

DEENE & DEENETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes - Deene & Deenethorpe Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 10th September 2015 in Deene village hall at 7.30pm

433. Present: Annette Blackmore, Mark Coombs, Brian Gretton (Chairman) Graham Holding, plus the clerk and John Marchant who was at the meeting as a representative of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. Apologies received from Stuart Barratt due to work commitment and from Mark Martin who was on holiday. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies

434. Mark Coombs declared pecuniary and personal interests on planning under item 6 / minute 438. The council resolved a dispensation to Mark Coombs on the basis that it would be beneficial for him to remain in the meeting to explain any unclear details about the matters at hand, but that he could not be present during discussions or voting.

The chairman took the opportunity to advise that it had come to his attention that there was disquiet among some members regarding other members' involvement with the parish council and the potential conflict of interests due to their professional lives. The chairman make it manifestly clear that at any point where a member has a conflict of interest or stood to benefit personally or financially in any matter, they *may* be allowed to take part in the preamble explanatory part of an agenda item, but they would never be allowed to take part in discussions to determine the council's position on any matter nor voting. Furthermore, any persons' membership of the parish council would make difference to the outcome of any decision made by the council – all decisions would be on the basis of merit and nothing else.

435. The police were not present at the meeting – they tried to attend the previous Tuesday when the meeting was originally scheduled for, the clerk having failed to advise them of the change of date . There was a discussion regarding a matter of concern whereby a person in a car has been following lone women jogging and walking in the villages. The details have passed to the police.

436. There were no public questions or presentations to the council.

437. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 2015, as previously circulated.

438. Planning Matters:

- 15/01491/FUL | Refurbishments to main house, demolition and replacement of garden room, demolition of existing link outbuildings and construction of new garage, conversion of barn to home office / studio / bedroom and associated works. | Deepings Lodge Deene Park Deene
- 15/01492/LBC | Refurbishments to main house, demolition and replacement of garden room, demolition of existing link outbuildings and construction of new garage, conversion of barn to home office / studio / bedroom and associated works. | Deepings Lodge Deene Park Deene
- 15/01488/FUL | Conversion of existing outbuildings to 1 bedroom residence and refurbishments / repairs to existing cottages 7, 8 and 9 Deene | 9 Deene
- 15/01495/LBC | Refurbishment and alterations to existing estate office and internal flat including minor demolition of brick / block partitions, reconfigured office layout, installation of a kitchen / WC, replacement of timber windows and insertion of a rooflight. Refurbishment and alterations to clerks lodgings including reconfigured internal layout with the addition of partitions and associated works. | Clerks Lodgings Deene Park Deene

The chairman advised that he and the clerk had visited each of the properties with Mark Coombs the previous week in order to familiarise themselves with the issues in case of any queries, Each of the planning applications was considered individually. In the case of listed building consents, the conservation officers at East Northamptonshire Council will be making decisions as to what is permitted or otherwise and the impression is that generally they are supportive of Deene Estate's intentions. In terms of the actual planning applications and the listed building applications, it was agreed that the proposals were acceptable and did not detract from the intrinsic rich heritage of the buildings or the localities. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council would submit its support for these plans on the basis that it will improve the buildings, offer housing options in Deene bringing new people to the community and brings economic benefit to the wider area in the short term as local contractors are to be used during refurbishments.

439. Neighbourhood planning: There was a wide ranging discussion regarding many of the issues arising from the Neighbourhood Plan fact finding by John Marchant (JM) and councillors over the summer. It was

Mark Coombs was absent from the meeting for the duration of these discussions and decision

agreed that the first steps in establishing whether a Neighbourhood Plan is actually necessary, or whether a community plan would allow for similar results, must be to gauge the needs and aspirations of the wider community. To this end, JM would prepare a draft community consultation leaflet for consideration at a working party meeting to be held at a venue to be decided on 22nd October. The intention is that the results from the eventual leaflet drop will allow people to let the parish council know what they would like in their community, what the problems are, what is lacking and how their well-being could be improved. It will not be in the form of a questionnaire with closed questions, but very much an open consultation available for all to participate in. This will inform the parish council as to the best route to follow in terms of a formal document preparation and also to help inform the council in its other decision making roles. Various ways of responding will be encouraged to enable everyone a chance to have his or her say.

It was agreed that in order to get a completely clear understanding of the implications of Deenethorpe airfield a site tour would take place, provisionally set for 7th October at 5pm. All members were urged to attend.

440. Joint planning unit Core Strategy: The draft Joint Core Strategy policy has been submitted to the planning inspectorate for inspection. There has been no approach from the joint working party at East Northamptonshire Council as yet.

441. Transparency fund – It was agreed to investigate grant funding for ICT equipment / website to facilitate compliance to the transparency code.

442. Illusive festival – Preparations were in hand for the festival happening over the upcoming weekend. The festival would be reviewed at the November meeting.

443. Flooding / drainage – Arrangements are in hand for a drainage ditch to be installed behind houses to the north of Short Lane so that run-off from the agricultural field can be diverted from properties. There had been flooding caused by blocked drains at the far south of Deenethorpe Lane where it joins the bridleway. This has been reported to Streetdoctor and works to clean the drains has been instructed.

444. Broadband issues – The chairman undertook to speak with BT to establish whether there is a way of improving broadband services in the parishes.

445. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment:

Details	Payee	Nett	Gross
Clerk's salary	S Rodger	194.05	242.45
PAYE in October	HMRC		145.40
Election admin costs	East Northants Council		66.42
Grant to village hall	Deene Village Hall		100.00

The council had been asked to pay an electricity bill received by the village hall which was extraordinarily high, but on the basis that no copy invoices have been received and the councillors always follow the standing instruction to switch off power at the fuse box, the council feels it is not liable.

446. Official reports or correspondence received:

- The opportunity to comment on proposed closure of Corby Magistrates court was noted
- The website upgrade which the clerk is in the process of undertaking were noted.
- A scrutiny party 'call for evidence' had been received requesting community feedback about public transport services. The clerk was asked to respond outlining the vital services that the call connect bus provides to the rural villages.

447. There were no matters arising from previous meetings not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

448. Future agenda items would be village hall hire, grasscutting and a continued review of the community consultation leaflet

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12TH NOVEMBER 2015

Approved by Deene & Deenethorpe Parish Council:

**Signature of Chairman
of following meeting:**

Date: 12th November 2015