

Minutes of a meeting of Horbling Parish Council held on Thursday, 16th July 2020 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, Horbling

Present: Miss L Brown Chairman
Mr M Kierstan
Mr A Daubney
Mrs. J. Wesley
Mr R Stacey

Parish Clerk: Mr I Sismey

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

1429.429.20 To approve the continuance of the Chairman and the vice chairman as per the recent government legislation without opposition

Due to the current pandemic legislation had been passed allowing Officers to remain in post until the next annual meeting.

Proposed J Wesley, Seconded A Daubney

RESOLVED: With no opposition the Chairman (Cllr L Brown) and vice chair (Cllr M Kierstan) were approved by the Council to continue in post.

1430.429.20 To Receive /Approve Reasons for Apologies for Absence.

Proposed A Daubney, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To approve the reason for absence from Cllr J Gale

1431.429.20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1432.429.20 To ask if members of the public present wished to speak on any agenda item.

Due to the current Pandemic there were no residents present.

1433.429.20 Minutes of last meeting held on Thursday, 20th February 2020

Proposed R Stacey, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: For the chairman to sign the notes of the meeting held on the 20th February 2020 as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

1434.430.20 Possible purchase of a de-fibrillator. The clerk informed members that although he had met with the BHF representative on site on the 9th March as all members were aware the lockdown had delayed installation.

The clerk was following up with BHF but progress was slow following the current situation with restrictions on movement and employees being furloughed.

The clerk reminded members that once installed, as part of the application criteria training, not only of the members but also of local residents would need to be instigated.

1435.430.20 Billingborough Playing Field. The clerk informed members that following an exchange of correspondence with Billingborough PC the last letter from the chair Cllr L Brown, which clearly stated the Parish Council's position, had remained unanswered and therefore the matter was to be left in abeyance.

(Cllr L Brown's letter of 23rd April is attached to the minutes for reference)

1436.430.20 Belvoir Hunt in Billingborough

Cllr Kierstan had researched the senders of the original email seeking clarification of hunt dates etc and discovered that the sender was a disrupter.

Cllr Wesley confirmed that the last hunt had taken place for the season and that necessary people would be informed once the new schedule had been completed.

1437.430.20 Toller Educational Foundation/Brown Educational Foundation

The clerk explained that he had put the item on the agenda due to the fact that both organisations mention the participation of the Parish Council in their constitution.

1438.430.20 Emergency Planning

No further progress had been made on this item. The clerk informed members that the current coronavirus scenario has shown why this topic was important to the Parish Council and that the future planning would call on experiences gained from the pandemic.

1439.430.20 Grant to the PCC

The clerk confirmed that the £1,000 grant had been paid over to the PCC on the understanding that it was a contribution to both the grass cutting and the coffee mornings.

CORRESPONDENCE

1440.431.20 The clerk produced a list of correspondence for the members to receive:

- A) *For Information only – to be received en bloc*
 - a) Rural Services Network
 - b) LALC E-news update
 - c) Rural Services Network
 - d) InvestSK – COVID19 Update
 - e) SKDC – Parish NewsUpdate
 - f) LALC E-news update
 - g) SKDC – Planning Applications
 - h) SKDC – Planning Applications
 - i) NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
 - j) SKDC – Planning Applications
 - k) Rural Services Network
 - l) SKDC – Planning Applications
 - m) NALC Chief Executives Bulletin
 - n) LALC E-news update
 - o) NALC Newsletter
 - p) LALC E-news update

Proposed M Kierstan, Seconded J Wesley

RESOLVED: To receive the above items en bloc

- B) *For Discussion*
 - a) **Lincolnshire Tips reopening**

The clerk had distributed a circular from Lincolnshire County Council confirming that from the 6th July household waste recycling centres had reopened on a 'click, book & tip' basis.

1441.431.20 Letter from Local resident re troublesome dogs

The members were aware of the particular dogs and their owners that were the subject of the letter. Cllr Brown was of the opinion that it should not be down to the Parish Council to be seen to be dealing with such matters but the individuals need to know that details will be passed to SKDC to provide the necessary enforcement.

Cllr Daubney added that in the past SKDC had advised the keeping of a log to note incidents involving the dogs (Barking etc).

Cllr Kierstan was of the opinion that someone should talk to the owners informing them that if problems continued then SKDC would be informed to enable possible further action to be taken.

