

Minutes of the Meeting of Upton with Fishley Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th March 2013 in the Village Hall

Present:

Mr Crane Mr Armes Mrs Whelpton Mr Leonard-Morgan
Mrs Pitchers Mrs Durrant Mr Brown
James Carswell (District and County Councillor)

James Carswell gave a report on the Better Broadband campaign, the proposed incinerator at Kings Lynn and he introduced the new Conservative candidate for county councillor, Tom Garrod. James also reported on the BDC review of rates for single occupancy homes and the progress with the Joint Core Strategy. James was thanked by the Council for his time as County Councillor.

There were two members of the public present. Matters raised included: potholes around the village, a request for reflectors at the junction of Church Road with South Walsham Road, flooding at Southend and the completion of improvements at St Margaret's Church.

Apologies:

None.

Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda and Requests for Dispensations:

Anne Whelpton has a dispensation so that she may discuss any issues at the boat dyke despite the proximity to her boatyard.

Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2013 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Nicholas Crane, as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Matters Arising:

1. The clerk has ascertained that two signatures are still required for parish council payments. Some councils get two signatories to authorise a payments list and then the clerk is able to make direct online payments. It was agreed to continue with the approval of cheques at each meeting.
2. £35,000 will be invested shortly into a bond for nine months. The reserve for the share of profits from the boat dyke has been moved to an Active Saver Account.
3. Norfolk County Council Highways staff checked the culvert in Prince of Wales Road and found it to be flowing freely so no work will be carried out. It is checked regularly by NCC.
4. The clerk contacted NCC to ask that the school buses stop at the bus shelter at Southend and outside the village hall in Cargate Lane.

Correspondence:

1. PCSO Paul McAllister sent a report that there had been no recorded crimes since the last meeting.
2. Philip Armes, Ginny Pitchers and Debbie Durrant will attend a training sessions on planning at Broadland District Council. Ginny, Debbie and Mike will also attend training for new councillors.
3. There is also a Highways seminar on 18th March.
4. The clerk received a request from a resident for the speed limit to be reduced through the village. She has explained that the Parish Council has requested this on several occasions only to have it refused; it is not believed that many people drive at speeds over 30 mph and NCC believes that a 20 mph speed limit would be unenforceable.

Treasurer's Report:

	£
Balance b/f at 14th February 2013	261.37
Receipts:	
Mooring fees	23,311.00
Funeral fee	58.00
Wayleaves	22.74
Grazing fee – two months	176.68
Cheques for payment:	
Pauline James – clerk's fee and exps	342.88
HMRC – PAYE	69.40
Apex Trees – work at churchyard	700.00
Eastwood Whelpton – fencing	503.08
Norfolk Pension	94.61
NPTP – councillors' training	120.00
Acle PC – share of exps	31.20
D Starkings – hedge cutting	211.20
J Nudd – work on old allotments	170.00
I Nicholls – work on old allotments	170.00
Transfer of annual repairs reserves	7,195.00
Transfer of EA reserves from mooring fees	<u>6,216.00</u>
Balance c/f at 14th March 2013	8,006.42
Savings account	4,931.18
Reserve account	17,957.00
Repairs and Renewals Accounts	<u>42,383.00</u>
Total monies	<u>73,277.60</u>

(Note that VAT of approximately £3,885 is due to be paid on the mooring receipts.)

Planning Matters:

None.

Parish Mapping:

Parish Online is a service available to parish councils for easy access to online mapping. Various maps of the village can be produced, including a map of the addresses of every house in the village. The fee is £20 per year and a joining fee of £20. It was agreed to subscribe to this service as it was felt that this would be very useful to the village.

Boat Dyke and Staithe:

BDC has sent a charge for business rates for the car park for the first time, £323.40 pa, based on a rateable value of £700. 50% of the car park costs, including rates, were to be allowable against income, as part of the Heads of Terms of the lease, but were removed from the draft lease. The Council has asked the solicitor to include these costs again. The clerk will contact BDC to find out why the rates have been charged.

Churchyard:

Nicholas Crane, Debbie Durrant and the clerk met with the vicar and members of the Parochial Church Council to consider remedial works required in the churchyard. The front wall is in need of substantial repair or rebuilding. It was agreed to consider moving the wall back a couple of feet and rebuilding it with proper foundations. It will be necessary to apply for a faculty from the Diocese, for permission for the works. Some of the raised memorials with brick surrounds also need substantial repairs as the bricks have been badly damaged by the frost. The clerk will obtain quotations for the work.

Financial Policies:

The Financial Standing Orders, Duties of the Responsible Financial Officer, Financial Risk Assessments, Risk Assessments, Review of Internal Controls and Review of Internal Audit were considered and adopted.

Any Other Business:

1. The clerk reported on the recent Practitioners' Conference; topics included VAT, taking on services from the district or county councils, the law relating to confidential minutes, the code of conduct and dispensations, parish mapping, employment law and writing press releases.
2. The new tenant of the old school playing field has asked what work will be done on fencing the other boundaries. It was confirmed that the fencing of the land is only minimal as the land is advertised for grazing; the land cannot be fenced by the Council to keep dogs in. Nicholas Crane will cut the grass on the field once the front fence has been finished.
3. There was an accident at Lodge Corner on Church Road recently. The clerk has contacted NCC to ask about safety improvements at this location.
4. The Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday, 9th May at 7.30 pm.

5. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 9th May 2013, following the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 9th May 2013.