

Those Present: John Barnet-Lamb; Mike Bristow; Ann Lambert; Richard Edwards

Guests in attendance (for item 8) – Andrew Aves; Sqn Ldr David Smith

Apologies: John Olley

1 Apologies for absence – John Olley

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 18 December 2012 Agreed as circulated

5 Matters arising from the minutes held on 18 December (not elsewhere on agenda)

a) Tree Preservation and meeting to be arranged with the Tree Preservation Officer (Gilbert Addison) - this item was noted and it was agreed there was no need for the Parish Council to meet with the Tree Preservation Officer.

b) Bird Deterrent – it was agreed no further action would be taken re this issue.

c) Hubbards Lane – The Chairman had met with Mr Deller from Highways on site (as previously reported) and whilst the Highway Rangers had made a start on the clearance of Hubbards Lane, it was hoped to arrange for contractors to assist later in the summer when the Lane has had an opportunity to dry out

d) Footpaths in General – It was noted that even though signs had been erected, horse riders were still using footpaths. The Chairman agreed to speak to those concerned. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**
Councillor Edwards suggested that Blo' Norton should consider having a footpath advisor who would be able to assist in advising the Council which paths needed clearing; he said this had worked well in a previous village he had lived in. The Chairman agreed to speak to Joan Keeble, to ask if the Ramblers would be interested in such a role. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**

e) Sam2Sign: Councillor Edwards was disappointed that the sign had now been removed and never worked whilst it was in the village. The Clerk would send a further email to Highways with regard to the disappointment and ask to be put on the rota to receive the fully operational Sam2Sign in the future. **ACTION: CLERK**

f) Slow Down in our Village Signs: It was noted that a further request had been put in the Bugle to ask if anyone was interested in having these signs on their bins and there was a nil response. It was also noted that there was no longer a stock of signs as they had all been used. Councillor Edwards was keen for signs to be available in Blo' Norton and kindly volunteered to sell them door to door. Councillor Lambert would raise the issue at the next SNAP meeting in July.

ACTION: COUNCILLORS EDWARDS AND LAMBERT

6 Adoption of the following for 2013

(a) Standing Orders – adopted for 2013/14

(b) Financial Regulations – adopted for 2013/14

7 Site Visit of River works at Knettishall Heath on 19 April – Councillors Bristow and Edwards were to attend this event, but were unable to at the eleventh hour. The Chairman would organise a new date with Dr Pitt. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**

8 Close Air Support Training - The Chairman welcomed Andrew Aves and Sqn Ldr David Smith to the meeting. It was noted there were four close air support training exercises over Hinderclay in the last twelve months and various aircraft, including American planes were used. Sqn Ldr Smith stated that flying at low level demanded both a high skillset and mindset from pilots and due to the nature of it, training and refresher training was paramount. Whilst simulators were also used, nothing prepared pilots better than practical training. This type of flying is used in the operational field in a variety of ways including thermal camera work – to enable troops on the ground to be warned of possible danger. It was noted training took place between Monday-Friday at a height of 2,000 ft and below (minimum 250 ft), both day and night. It was noted that Thetford Forest was a favourite training ground too. Sqn Ldr Smith showed maps of the three tactical training areas (Wales, Scotland and East Anglia) and it was stated that the Royal Airforce were required to book into low flying level areas and have timeslots

allocated to them through a booking system for their training. If the airspace at low level was not available, then they would fly higher over that passage of airspace to avoid it. There was always the possibility that they would not be able to use the allocated space booked at the timeslot if an emergency arose, such as search and rescue or air ambulance. During their scheduled flights there was access to a "guard frequency" and if necessary they would avoid a corridor where such rescue flights had been given priority. There was much legislation and administration involved with organising the training sessions. It was noted that refuelling took place over water as opposed to land in the majority of cases. The Chairman thanked Andrew Aves and Sqn Ldr David Smith for attending and for the work they do in keeping us all safe.

9 Police and Crime Update – the latest crime statistics were noted.

10 Breckland Community Infrastructure Levy – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule Consultation – responses need to be returned by 28 May – Councillors had the opportunity to comment on this document and it was noted that the response date was 28 May.

11 SNAP meeting

(a) Last meeting 22 April – the minutes from the last meeting were noted

(b) To agree attendance for next SNAP meeting – Tuesday 23 July, 1100 hours – at Attleborough Police Station – Councillor Lambert to attend.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR LAMBERT

(c) Items for agenda – Bin Stickers; speeding (especially heavy duty vehicles); Councillor Lambert asked any further issues to be emailed to her prior to 23 July

12 Finances

(a) To receive an update on Parish Accounts – the Parish Clerk provided an update

(b) To approve and sign Parish Accounts – the annual accounts were approved and signed

(c) To consider Insurance invoice – approved and cheque signed

(d) To consider NALC subscription for 2013 – approved and cheque signed

(e) To consider donation to Norfolk Accident Rescue Service – this was brought forward from the last meeting and met the Parish Council Charity Criteria. It was noted that a donation was last made in 2011. It was agreed a donation of £25 be sent and a cheque was signed

13. Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

(a) Phone box update – It was noted that due to vandalism, BT were to remove the phonebox, although they need to seek permission from Breckland Council and this could take up to 90 days

(b) Pigs at Fen Road – The Chairman reported on the site meeting he attended with Andrew Grimley from Breckland Council and a local resident. It was noted that Mr Grimley had previously visited the site a short while previously. He felt the smell was not excessive and whilst the area looked unsightly. Concern had also been raised about the state of the animals and it was noted that this would need to be reported to the RSPCA. It was noted that some permanent structures had appeared and the Chairman would speak with Breckland Council in concern to this

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

(c) Bottle bank – The Councillors' views were that it provided a service to the community.

(d) Consultation to Federate the Governing Bodies of All Saints and St Andrews Schools – this consultation was noted.

(e) Bench by Church – The bench had become dangerous and had now been removed; the Chairman asked for views about a replacement. It was noted that two offers of donations had been received; it was agreed to put an article in the Bugle asking if anyone else wished to donate to the replacement of the bench.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

14 Dates of meetings for 2013: 23 July (Councillor Edwards sends apologies); 5 November