

Minutes of a meeting of Horbling Parish Council held on Thursday, 28th November 2019 at 7.40pm in the Meeting Room, Horbling

Present: Miss L Brown Chairman
Mr M Kierstan
Mrs. J. Wesley

Parish Clerk: Mr I Sismey

South Kesteven District Councillor Jan Hansen was present and is the Toller Ward representative.

1378.410.19 To Receive /Approve Reasons for Apologies for Absence.

Proposed L Brown, Seconded J Wesley

RESOLVED: To receive /approve the reasons for apologies for absence from Cllr's A Daubney, M Jackson, J Gale and R Stacey

1379.410.19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1380.410.19 To ask if members of the public present wished to speak on any agenda item.

There were no residents present.

1381.410.19 Minutes of last meeting held on Thursday, 25th September 2019

Proposed J Wesley, Seconded L Brown

RESOLVED: For the chairman to sign the notes of the meeting held on the 25th September 2019 as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

1382.410.19 Asset Register. It has previously been agreed by the Parish Council that the land and buildings owned by the Council should be valued at current Market Value as opposed to original cost.

The clerk is organising with Stephen Knipe of Bourne to have these assets valued at current market value to include in the accounts.

1383.411.19 Possible purchase of a de-fibrillator. The clerk informed members that the application with the British Heart Foundation was ongoing and that he expected confirmation of the application and installation imminently.

It was agreed that the defibrillator should be placed on the outer wall of the meeting room (Road end).

The clerk added that the unit would be battery driven and the power supply to the housing was purely to keep the device at an ambient temperature.

1384.411.19 Banking Arrangements. The clerk explained that the new mandate was now in place and that the new signatories were as follows:

Louise Brown, Matt Jackson, Mark Kierstan and Andy Daubney

The standard practice applies that each payment instruction requires two signatures from the above selection.

Discussion moved onto internet banking arrangements which was the next phase of the Council's banking arrangements. To facilitate this M Jackson and A Daubney are already signed up M Kierstan and L Brown to provide details so that they are also signed up.

1385.411.19 PCC use of the meeting room.

The clerk informed members that as they had two items on the agenda with regard to the church that they should probably combine the two items.

The second item was under agenda item 7 and was an application for a grant for ground maintenance.

With regard to the use of the meeting room for the weekly coffee morning the members were of the opinion that the church should advertise this as a village event and that all were welcome.

The clerk mentioned to the members that the church was currently using the meeting room but that they had not forwarded any payment for this hire.

The clerk to send an invoice to cover this.

MK brought to the meetings attention comments from Cllr Daubney who had suggested that the Council should possibly consider a grant to the church to cover both items and allow them to decide how they spent it. The members were in general agreement with this.

MK proposed that the grant could be £900.00 for the churchyard maintenance and £100.00 for the coffee morning.

The members were happy that the chair should write to the PCC on this item.

Proposed M Kierstan, Seconded J Wesley

RESOLVED: That a grant of £1000.00 should be made available for the PCC

1386.412.19 Grant Application Horbling & Billingborough Scout Group

Before this item was discussed the clerk wished to bring to the members attention agenda item 13 which covered S137 Grants. The clerk had prepared a paper on the ability of the Parish Council to provide grants for the benefit of the parish. This item was to remind members of the criteria for awarding grants and the financial limits.

The clerk was still awaiting details from the Scout group as to the individuals concerned with regard to the grant award.

CORRESPONDENCE

1387.412.19 The clerk produced a list of correspondence for the members to receive:

A) *For Information only – to be received en bloc*

- 1) **The Rural Bulletin – 24 September 2019**
- 2) **NALC Newsletter**
- 3) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**
- 4) **LALC – Weekly News Update**
- 5) **SKDC - CrowdfundSK**
- 6) **The Rural Bulletin – 1st October 2019**
- 7) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**
- 8) **LALC – Weekly News Update**
- 9) **The Rural Bulletin – 8th October 2019**
- 10) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**
- 11) **LALC – Weekly News Update**
- 12) **The Rural Bulletin – 15th October 2019**
- 13) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**
- 14) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**
- 15) **NALC – Newsletter**
- 16) **LALC – Weekly News Update**
- 17) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**
- 18) **LALC – Weekly News Update**
- 19) **The Rural Bulletin – 19th November 2019**
- 20) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin**