It was agreed that Cllr Daubney would have a conversation with the dog owners concerned and that Cllr Brown would make contact with the complainant.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1442.432.20 To complete the annual governance statement

The Clerk explained that there was a list of questions on the Governance Statement that needed to be confirmed by the members.

The Clerk provided a copy for each member and asked their agreement with each statement.

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement

1443.432.20 To receive the signed off report from the Internal Auditor

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To Receive and approve the accounts from the Internal Auditor

1444.432.20 To approve the returns for the external auditor for the year ended 31.03.20

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To approve the returns for the external auditor

1445.432.20 Approval of the Treasurers Report for the period to 30.06.20

The clerk provided the members with copies of the accounts for the period to 30.06.20

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurers Report for the period to 30.06.20

1446.432.20 Approval of Payments since last meeting

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

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

1447.433.20 Renewal of Insurance

The clerk explained that this was for the renewal of the Council's all risk policy and that the renewal premium was £1065.15, 1% up on last year's figure.

Proposed L Brown, Seconded M Kierstan

RESOLVED: To Approve the renewal of the Council Insurance at £1065.15

1448.433.20 Budgeting

The clerk provided all of the members with schedules showing the precept amounts raised by neighbouring parishes. The clerk wished to show the members how the precept system worked and what was likely to be acceptable. Based on an average of £31.19 raised per Band 'D' equivalent household the Parish could raise £5021.59.

It was confirmed by the clerk that the above figure was purely an indicator until detailed workings were completed.

The members did not feel that this represented any great financial imposition but that it was important that this matter was clearly communicated to the local residents.

It was decided that this item would be discussed further at the Parish Council's next meeting.

1449.433.20 Highways Update.

Cllr Stacey had raised the issue of the state of the pavements in Horbling and therefore the clerk provided the members with a schedule of anticipated works for the Horbling area. This showed that there was currently no budgeted work to be completed on pavements in Horbling. The clerk continued that this may be included in there budget for 2021/2022.

Members were concerned about the number of sizeable potholes in the area:

- 1) Bottom of Mill Lane
- 2) Donington Road
- 3) Bridge End

Mention was also made of the missing Horbling sign as you turn off the A52 at Bridge End. Cllr Kierstan informed members that this matter had already been reported to Lincolnshire County Council.

The clerk informed members that all of the above matters could be reported on LCC'S 'Fix my street'.

1450.434.20 Conservation Update

The clerk informed members that the Conservation Officer dealing with the appraisal Had recently retired and that his assistant had also left the employment Of SKDC. Therefore, SKDC currently have no conservation officer (apart from a part time consultant) and therefore the appraisal is not moving forward.

The clerk continued that the Development Control Manager, Sylvia Bland, had also left SKDC and that an interim manager, Will Richards, had been engaged.

The members were concerned that this matter had been ongoing for a number of years and that a formal complaint should be sent to SKDC.

The clerk also raised the matter of a complaint from a resident with regard to the consultation process and that he had provided relevant information for them.

1451.434.20 The Meeting Room and the Plough Inn.

1) Meeting Room

The clerk informed the members that after conducting a risk assessment he had reopened the meeting room. Any bookings would be scrutinised and if found to be inappropriate with regard to current regulations then they would be cancelled.

The clerk had erected the relevant COVID signs as detailed by central government.

Members were concerned with regards to the policing of any bookings and ensuring that the client/Parish Council were abiding by the regulations. The clerk informed the members that should any bookings materialise then he himself would visit on the relevant day to ensure regulations were being followed.

2) The Plough Inn

The clerk had distributed a copy of a report prepared following an internal inspection of the Plough Inn with Cllr's R Stacey and J Wesley.

The clerk commented that as the report suggests the internal aspects of the 'Plough' are looking extremely tired and has not been maintained to the standard one would expect nor that complies with the lease. The clerk continued that although some attempt had been made at redecoration it was not of the standard that was required.

It had been noted that the carpets required replacing and the other floor areas needed remedial work to bring them up to a standard.

Cllr Wesley commented that the Black Bull at Donington was an example of a nicely decorated pub.

Cllr Brown commented that more could be done cheaply to increase the appeal of the pub from the street ie installation of hanging baskets. Cllr Brown continued that it may be an opportunity for the tenant to turn the pub into something of a village hub offering local produce for sale etc

Cllr Wesley was appalled by the disabled toilet facility that was doubling up as a storage facility, she continued that all of the toilet facilities needed total renovation.

