

Minutes of the Blo' Norton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 October 2012 at **7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

Those Present: John Barnet-Lamb (Chair); John Olley; Mike Bristow; Ann Lambert; Richard Edwards; Dr Jo-Anne Pitt (Guest)

- 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 14 August 2012: The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes held on 14 August (not elsewhere on agenda)
 - a) Update re War Memorial – it was noted that work had been completed on the war memorial this week and an invoice had arrived for payment.
 - b) Sam2Sign update: was now in village situated along The Street and had worked for the first week. The Clerk had written to Highways and awaited a response.
- 6 Willow Farm
 - a) General update from the Chairman – As of today's date the application for the digester was to proceed and the next stage would be the Planning Committee. The Chairman reminded those present to keep comments with regard to the digester until after the Planning Committee and those who had written with regard to the application would be invited to attend the Committee meeting; the Chairman encouraged everyone to attend, so that their comments could be reiterated as members of the public, as the Parish Council would only be one voice on the day.
 - b) Update from Councillors Edwards and Lambert re meeting with MP, Elizabeth Truss – Councillor Edwards and Lambert felt the meeting with Elizabeth Truss, MP was worthwhile and she had asked to be kept informed of future developments; she said she would speak with district and county council. Ms Truss asked to be notified of dates for Planning Committees and was mindful of the noise and if it broke the Environmental Agency rules the planning application should not proceed.
- 7 To discuss Little Ouse Headwaters Report – Recommendations for Restoration – The Chairman thanked Dr Pitt for attending tonight's meeting to provide an update and thoughts on Dr Nigel Holmes report.

Dr Pitt said the report was commissioned by the Environmental Agency and the LOHP were consulted and involved, as it formed part of a wider initiative, as far as Lakenheath Fen. The Environmental Agency and their agency partners were exploring various structures and looking at potential for rehabilitation works, so it was felt that it was slightly confusing to call the report the Little Ouse Restoration project.

The main driver has come from the fact the river is failing its objectives under the waterfront directive – largely around issues of ecology and water; it was thought that by manipulating the river channel could improve those other issues. The project aimed to do relatively simple and low cost measures to try and bring a bit more variety and make flow faster and therefore self-cleaning. Dr Nigel Holmes had walked the stretch of river and was optimistic that things could be done to improve it. It was thought due to costings, it was unlikely that the Environmental Agency would dig out the river, as previously happened, especially as there was no danger of properties being flooded and being realistic, the Environmental Agency would not prioritise farming areas only housing. Whilst the ideas in this report are not aimed to stop flooding, they are aimed at improving the habitat and attraction of the river. As the aim is that it should act like a natural river flow which would reduce the weed

growth, allowing a channel to be maintained. These techniques had been tried in other places and Dr Pitt was awaiting attendance at a meeting with the Environmental Agency to check on the results of the other locations.

It was noted that the Environmental Agency had no specific funding. If the project went ahead it would probably be next winter before anything would happen on site. Dr Pitt reported that a first demonstration stretch at Knettilshall had just been completed and was happy for the Parish Council to visit if it would be helpful. It was hoped a visit could be arranged in the future: **ACTION: ALL PRESENT**

Councillor John Olley said the report did mention the Ford, which had been a problem for the river for some time. Dr Pitt was not aware of this. He then asked about access for any machinery, as he believed there were some people who may not wish to offer access. Dr Pitt was hopeful that the work could be done from LOPH land as there had been issues with access previously. The report had been done with the idea of working from LOPH land, although it would be good to include other land owners if they were willing to be involved. Whilst it was recognised that ideally workings would be easier from the arable land on the other side, it was felt it was good to do the work that could be done from LOPH land than no work at all. Whilst it was thought the Environmental Agency had a right of access for river maintenance, not sure if this work would legally count as that. Councillor John Olley said it would be good if the Environmental Agency could inform the Parish Council as well as Dr Pitt when they were going to do this work, so that we could provide an update to the village. Dr Pitt said she would try and keep the Parish Council informed. **ACTION: DR PITT**

8 To review Standing Orders: Standing Orders were adopted for a further twelve months.

9 Site at Western End of Fen Road, Blo Norton: Councillor John Olley reported on work in progress at this site; it was noted that all the trees would be felled, which would provide better vision around the corner for vehicles. The plan was for a bungalow to be built on the land, in due course.

