

South Lopham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Pansthorne B&B. Thursday 8 November 2012 7.30pm

Present:

Council Members: Robert McCaw (RSM) (Chair)

David Huggins (DH)

Jim Pursehouse (JP)

Tim Frizzell (TF)

Sarah Martin (SM)

Parish Clerk: Caroline Phillips (CAP)

Mr Granville Horan (GH) (Lophams' Society (LS)), Mike Cox (MC) (North Lopham Parish Council (NLPC)).

1. Chairman's opening address.

Robert McCaw announced that he and Madeleine had sold their house and were moving to Wiltshire. The next meeting on Thursday, 10th January would therefore be his last as a councillor and as Chairman. The Parish Council therefore needs to find a new Councillor and Chairman. Robert asked existing Councillors whether they wished to take on the Chair. There were no volunteers. It was agreed that all Councillors would give serious consideration as to how to fill the vacancy before the next meeting.

Action: Parish Clerk to advertise the vacancy.

2. To record attendance and consider the acceptance of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Stephen Reynolds.

3. To record declarations of interests from members in any item to be discussed.

None declared.

4. To approve the Minutes of the last Meeting (12th September 2012).

Item 8 (Adoption of Financial Regulations) should be amended to include the phrase 'with amendments to tailor them to our requirements.'

5. To report on matters arising from the Minutes (other than those listed separately on the Agenda).

Item 11 b v. There was further discussion to clarify the precise location and ownership of the overgrown hedge. **Action: DH to give RSM the contact information of the owner so that RSM may pursue a resolution.**

Item 14. Cheque received from LOHP.

6. To receive and approve the Financial Report, the statement of current balances and to consider the following accounts for approval or ratification;

Current balance £1783.32

- a. Lophams' News September 2012 £22, ratified
- b. Lophams' News October 2012 £22, ratified
- c. Venue Hire Pansthorne B&B £10, ratified
- d. Remembrance wreath £20, approved
- e. Wheelie-bin stickers £20, approved

7. Draft budget for Precept 2013-14.

The draft budget was reviewed and it was unanimously agreed to set the precept at £3000, but subject to ratification at the next meeting following the grant of the necessary dispensations.

8. To receive reports from Councillors on the following;

a. Planning Matters SM.

- i. 8 Beechcroft – this application was refused.
- ii. Suffolk Wildlife Trust toilet extension – this application was under consideration at the time of the meeting but has since been approved.
- iii. Lime Tree Farm alterations and mobile home – this application is under consideration.

b. Highways RSM.

The Parish Council has been notified that a maize crop will shortly be harvested and there will be mud on the Redgrave Road. The land owner will make his best endeavours to keep the road as clean as possible.

RSM had attended the recent SNAP meeting. 20 “slow down in our village” wheelie bin stickers were purchased for residents to apply to their rubbish bins. Anyone wanting a sticker should contact RSM.

A speeding survey of the A1066 through South Lopham had taken place. Although there was a large volume of heavy goods vehicles the traffic was not deemed to be speeding at the time of the surveys. Flashing speed signs could be hired but at several thousand pounds these were deemed too costly for this Council.

The flooding on the road between North and South Lopham was being dealt with by North Lopham Council.

The Rangers had been asked to attend to the pot holes on Low Common.

c. Community Matters DH.

The firework display for bonfire night had been well received. People bringing rubbish for the bonfire had generally been happy to contribute the £1 per load.

The Village Quiz is on 17th November and encouragement for a good turnout was requested.

d. Footpaths RW.

RW made the meeting aware of Norfolk County Councils recent letter reminding everyone that the burden of keeping footpaths clear lay with the land owner.

Information on this topic would be placed on the website. RSM would also summarise the information for the newsletter.

Norfolk County Council has a stock of finger posts and marker disks which are available for Parish Councils to use. RW has requested a supply for South Lopham. A letter concerning the obstructed footpath, discussed at the last meeting, has been sent to Norfolk County Council and the outcome is awaited.

e. Works TF.

The bench will be maintained when the weather is suitable.

9. Other Reports

a. Parish Website SR.

The website is being more widely used and praise for it's upkeep was given.

b. Lophams' Society GH.

Attendance at the supper dance, due in part to clashing with other village activities, was poor resulting in a financial loss. GH outlined his suggestion of a central calendar for all village activities. GH will be writing to other groups in the village to arrange a meeting to discuss this.

c. Lophams' Link JP.

New options are being considered and there will be a further report in due course. The Council decided that pending developments it would not for the moment request the return of its donation of £200.

10. To consider items of correspondence.

A letter thanking the Parish Council for the donation has been received from St Andrew's Church.

11. To transact Any Other Business and receive suggestions for items to be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

The meeting discussed the need for a new Chairman and Parish Councillor; a number of names were put forward and RSM will speak to them to ascertain if there is any interest. If a replacement Chair cannot be found in short order it was suggested a temporary solution would be to rotate the chair amongst the current councillors.

RSM will place the Parish Council's wreath on Remembrance Day.

12. Date and time of next Meeting.

10 January 2013

14 March 2013

Signed..... Caroline Phillips (Clerk)
Date: