

Minutes of the Blo' Norton Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on  
**Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 7.30pm**

Attendance: John Barnet-Lamb, John Olley, Mike Bristow, Richard Edwards; James Button; June Plackett (Chair Hopton); Stephen Askew; 2 member of the public

- 1 Apologies for absence None.
- 2 Public Participation –To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation and any District Councillor Reports  
Stephen Askew reported on the following issues:  
Recycling Centres would be closing to be replaced with “super” recycling sites along the A11 corridor. Potential sites would be viewed in the New Year but nothing was expected to happen until 2019.  
Flexibus: An email had been sent to all Parish Clerks [Blo' Norton now received] with regard to the renewal of the contract in July and asked for suggested journeys; whilst there would be no guarantee this could be organised, changes would be considered to the current journeys. Perhaps thought could be given to journeys to doctors' surgeries.  
Broadband The Chairman reported he had attended Snetterton Parish Council to discuss broadband, however they “piggy backed” off of the race track.
- 3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items for consideration on the agenda None
- 3a Request for Dispensation (Standing Item) - None
- 4 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 27 October 2015 were approved as circulated.
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes held on 27 October 2015 (not elsewhere on agenda)
  - (a) Map (paragraph 15a) – deferred to next meeting
  - (b) Parking on The Street (paragraph 15c) – This issue could now be removed from the agenda
- 6 Parish Clerk's Update:
  - (a) Hopton Surgery – June Plackett reported that Hopton Parish Council were informed of the closure of the surgery on 2 December, with the surgery closing on 11 December and provision of a practice Nurse, Health Care Assistant and Phlebotomist from 14 December only. The Practice Manager, Rob Freeman, had stressed that this was a temporary measure whilst renovation of the dental surgery and maintenance work took place. It was noted that GP appointments and dispensary services would operate from Stanton site until a new building could be secured for the surgery. Once Blo' Norton had been notified of this, John Barnet-Lamb had invited Rob Freeman to attend tonight's meeting, he had hoped to but sent apologies earlier today; John Barnet-Lamb had also spoken to Fiona Walker, Senior Advisor to Elizabeth Truss who had written off to various agencies, stating “Elizabeth is extremely concerned by the very short notice of the closure and would be grateful if this can be investigated as a matter of priority”.

It was noted that the local councillor for Stanton, Jim Thorndyke was opposed to the current Stanton Surgery expanding on its current site; it was hoped that one of the local surgeries would take up the offer of a satellite surgery at Hopton, located on the land behind the current village hall. Hopton Parish Council owned the land and were keen for the site to become a doctors' surgery and had already agreed with the builders who were to build the houses that they would also build a purpose built surgery.

John Barnet-Lamb was keen to lend support to Hopton Parish Council however we could as it was feared that a surgery would not be put back, so our views need to be made clear. The

meeting was in agreement that another practice would need to be persuaded to have a satellite surgery at Hopton. June Plackett would speak to Botesdale Surgery tomorrow and the other local Parish Councils. It was suggested a letter be sent to all the local surgeries signed by the four parish councils with regard to a satellite surgery at Hopton.

**ACTION: JUNE PLACKETT**

A meeting had been called to discuss this issue on Monday 14 December at 1900 hours. John Barnet-Lamb said he would try to attend.

(b) Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils

– Following the last meeting Stephen Askew had contracted highways to ask if potholes would still be repaired if a Parish Council did not go into partnership with highways and it was confirmed they would be – although would not be prioritised. The Parish Council felt it was the responsibility of highways to repair all potholes and Parish Council money should not be used. It was therefore agreed not to reconsider the partnership with highways.

(c) Pot Holes Middle Road – these potholes had first been reported to highways on 16 November and the status on the report currently showed “works ordered”. [Secretary’s note: the potholes had been repaired 10 December]. It was noted there were some potholes on Selfs Lane and Councillor Button would report to highways complete with pictures.

**ACTION: COUNCILLOR BUTTON**

Damage to the three way sign at Thelnetham Road, junction with Fen Road had been reported direct to Gary Overland on 26 November with no update. It had also now been reported under Norfolk County Council Reference ID: [532292 - click here to track progress of this enquiry](#).

7 Policies and Procedures

(a) To note Standing Orders now amended as agreed at last meeting and uploaded to website

(b) To consider Village Hall agreement with regard to Donation/Maintenance/Rental – this was agreed and the Chairman would ask the Treasurer of the Village Hall to consider and sign.

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN**

(c) To note Financial Regulations now amended as agreed at last meeting and uploaded to website

8 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

(a) To discuss ramifications for the Parish Council – The Chairman reported on the training he and the clerk had attended with regard to the Transparency Code. It was noted that all Parish Council spending would be available to the public via our website.

(b) To appoint an internal auditor for finances/administration/policies – Colin Biggs was nominated and accepted and it was agreed that he should review the Parish Council administration twice yearly and invoice accordingly.

9 Actions from Annual Parish Meeting

10 Broadband – Meeting with MP – now delegated to Broadband Sub Committee

11 Police and Crime Update – There had been a break in to the Village Hall Shed – although looked like nothing was taken. John Olley volunteered to fit cctv equipment if the Village Hall Committee wished to purchase. [Secretary’s Note: on 9 December at around 12.30am a window was smashed and entry made to the building causing considerable damage. Last night also the Parish Council was aware that a separate incident another property was attacked and a shed was broken into there as well. Blo’ Norton was being targeted and all were encouraged to check their security. The police had attended today and have gathered useful evidence. If you see anything suspicious call 999 immediately].

12 SNAP meeting

(a) Last meeting Tuesday 24 November

(b) To agree attendance for next SNAP meeting – Friday 11 March at

Attleborough Police Station, 1100 hours

(c) Items for agenda

13 Finances

(a) To consider Parish Precept Requirement 2016/17 to be returned by 31 January – following discussion agreed to keep to same as last year. Parish Clerk to organise return of requirement form. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

14 Planning

There was no planning to consider

15 Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

(a) Noticeboard and housing by Church – The Chairman reported that this noticeboard was coming towards the end of its life and the noticeboard should be replaced with a new one and the housing required work as some of it was rotted. It was proposed to spend money renovating and this was agreed.

(b) Village Sign – The sign by the church also needed repainting and preserving with the post needing to be made secure. It was noted that Sylvia Corble painted the sign originally and her daughter Eleanor also did some painting. Councillor Button agreed to speak to Eleanor to see if she would be able to do the work on the village sign. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to Chris Davey with regard to securing the village sign post.

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLOR BUTTON**

16 Dates of meetings for 2016:

Tuesday 16 February 2016 – Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2016 – Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 3 May 2016 – Annual Parish Council Meeting, followed by Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 26 July 2016 – Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 October 2016 – Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 2034 hours