Proposed M Kierstan, Seconded J Wesley

RESOLVED: To receive the above items en bloc

B) *For Discussion*

a) **Environment Agency Flood Warnings**

The clerk had distributed a letter from the Environment Agency with regard to signing up for the agency's Flood Warning Service. The clerk informed members that he had already completed this on the Parish Council's behalf.

b) **Belvoir Hunt in Horbling**

This matter had been brought to the attention of the Council by a member of the public who was concerned that the Hunt were no longer advising in advance the dates of their activities. The concern from the member of the public was that those affected in the area could no longer make provision to protect their animals and pets.

After much discussion it was decided that Cllr J Wesley would talk to her contact to see if there was a way forward on this matter.

c) **Overhanging Trees**

The clerk had received a letter from South Kesteven District Council with regard to overhanging trees on the footpath in front of the church.

It was decided that this was not the Parish Council's problem and that this should be passed to the Church Secretary.

d) **Town Beck**

The clerk had received correspondence with regard to clearing the weeds from the village beck. The letter was to thank the council for organising this clearance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1388.413.19 Approval of Treasurers Report

The Clerk provided the financial reports for the members. This comprised of an Income & Expenditure Account plus Balance sheet for the period to 31st October 2019. The Accounts showed a surplus for the year to date of £674.07.

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurers Report as presented

1389.414.19 Approval of Payments since last meeting

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To Approve the schedule of payments provided by the Clerk

1390.414.19 Grant Application Horbling Parochial Church Council

This item was dealt with under agenda item 5.5

1391.414.19 Highways Update. Resurfacing Work

The clerk presented the members with a schedule of proposed works to be completed over the next year.

1392.414.19 Conservation Update

The clerk informed the members that the consultation on the Conservation Status had now closed and was awaiting a response from SKDC with regard to the next steps and outcome.

The members again questioned whether the consultation had been effectively conducted. The clerk had queried this with the Officer concerned and had been told that due to the efforts of the Parish Council in discussing it at Council level and that it had been displayed on the Parish website advertising its existence was sufficient to make the consultation valid.

Due to the connection with the proposed planning application under agenda item 11 this item was also discussed.

The clerk had ensured that the members were aware that an application (S19/1761) had been made in respect of a piece of land situated at 27-39 Donington Road, this piece of land is cited in the proposed Conservation Appraisal. Following various discussions with members LB/MK prepared an objection statement that was forwarded to SKDC by the clerk.

'Horbling Parish Council opposes this application and asks that it should not be approved as the site has already been designated by SKDC, in their recently completed Conservation Status Appraisal, as an 'Important Open Green Space'. Consultation on Horbling's Conservation Area Status is now complete and a decision is imminent. However, details of the Appraisal are still available on SKDC's website. The Appraisal document, prepared by SKDC's Conservation Officer states the 'the open green spaces are a key characteristic of the village'. The SKDC document further states that; 'Horbling has been spared modern housing development and this has allowed the core to maintain visual links to the surrounding countryside' The site

in question is one of only three such 'visual links to the countryside' which were identified in the Appraisal document. Consequently, removal of one of three such 'visual links' would have a dramatic impact on the key heritage characteristic identified by the Conservation Officer. The Appraisal specifically cites the view along Donington Road and the importance of hedgerows 'that serve to soften the streetscape and reinforce the rurality of the village'. This aspect would again be detrimentally impacted by the proposed development. Horbling Parish Council requests that this proposal is referred to the Planning Committee and that they are given an opportunity to address the Committee.

Given all of the above, The Parish Council would expect that SKDC would concur with the opinions and recommendations of their Conservation Officer, and would therefore, refuse this application. Please note that the Parish Council has, over the last two years, expressed their concerns to their District Councillors and in turn to SKDC regarding the slow progress made by the District Council on Horbling's Conservation Status application. This slow rate of progress has consequently meant that whilst Horbling, has been recommended by SKDC for Conservation Status, it has not yet gained Statutory recognition. Approval of a Planning Application of this nature, within this interregnum, between the proposal/recommendation of Conservation Status and Statutory Approval, would provide a precedent for the landowners of the two other 'Open Green Spaces' to obtain Planning Permission for developments thereby totally destroying one of the most notable characteristics of the village.'

