

**MINUTES OF BLO NORTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8  
DECEMBER 2009 at the VILLAGE HALL at 7pm**

- 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 October 2009 - approved as circulated.
5. To **consider** Former Highway Surveyors Land Charity (FHSLC) - This item was deferred to the next meeting. **ACTION: CLERK TO PUT ON AGENDA**
6. To declare vacancy on the Blo' Norton Fuel Allotment and Church Land Charities - Councillor Bristow proposed Tim Stevenson to fill this vacancy and the proposal was seconded by Councillor Lambert and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Stevenson to inform him of this outcome. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 7 The Parish Precept Requirement for 2010/2011 was **considered**. Following debate about whether the precept should be raised with the financial climate as it was. The Council were all aware of the need to have sufficient funds on deposit to maintain the various items for which it is responsible. With this in mind it was agreed to raise the precept by £150 per year to £2850. This would allow the Parish Council to continue with ongoing maintenance and any other unforeseen expenditure that came up within the year. **ACTION CLERK TO NOTIFY COUNCIL**
8. The Council received an **update** following meeting to consider making a bid from Norfolk Ambition - Norfolk's County Strategic Partnership - Councillor Lambert would ensure that the paperwork is returned to the Clerk in time to be considered by Breckland Council at the end of the year. **ACTION: ANN LAMBERT**
9. The Council received an **update** re caravans at Blo Norton Hall. The Chairman had spoken to the Council's Enforcement Officer who awaits a written explanation from Blo' Norton Hall to confirm why the 11 caravans are on site and to what facilities are provided, how many people are using these facilities and how long they are expected to be on site for. The Council Tax department had also visited the site and it was reported that Planning department are now investigating this issue. The Chairman will give a further update at the next meeting, unless he felt it was of high priority to call an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**
- 10 The Council received an **update** regarding the John Dyer Charity. The Chairman notified the meeting of a young person in the village in need of a donation from this charity and was somewhat frustrated that despite his previous meeting with the trustees and a letter sent in October no money was forthcoming from this Charity. Councillor Olley stated that he would explore this issue and the Clerk would pass him details of telephone number and contact at the Charities Commission. **ACTION: JOHN OLLEY/PARISH CLERK**
- 11 The Council reviewed the Bus Shelter project following the public meeting held on 20 October: This issue was returned to this meeting to allow the Council to review the decision they made at the March meeting to donate money towards the project. As the BNVHC had withdrawn their support for the Bus Shelter on their land the Councillors considered various other sites around the village and discussed if the site of the bus shelter could be changed would it then be supported. Councillors considered the recent vandalism, the safety of any children using the shelter and the possible effect on parishioners who would be adjacent to the site. The Councillors considered that there would be problems wherever it were placed on land controlled by the Parish Council. Furthermore, the opinion of the council was that Council Funds would be better spent to benefit the

Chairman: .....

youth of the whole village as opposed to a part of the young community. It was noted that the funds raised by the BNYC were not specifically raised for a bus shelter - the initial project was to raise money to enable the children of the village and nearby villages to arrange events.

The Chair stated that a decision needed to be made if the Council still wished to support the bus shelter by a grant of £300.00.

Those in favour of the bus shelter as it stands - nil

Those in favour of bus shelter if moved 20 yards away from the proposed site - 1 person

Those who wished to withdraw Parish Council support - 4 people

To clarify, it was the decision of this meeting that the Parish Council do not now support the bus shelter project for a variety of reasons (including health and safety issues). The Parish Council felt the money they had pledged towards this project could be used in a better way.

It was proposed that the Parish Council withdraw their financial support of £300 and this was seconded. Following a vote this was unanimously carried.

It was asked that the Parish Clerk undertake the following work: Send a response to Paula Woods as Chairperson of the BNYC to inform her of the decision of this meeting; Check with Breckland Council re the parcels of land owned by the Parish Council and also look into the cost of a "teenage shelter" of steel construction similar to the one in Diss. The Chairman would like to explore the possibility of creating a pleasant area that could be enjoyed by both adults and children and the Clerk was asked to further investigate

**ACTION: CLERK**

12 The Council received an **update** regarding the bottle bank. Councillor Finlay reported that the present company did not wish to empty the bottle bank unless it was full as they felt it would not be cost effective. It was thought by this being done, it may stop children reaching in to get bottles out. Indigo, the company who provided the bottle banks at Snetterton had stated that they did not normally supply bottle banks to small villages but would look at figures and get back in due course. They had stated that they would be happy to empty on a more frequent basis. It was agreed to wait for the figures and then bring the issue back to the next meeting. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee now held a licence and would therefore be able to run a bar at the village hall and would probably have more bottles to dispose of.

13 An invoice was **received** from British Legion re Poppy Wreath - invoice received and following discussion amount of £36 would be paid (this included a donation). The Clerk was asked to arrange for a wreath to be provided for next year and to thank the British Legion for keeping their office open after hours to allow collection of the wreath. The Chairman thanked Councillor Olley for organising and collecting the wreath this year.

**ACTION: CLERK**

14 An invoice was **received** from Mazars in relation to the Annual Audit and payment was agreed.

**ACTION: CLERK**

15 An **update** on the Parish accounts was received.

16 Planning - none.

17 Such other business as the Chairperson may direct - The Chairman reminded those present that the AGM with regard to the Little Ouse was on Thursday 10 December.

18. The next meeting will take place on 9 February 2010 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 2045 hours

Chairman: .....