The general opinion was that the pub needed major internal works to bring it back to the relevant standard.

The clerk continued that as this was a major asset belonging to the Parish then good management of it was vitally important.

Cllr Kierstan was of the opinion that the Parish Council needed to involve someone with expertise in refurbishing public areas in amenities such as the Plough. He continued that the Council needed a plan to enable this to go forward.

The clerk had made contact with Knead Pubs to enquire as to whether they could offer some much needed advice.

The team who conducted the inspection shared their concern for the following:

- a) The cleanliness of the kitchen area
- b) The open drain in the cellar
- c) The chimney flues (as to whether they had been regularly swept)
- d) The carpets throughout
- e) The standard of the toilets

The members agreed that it was important to obtain an independent opinion on the internal refurbishment of the property (this could be Knead Pubs) but that it was important to ensure that the tenant remained informed of the situation.

The clerk confirmed to the members that the internal inspection had only been completed on the public areas and that the private quarters were still to be inspected along with a complete inventory check.

Action Plan

- 1) Obtain an independent opinion on what works needed to be completed, how and to what standard they should be completed.
- 2) Complete an inventory check
- 3) Complete the inspection of the Private quarters

Cllr Daubney mentioned that he would rearrange the pointing work that had been scheduled for this year.

Cllr Daubney also mentioned the damaged brick wall that was due to be repaired. He had been asked whether the bollard associated with the wall should be replaced with a new concrete bollard or a steel one.

It was agreed that the tenant would not be contacted until the internal inspection of the private quarters was complete.

The clerk informed the members that the insurance on the Plough had been renewed at a cost of £1,174.40 this was slightly lower than the previous year's premium.

The clerk informed the meeting that the current quarter rent remained outstanding.

Conversation turned to whether the Parish Council should be financially helping the tenant further at this point.

It was agreed that as opposed to offering any help at this point the Parish Council should await a formal approach from the tenant asking for some financial consideration.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1452.436.20

S19/1761 Mr G Middleton

Erection of Two Detached dwellings – land between 27-39 Donington Road Horbling. Application refused

The clerk wished the members to receive the refusal notice.

1453.436.20

S20/0725 Mr Andrew George

1st Floor rear extension, 11 Sandygate Lane, Horbling

The clerk wished the members to receive this application

1454.437.20

S20/0786 SKDC

Conversion of former residents lounge into two bungalows, Toller Court, Sandygate Lane, Horbling

The Council members passed an observation of 'No Objections'

Proposed M Kierstan, Seconded L Brown

RESOLVED: To receive the above application information

1455.437.20 To receive/Discuss the members code of conduct

The chair spoke on this item informing members that information from a Parish meeting had been leaked to certain residents and caused a certain amount of upset. The chair wanted to ensure that members were aware of the need for a certain amount of confidentiality with regard to information discussed.

Cllr Kierstan mentioned that on occasion residents will ask him what has been discussed at the Council Meeting and that he will make general comments.

1456.437.20 Parish Councillor Vacancy

The clerk confirmed that there was currently one vacancy on the Council and that he would alert SKDC to the fact and that the Council wished to fill that vacancy.

The clerk continued that he did have one interested resident.

1457.437.20 To receive reports, if any, by District/County Councillors or representatives on other organisations

Cllr Hansen had little to report. The current COVID situation has meant that most of the officers at SKDC were working from home and therefore gaining information was more difficult. He mentioned that he was unaware that the conservation officer had retired and that is the kind of information he would expect to be relayed to him.

However, over the past few months he had entertained various enquiries from residents and that he had found the ability to help them very rewarding. Cllr Hansen

asked that if residents contacted any of the councillors with regard to a problem that he could help with to contact him.

Cllr Kierstan asked Cllr Hansen if he knew of any funding that may be available to assist with the renovation of the Plough, Cllr Hansen responded that he would check the matter out.

1458.438.20 To discuss any such information which the chairman may legally bring to the Councils attention.

Cllr Brown commented that she had noticed various groups/individuals had made extra efforts during the COVID period and she wondered whether the Parish Council should be acknowledging this in some way.

The members were in general agreement with the idea of acknowledging these groups/organisations.

It was decided that this would be encompassed with the communication with regard to the precept.

1459.438.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 7th October 2020, at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm

Signed Chairman

Date