The clerk informed the members that he had spoken with the case officer concerned as well as the Conservation Officer and the chair of SKDC's planning committee. Also, SKDC Councillor Jan Hansen was available should the application have to go before the planning committee. Councillor Hansen confirmed that he had also spoken to the relevant parties and emailed the head of planning as a matter of record.

1393.415.19 The Meeting Room and the Plough Inn.

1) Repairs and Maintenance.

Although Cllr Daubney was not present, he had sent details of items he wanted to be dealt with:

- a) The lights in the outbuildings managed by the Parish Council were not working.
- b) The fire extinguisher in the Pub appeared to be out of date come December. The clerk mentioned that an inspection by the appropriate contractors had just Recently been undertaken and should mitigate the issue.

- c) The booking form needed to be amended to show new contact details.

The clerk confirmed that he would deal with these items.

Cllr Brown queried as to whether the pub had paid their outstanding account on a meeting room hire. This matter was to be clarified.

Cllr Kierstan asked if a report could be produced to cover all bookings taken. This was to be undertaken by the clerk.

2) Plough Inn Repointing

The clerk informed members that as far as he was aware phase two of the repointing work had not been started as had previously been indicated by Cllr Daubney due to the weather conditions. Therefore, it is anticipated that the work will recommence in the spring.

The Plough Inn Internal inspection

The clerk had asked members to review the internal inspection document that he had produced and various comments had now been incorporated into the document.

The clerk continued that the members now needed to decide who would complete the inspection and when.

It was decided that this would be discussed at the next Parish meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1394.419.19

S19/1761 Mr G Middleton

**Erection of Two Detached dwellings – land between 27-39 Donington Road
Horbling**

This item was dealt with under agenda item 9

**1395.416.19 To receive official notice of the forthcoming Parliamentary
Election**

Although this item was common knowledge to all the members the clerk had received the official notice with regard to the Parliamentary Election taking place on Thursday 12th December 2019.

1396.417.19 S137 Grants

The clerk had prepared a paper on the ability of the Parish Council to provide grants for the benefit of the parish. This item was to remind members of the criteria for awarding grants and the financial limits. This item was dealt with under Agenda item 5.5.

1397.417.19 Toller Educational Foundation

This item had been added to the agenda due to the passing of information with regard to Cllr Daubney's involvement with the Foundation.

The clerk informed members that this was linked with another charity 'Brown Educational Foundation'. The clerk stated that it was important that the Parish Council understood the workings of both Charities and their interaction with the Council.

MK suggested that the clerk contacted the Brown Foundation for further information.

The clerk will prepare a report for the next meeting.

1398.417.19 Emergency Planning

The clerk stated that he thought that it would be good for the Parish Council to form an emergency plan for the village. In the event of any given emergency, flooding, fire etc the Parish Council could then ensure that some form of control was in place. It was agreed that the plan should be worked on in the ensuing months and then presented to the members.

1398.417.19 To receive reports, if any, by District/County Councillors or Representatives on other Organisations.

SKDC Councillor Jan Hansen was present and gave the following report:

- JH had recently attended a seminar in Lincoln with regard to new technology and assisting elderly people to stay longer in their own homes.
- JH raised the subject of bringing the local villages together. He had tried to initiate this as a millennium project, but it had failed due to local's negativity.

JH reiterated that if the members wished to try and have a joint event with other neighbouring parishes then he would be only too happy to assist with this.

- JH mentioned that as a district councillor he had a sum of £1,000 that he could award to worthy causes and therefore if the members were aware of any local need then he would consider it.
- JH reported that SKDC were currently embarking on an ECO project planting trees. MK mentioned that perhaps some of his District Council grant could be used on encouraging the planting of large broadleaf trees to replace some of the old dying trees in the village. LB added that perhaps this could be tied in with a proposed wildlife grant. This subject to be added to the agenda for the next Parish meeting.

1399.418.19 To discuss any such information which the chairman may legally bring to the Councils attention.

The clerk raised the subject of the VE75 celebrations in May 2020. This item to be discussed at the next meeting.

1377.409.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 20th February 2020, at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed Chairman

Date