

## BLO NORTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MEETING ON

TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY at 7 p.m.

**Due to the current restrictions, the Parish Council is unable to hold public meetings but they are continuing to have meetings virtually by Zoom.**

Record of attendance and apologies

In attendance David Mills, Shirley Grainger, Colin Lloyd, Julie Crossley – Clerk

Apologies from Mike Bristow and Hannele Tanskanen

2. Agreement of Minutes of last meeting of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – these were approved by all Parish Councillors

### **Matter arising**

3. Update on matters November Minutes inc

- a) Notice Board update – SG

Grant received and Notice Boards ordered 21<sup>st</sup> January - 6 weeks delivery so should receive early March. Keys will be provided. Shirley's husband has kindly agreed to put the Boards in place.

- b) War Memorial Cleaning with Saxon Monumental of BSE

The Clerk has spoken to Saxon Monumental and they will be attending to clean the Memorial in the Spring

- c) Defibrillator for village hall - Heartbeat Trust or Andrew Deptford

Clerk will re-circulate details of Andrew Deptford and put on next agenda.

- d) Church Lane flooding – DM

The **PC** has produced a flyer for the Garboldisham & Blo Norton News including maintenance of ditches. It should be noted that following a phone call to the landowner 2 men and a digger arrived promptly to repair the culvert under the field entrance. The ditch to the north on that side was also dug out as well as the ditch downstream of the field entrance and alongside the field. Water immediately started draining well on that side although water from the ditch on the other side of the road can only drain by running across the road. A culvert outlet is visible on the west side of the road but not visible on the east side due to growth of young trees. Regrettably within a couple of days the ditch had been caved in on one side by a farm vehicle. Hilldrop Farm on other side of the road recently changed hands but does not yet appear to be occupied. Some ditches in the vilage are very well maintained but the ditch outside Hilldrop Farm has not been maintained recently ata all. **DM** will try and contact resident of Hilldrop Farm. If lack of maintenance causes accident resident may be liable for damages. One of the PC noted he had been successful in this regard.

4. Fly tipping

The Clerk had a report about some fly tipping in Hubbard Lane. It was reported to BDC and has now been removed . **MCA** noted that she will forward emails to report any fly tipping if that is

easier than going on the website. **DM** has also put comments in the flyer for Parish Magazine. Any items for the future for Parish Magazine forward to **DM**

5. Pension Regulator and letter to re-declare opting out

**DM** will deal with this with the Clerk

6. Website accessibility (NALC)

Discussed the need for Microsoft word on the laptop and ability to be able to have the website accessible. Make sure website is simplified as much as possible. If someone goes on to look at the minutes they have to be able to magnify them easily. If we have to have word installed that is what we will have to do. It is an on going cost. The Clerk will deal in due course once retail re-opens.

7. Tree planting

Only place is on the verges but they would need maintaining. **SG** spoke to LOHP about planting on LOHP land. Their answer was that they are not fundamentally opposed to woodland in the context of the upper Little Ouse Valley but there is very little land on the LOHP sites where new woodland could be created without reducing the current and potential future conservation value of the land. Do any residents have a field they can plant with trees? This would be encouraged. **CL** has looked into this and the Woodland Trust will give 100 trees, depends whether residents would be interested. Could go in gardens and private land. **SG** suggested putting this in the next flyer and to make a plan for it.

8. LOHP Fen Road letter

There was concern about damage to the Fen but now resolved.

**Financial matters**

9. Approval sought for payment of

Clerks Salary £192.00 (April 2021)

HMRC £48.00 (April 2021)

Noticeboard company £1680.76 inc VAT of £280.12 - retrospective

Receipts received

Grant received from BDC £685.00 for noticeboards

Acknowledgement of BNPC Precept request received from BDC on 20.01.2021

Balance of Barclays account £12,494.94

10. Planning applications

3PL/2020/1295/Hou Single storey extension – APPROVED

3PL/2020/1499/VAR – Comments lodged on BDC Planning website **DM**

**MCA** had called the Case Officer about the variation it was complicated application and Head of Planning and Case Officer had not managed to go through it in detail due to Covid etc. There is no update as yet. A major concern is that this building has a radically different design from that

already approved and could potentially be requested to be turned into a house. A request will be made that it goes to Committee if necessary. **DM** thanked **MCA**.

**SG** can Parish Council support Thelnetham regarding the The White Horse which they are campaigning to keep as a pub – suggested PC write to Borough Councillor who lives at Barningham with PC support for keeping as a pub and our concerns and whether she will call into committee.

**SG** asked whether the May meeting will be a formal AGM meeting. **MCA** did not know whether either local Parish Councils of Kenninghall or Garboldisham had had theirs.

**MCA** Regarding the number of meeting per year it was suggested that if no items to put on agenda the meeting would be cancelled and perhaps this could be considered. Currently BNPC only have 4 meetings per annum.

**Meeting closed at 19.38**

**Next Meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021**