

South Lopham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Pansthorne B&B. Thursday 10 January 2013 7.30pm

Present:

Council Members: Robert McCaw (RSM) (Chair)

David Huggins (DH)

Jim Pursehouse (JP)

Tim Frizzell (TF)

Sarah Martin (SM)

Robert Webb (RW)

Parish Clerk: Caroline Phillips (CAP)

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

1. Chairman's opening address.

RSM confirmed he had sent his resignation letter to the Clerk and was sorry to be leaving. He wished the Council well and hoped his successor would enjoy the role. RSM introduced John Crisp, a recently retired solicitor, who was considering offering himself as a Councillor, so was in attendance to observe the meeting.

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 (8th November 2012).

Members in attendance should include R Webb. Item 6 should include the approval of £40 for cutting Primrose Lane.

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

The flooding road has been addressed and appears to have been resolved. Nothing further has been heard from Breckland Council about the obstructed footpath. The overhanging hedge on Redgrave Road had been appraised and was not deemed to be too overgrown.

6. To accept the resignation of the Chairman from that office and as a member of the Council.

With regret RSM's resignation was accepted.

7. To agree an action plan for identifying a replacement for the Chairman, for advertising the vacancy on the Council and agreeing a modus operandi for Council matters and meetings in the interim.

The Clerk would notify Breckland Council of RSM's resignation and commence the formal process of advertising the vacancy.

Until such time as a new Chairperson is appointed it was unanimously agreed to rotate the Chair between Councillors. The rota of Chairpersons is: SM (now until beginning of May meeting), RW(May to July), SR(July to September), JP (September to November), TF (November to January). It was agreed that DH is not currently required to act as Chairperson.

The Chair will have responsibility for any administrative matters or representations at any meetings during their tenure and will resign at the start of the subsequent meeting when the

next Chair will be appointed.

DH will become a signatory for the Bank Accounts; the Clerk will organise the paperwork.

RSM to be removed as a signatory.

JP will take over RSM's highway duties.

The acting Chair will write the short notices for the Cock Crow and Lophams' Newsletter.

These notices do need doing immediately after the meeting due to the tight deadlines.

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

Current balance £1763.32 as at last statement dated 30/11/12.

- a. Lophams' News December 2012 and January 2013, £22 each, ratified
- b. Venue Hire Pansthorpe B&B £10, ratified
- c. Clerk's salary £293.20, PAYE £6.80, approved
- d. Wheelie-bin stickers £22, (£20 approved at Nov12 meeting but invoice is for £22), approved.

9. Parish Clerk's grant of dispensations under Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 to all Councillors (including any new Councillors elected or co-opted) up to the date of the next election (May 2015).

Granted by the Clerk.

10. Precept 2013-14.

RSM explained we would receive part of our precept as a grant from Central Government. It was unanimously agreed the Council will apply for a precept of £3000.00 to include the grant.

11. To receive reports from Councillors on the following;

a. Planning Matters **SM.**

SM was not aware of anything to report. However the meeting believed the planning for Lime Tree Farm had been approved. Subsequent to the meeting SM has confirmed this.

b. Highways **RSM.**

RSM had notified Breckland Council of a number of ditches which are flooding across the highway. The Clerk will also add ditch maintenance to the Rangers' jobs as there are a number of other ditches which need clearing out. Water was seen running down the A1066 tonight approaching South Lopham from Diss by the "slow sign". This will be investigated in daylight. The problem has now been rectified, probably by Highways. It was not a burst water main. The "SLOW DOWN IN OUR VILLAGE" posters were handed out for distribution and attachment to wheelie bins around the village.

c. Community Matters **DH.**

DH was attending a meeting with Gressingham Foods next week, if anyone had any matters to raise about traffic on the Redgrave Road please let him know.

d. Footpaths **RW.**

RW now has a stock of finger posts and marker disks which are available for use. Disks had been passed to Mr W Aves to allow him to re-mark his diverted footpath. RW will ask the Ramblers which if any finger posts are missing so they can be replaced.

A tree is still obstructing the footpath on the corner near Pooley St despite notifying Breckland Council some time ago.

The footpath map - The Heritage Lottery Fund had declined to provide any funding . RW would discuss funding again with LOHP.

There was agreement that currently South Lopham did not need any dog fouling signs on its footpaths. The polite request in the Parish Newsletters seems to have had a positive effect.

e. Works **TF**.

The bench will be maintained when the weather is suitable.

12. Other Reports

a. Parish Website **SR**.

The Chair commented that the website is up to date.

b. Lophams' Society **GH**.

The Autumn Quiz was well received and made a healthy profit. The Christmas drop in had been excellent and it was good to see so many people enjoying themselves.

The Spring Quiz is planned for 15 March.

Plans are under way for a summer BBQ and band on 6 July.

GH is contacting local groups to have a central diary of village events. A list of known dates is published at the Kings Head pub in North Lopham.

GH confirmed the LS playground donation is to be returned since the playground had not been deemed possible at the current time.

c. Lophams' Link **JP**.

The Parish Council awaits the return of its playground donation.

13. To consider items of correspondence.

The Clerk highlighted a letter from Norfolk Local Association of Councils telling us there is a new local liaison officer, Jane Scarrott, who may visit.

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

TF suggested an item for the next meeting – householders should know their grid reference to assist emergency services to find remote properties.

RW paid a tribute to RSM's services to the Parish Council and South Lopham in general. He told RSM how greatly saddened everyone was at his departure and that he would be much missed.

15. Date and time of next Meeting.

14 March 2013

12 April 2013 Village Meeting

9 May 2013 AGM

11 July 2013

12 September 2013

14 November 2013

9 January 2014

13 March 2014

Signed..... Caroline Phillips (Clerk)

Date: