

DEENE & DEENETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes - Deene & Deenethorpe Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 4th March 2014 in Deene village hall at 7.30pm

286. There were no declarations of interest on items for discussion on this agenda.

287. **Present:** Stuart Barratt, Annette Blackmore, Brian Gretton, Robert Johnson (Chairman) and Mark Martin plus the clerk. Apologies received and accepted from Mr Dolby as he is convalescing following an operation.

288. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held in January 2014 as previously circulated.

289. **PLANNING MATTERS (click on links to view) :**

a) 14/00155/TCA/ | To fell to ground level Hybrid Black Poplar | Home Farm House Deene – It was **RESOLVED** to submit no objections to this application.

b) There was an explanatory discussion regarding plans that had been reported in the local press regarding development of holiday lodges at Fineshade Woods. The clerk had been in contact with the clerk of Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council who had forwarded a press release which had been circulated. This matter would be considered when any further developments became apparent.

c) Community infrastructure levy (CIL) / neighbourhood planning (NHP). There was a discussion regarding the differences between CIL and the current method of money being generated to cover infrastructure and capital outlay due to increased housing, via a section 106 agreement. There were no opinions in opposition to the proposal.

The matter of a neighbourhood plan was discussed. Whilst it was felt that this would be a very useful tool for the parish council to develop as a means of having a greater influence on the development in the parishes, the costs of doing so with a relatively low number of houses and grant funding being relatively limited made it appear to be a cost prohibitive exercise. In addition, there is a limited skill set within the village and no people with the relevant planning experience or expertise to join a steering group in a voluntary capacity. However, if a means of executing a Neighbourhood Plan in a cost effective manner becomes apparent, this will be followed up.

d) Deenethorpe Airfield meeting follow up. There had been a working party meeting with representatives of the 'consortium' working on behalf of Deene Estate. Members of Glaphorn, Deene & Deenethorpe, Benefield and Weldon parish councils were invited but nobody from Glaphorn was able to attend nor was Aldred Drummond from the real estate management company overseeing the project. The purpose of the exercise was to acquaint parish councils with the plans for the airfield. The next stage in the process is to see what the Joint Planning Unit goes forward with in terms of the Core Strategy for the area, but this is currently stymied because of the lack of decision on the Rushden Lakes planning inspectorate's report by the secretary of state for Communities and Local Government.

290. **HIGHWAYS MATTERS:**

- Community enhancement gangs – Cllr Gretton undertook to pass this information on to the highways department, in his role as Highways Warden.
- Gretton Road and Gretton Brook Road closure and diversion were noted

291. **COMMUNITY MATTERS:**

Flooding Issues:

- Road outside 1&2 Deene flooding reported to the Street Doctor ref;- AF421962 and 678513. Runoff flooded a house lower along the road. Highways report that the drains are not large enough and they are planning to put in a bigger pipe. The planning application per minute 289a above will help alleviate this problem as it states that the roots of the tree in question are blocking the drainage pipe.
- Avery Hill Deenethorpe. Runoff from fields is causing flooding whilst the Willowbrook river cannot take any more water so the road floods and residents cannot get to the properties.

- A43 junction with the road to Deene. The previous evening, the rain the A43 road was flooded with traffic ploughing into the flood in the dark. There were reports of damage to vehicles, but no stalling or accidents. The water goes all the way across the road so there is no escape. There are drains that run under the A43 towards Lodge Farm but there is nowhere for the water to go after it has crossed the road.

These have been reported to highways and will also be brought up with the flood reliance team currently looking into county-wide issues.

