the meeting
- Jasmine Cottage(3PL/2010/0426/F): Following sight of the plans, the Parish Council had no objection if the neighbours did not raise any. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**  
 [Secretary's Note: Form completed and returned to Breckland Council 2 June]
20. Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

The next meeting will take place on 10 August 2010 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 2140 hours

Chairman: .....