10 SNAP meeting – 24 October 2012

(a) Attendee – Councillor Ann Lambert would attend the meeting.

(b) Items for agenda – would include bottle bank – as attempts had been made to move the bottle bank and there was currently broken glass around the bottom of it; anti-social behaviour during classes at the village hall – recent classes had been disrupted by unknowns knocking on the windows and shouting through the door during classes. The Chairman would speak to PCSO Lynn Dobson tomorrow and report all these issues as well as some theft of fruit from trees in private gardens and vandalism to the notice board. He reiterated that all these issues should be reported to the police when they happen. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN/COUNCILLOR LAMBERT**

[Secretary's Report: As a result of Councillor Lambert attending the SNAP meeting, the police would make Blo' Norton a priority and more hi-viz policing should be seen in the village]

11 To note Highway Ranger Visit to Blo' Norton – the Highway Ranger visit would take place soon and the Clerk was asked to notify them of the following issues: Couple of trees on Fen Road; uprooted 30mph signs near the Village Hall and top of Self Lane; Redgrave Road still had a number of pot holes **ACTION: CLERK**

12 To note public rights of way information sent from Norfolk County Council – This paperwork was noted, although it was asked to write to NCC to ask them who ensures they carry out such works as the Parish Council had asked them to do work on Hubbards Lane and this was still awaited. **ACTION: CLERK**

Councillor Richard Edwards reported that a particular footpath he used each day from South

Lopham Road beyond Clay Hall Lane turning to the field at the bottom was being used by horses and had been badly poached by their use. He suggested that a sign be erected, as the footpath should not be used by horse-riders. The Clerk would seek legal advice in the first instance with Norfolk Association of Local Councillors, but it was thought it may be worth speaking to those concerned, prior to erecting signage. **ACTION: CLERK/CHAIRMAN**

13 Finances

- (a) To receive an update on Parish Accounts – the Clerk provided an update
- (b) Chairman’s phone bill: The Chairman had always made phone calls on behalf of the Parish Council at his own expense; he now asked if the Parish Council would consider paying the difference between free evenings and weekends tariff to free anytime calls (amounting to approximately £2 per month) this was agreed by all and the Chairman was asked to provide an invoice on a quarterly basis for payment. **ACTION: CHAIRMAN**
- (c) To consider donation to MAGPAS – The Emergency Medical Charity – this item was deferred and would be discussed at the February meeting. The Clerk would notify them of this action. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (d) To note return of Annual Return for year ended March 2012 – this was noted.
- (e) To consider Mazars invoice for audit – invoice approved/cheque signed
- (f) To consider Poppy Wreath and cost – it was agreed to purchase as per previous years and it would be delivered to Councillor Mike Bristow’s address, as he was asked to lay the wreath this year. **ACTION: CLERK TO ORDER**

14 To note letter from Breckland Council re PC Elections – recharges: This was noted and Councillors felt disappointed that this would be claimed from Parish Councils in the future.

15 Planning

- a To consider the following Planning Applications:
 - 3PL/2012/1053/F – Erection of upvc Edwardian conservatory, Saddlers, The Street – no objections
 - 3PL/2012/1048/CU 0 Change of Use Proposed café facility within existing retail area – Dutch Barn Nurseries no objections
- b To consider any applications that arrived following the issue of the agenda but prior to the meeting.

16. Such other business as the Chairperson may direct
Pig Gate at Fen Road – Councillor John Olley had reported this incident to Breckland Council and asked that the Parish Council now write to Mr Kevin Bloomfield (the owner); Councillor Ann Lambert would raise at the SNAP meeting in the first instance.
Sponsorship of Garboldisham News by LOPH: The Parish Council awaited a response from Mary Feakes, Chairman of Garboldisham

17 Dates for 2012 meetings to take place at the Village Hall at 1930 hours

11 December

Suggested dates for 2013:

12 February	9 April	May (AGM and APM)
11 June	13 August	8 October
	10 December	

CHAIRMAN:

18 December 2012