292. FINANCIAL and GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

- a) To approve accounts for payment:

Goods / Service	Payee	Payt Method	Nett	Gross
Clerks Salary (Mar Paid by S/O)	S Rodger	S/O	£66.73	£66.73
PAYE	HMRC	Bank Payt	£49.74	£49.74
SLCC Membership	SLCC	Chq 300016	£22.69	£22.69
NALC Training invoice	NALC	Bank Payt	£7.50	£7.50
Clerk's expenses	S Rodger	Bank Payt	£90.41	£90.41
Village Hall Hire (Airfield meeting)	Weldon VH	Chq 300017	£11.40	£11.40

- b) Accounts will be sent with the minutes
- c) The points raised at audit last year had been circulated to councillors. The actions already taken and the explanations passed to the auditor were noted. The main area of concern were that there was no proof of the stationery items which were being claimed for nor amount spent on telephone line rental. This has been addressed by the receipts being available online. It was confirmed that two members had inspected these and verified that they tallied with the expenses claims. Another area of concern had in previous years related to salary and PAYE deductions. These issues have been alleviated by HMRC's newly introduced RTI system, with which the clerk was now fully conversant and salary payments are logged monthly with HMRC. PAYE deductions are paid quarterly by BACS/Bank payments. Risk assessment and governance documents are up to date.
- d) Governance documents had been circulated in December and again more recently prior to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised risk assessment.
- e) It was **resolved** to adopt the Complaints procedure for complaints received against employees.
- f) Governance documents had been circulated in December and again more recently prior to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Model freedom of information scheme.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to alter the standing order instructions with Unity Trust Bank from 1st April 2014 to take into account the clerks salary increase, via the online banking system authorised users.

293. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS ON WHICH THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN INVITED TO COMMENT:

- a) Paper free planning as consultees – It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with paper free planning.
- b) Consultations on the proposed closure of the Kings Cliffe site of Oundle and Kings Cliffe Middle School and on the principle of changing the structure of educational provision in the Oundle, Thrapston, Kings Cliffe and surrounding areas of North East Northamptonshire from a three-tier to a two-tier system. This was included so that all members were aware of the consultation (in other areas suggestions had been levied against local councils of not taking notice). The parish council has been aware of this consultation process since the beginning of the year and fully realises the gravity of both consultations to the quality of education of the current and future generations of children in the village and the sustainability of the community at large. However, because the issue is a complex one and there are likely to be varying views among members, it was agreed that individual members should complete the forms with their own views as individual residents rather than as a shared view of the parish council.

294. Deene Village Hall. There was a general consensus of support for the village hall committee. The parish council has powers to spend money on village hall maintenance and funding sources for community

buildings have available money, but because there is no tangible lease in place, expenditure is not a viable proposition at the moment. It was noted that from the start of the new year, the village hall hire rates would be increasing. The clerk was instructed to write to the village hall suggesting that the parish council should pay £7.50 per hour hire charge for the use of the hall.

295. Cllr Gretton distributed copies of the NorthantsCALC training calendar.

296. The chairman reminded members that they have a duty to attend parish council meetings. If they are not able to attend, apologies should be forwarded to the council, via the clerk, with a reason.

There was a brief discussion regarding the guidelines issued by Danny Moody regarding members from principal councils attending parish council meetings. The clerk confirmed that the district and county councillors had the meeting schedule for the year and website details to look at agendas and minutes.

297. WWI COMMEMORATIONS Whilst there was a consensus that a way of commemorating the the 100th anniversary of World War I and / or to mark significant events during the war, there was nowhere suitable to mount a plaque or small memorial.

298. COUNCILLOR OBLIGATIONS – Members were reminded of their obligation to ensure DPI registration is kept up to date with East Northamptonshire Council as failure to do constitutes a criminal offence. Councillors are not permitted to take part in discussions regarding matters where they have a DPI.

299. Matters arising from previous meetings not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: There was an update on verge reinstatement

300. There were no announcements, notices reports or other matters for referral

301. Correspondence – New model standing orders have been published by NALC and will be considered at the Annual Meeting in May. There was an invitation to join Northants ACRE but this was not taken up at the current time

302. Future agenda items / AOB to be carried forward:

- Village hall rental rates.
- Standing orders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6TH MAY 2014

Approved by Deene & Deenethorpe Parish Council:

**Signature of Chairman
of following meeting:**

Date: 6th May 2014