

Minutes of Blo' Norton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2010 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Those present: John Barnet-Lamb; John Olley; Mike Bristow; Ann Lambert; Caron Finlay; 13 members of the public

1 **Apologies for absence** – none

2 **Public Comment** – none

3 **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items for consideration.** – none

4 **To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2010** - It was asked that paragraph 4 be amended to read Thelnetham Road. Following this amendment the minutes were signed as circulated.

5 **To receive an update on low flying training from Major Gary Walker Ground Liaison Officer at RAF Marham** Mr Andrew Aves of Hinderclay made a presentation about the reasons why fast jets from RAF Marham have started to use the area for training. All present were astounded to hear that this area of East Anglia with its gently rolling hills and hedgerows bears a startling similarity to part of the area of operations in Afghanistan. As such it is an ideal area to practice in the last few weeks before a unit deploys for active service there. As we are all aware our locality has been used for many years as an area for the training of Apache and Chinook helicopters however fast jets are a new addition. Andrew explained that there is a 'target' area in Hinderclay and the crew of these Tornado aircraft need to hone their low level skills and communication with ground staff in the area before they deploy to Afghanistan and use those skills in support of ground forces. Most of the training takes place above 5000 feet however there is also a need to make occasional runs at 250 feet and it is these that could cause the most disturbance to residents. As stated above training is only needed in the run up to deployment and this is only every three to four months however this very rarity means that we do not become accustomed to the sudden arrival of a jet at high speed just above our home! The next deployment is likely to be in October.

Following Andrew's presentation there was a lively discussion on the issue. While all those who spoke expressed great support for our forces and their need to be fully trained and equipped before deployment there was considerable anxiety expressed by those present. The greatest worry was the effect on animals in general and horses in particular. The possible repercussions of the sudden noise on a horse that is being ridden or pulling a carriage either on the road or on private land could be very serious indeed. Several residents asked if the noise could be the cause of cracked windows and 'blown' double-glazed units. Andrew was unable to give any opinion as to this aspect but did say any concerns and complaints should be made to the Ministry of Defence.

To minimise the possible risk to horse riders and others Andrew proposed that all who wished could be informed by email two days in advance of possible activity. To register for this warning please send your email address to Blo Norton Parish Council on blonorton@googlemail.com. We will then forward the list to Andrew.

6. **To receive an update re Former Highway Surveyors Land Charity (FHSLC) new tenancy agreement**
– Councillor Finlay reported that the tenancy agreement had been amended as suggested and returned to the Solicitors for further comment.

7 **To receive an update on playground equipment for the village and progress of sub committee membership** – The Chairman had approached three people with regard to them joining the sub committee to discuss playground equipment and as a result two of them had volunteered to be on the Committee. The Chairman had also approached the Youth Group via email and still awaited a response from them to confirm if they will volunteer a member to sit on the sub committee. Councillor Finlay would chair the sub committee.

8 To receive an update with regard to Traffic Issues in Blo' Norton – The Parish Council had send a further letter to Mr Dellar on 29 July, following the initial letter sent on 2 June and awaited a response from Highways.

9 Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases – Consultation
All the Councillors had read this document and were content with it – therefore no comments to send re the Consultation.

10. To receive an update re dog bins within the village – The Chairman had spoken to Dr Pitt of the Little Ouse Headwater project with regard to siting bins along that area and awaits a response from that Committee. Councillor Lambert to follow up with regard to funding for the bins.
ACTION: COUNCILLOR LAMBERT

11. To discuss newsletter items – The newsletter would include an article with regard to an update on the Low flying training via RAF Marham and would be pleased to receive other articles from anyone in the village for the newsletter. Mr Biggs kindly agreed to assist in circulation of the newsletter together with the Garboldisham News and would discuss this outside of the meeting with the Chairman. The next newsletter would be sent out prior to the end of the month.
ACTION: CHAIRMAN/MR BIGGS

12 To receive an update on Parish accounts – The Parish Council received an update on the accounts.

13 Planning

a Planning Application 3PL/2010/0816/F – erection of straw barn Willow Farm – There were no comments.

14. Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

Plantation: Mr Davey, who owned the Plantation, The Street had begun clearing the area with a bulldozer between the road and the trees to reinstate the field access into the trees so that the centre of the tree plantation can be cleared of trees leaving a 20 yard “hedge” to hide the clearance. He is in discussion with the Forestry Commission as to what to do with the trees as they are not useful for much. They could be pulped for use in chipboard and the tops used as Christmas trees. Another use might be to again pulp them and use them as an industrial fuel. It is then intended to replant the cleared area with Oak and to make the area open for school children and disabled children. The intention was to burn off the clearings from the front area and that was proposed for 5 November. It was Mr Davey’s intention to provide fireworks, beer, soft drinks and food for the people of Blo’ Norton and to arrange for the children to have sparklers (the Chairman suggested to Mr Davey that this may not be acceptable under health and safety). Mr Davey wanted the Parish Council to arrange insurance for the event and to take “ownership” of it and it was agreed to explore the costings of such insurance, although Mr Davey said that if the Parish Council could not do this then he would.

[Secretary’s Note: Parish Clerk spoke to insurance company who said if the event was not on Parish Council land and not organised by them they could not insure it. They also did not provide event insurance for one day and suggested exploring other insurance companies]

AGM for Village Hall – 9 September – The Chairman reminded those present of the AGM for the Village Hall and asked for support by attending this meeting.

The meeting closed at 8pm closed meeting

The next meeting will take place on 14 October 2010 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall

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Chairman

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Date