

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER 2013 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, GREAT COATES AT 7.00 PM

Present: Cllr. Maasdam (Chairman)
Cllrs. Cutting, M. Frankish, Redgrift, Mrs. C. Frankish, Bagley, Souter-Smith, B. Winterburn and Mrs L. Winterburn

Apologies: None from Cllrs.

In attendance:

There were some members of the public present.

The Chairman opened the meeting by asking permission from Cllrs. that the meeting be recorded due to the Clerk's absence and this would aid minuting of the meeting by the Clerk upon her return – Cllrs. agreed but Cllr. Redgrift asked for his objection to be minuted.

13/87 Apologies for absence

None from Cllrs. Apologies received from Clerk and had been received in advance.

13/88 Declaration of Interests

Standing Interests declared - Cllr. Redgrift declared personal interest in new village hall due to his declared position on the project and Cllr. Maasdam declared a prejudicial interest and DPI standing interest in Newsletter distributor information due to family connection Cllrs. C. Frankish, Winterburn and Cutting declared a personal interest as membership of WI in any WI matters.

Dispensations – None.

13/89 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes, as circulated, agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting

13/90 Police Report

No police presence and no report received.

13/91 Highways/Footpaths

- a) To receive update on transfer of land from Linden Homes and agree quotations to be obtained for ongoing maintenance works

Transfer had been signed and sent off. Linden Homes had guaranteed to Clerk that all works requested would be paid for as requested from last VC meeting. Linden Homes to settle and organize direct with contractor and advise Clerk accordingly. Clerk to obtain quotes for ongoing maintenance for consideration by Council.

Resolved: That Clerk obtain quotations for ongoing maintenance for Consideration by Council members

To receive tender for litter picking for year 13/14 and agree action

Agreed as per tender received and to commence with immediate effect.

Resolved: That tender for 13/14 be accepted and commence from same Contractor as currently used – C. Leonard

To receive Clerk's report on general highways/footpaths/traffic issues

None due to Clerk's absence.

Public Break

Residents present. Information given on planning application. Resident asked about land being transferred into ownership of VC and in particular copse area and access to other areas.

13/92 New Village Hall

- a) To receive minutes/report from Village Hall Committee Meeting And to consider any recommendations made

Report was received and items to be placed on Agenda for consideration were budget for advertising and storage; outside light, ashtrays, oven and PA system. Cllr. Souter-Smith advised he felt that budget should not be considered for Committee until main VC budget had been set and that only 1 member of each representative body should be on the Committee. Chairman advised some members were not just WI members or Council members but represented other groups. Resolved to discuss again at next meeting.

Resolved: To discuss members of Village Hall Committee at November meeting

- b) To receive report on new fencing

Now completed and agreed letter of thanks be sent to volunteers.

Resolved: That letter of thanks be sent to voluntary workers

- c) To receive fire safety policy and agree adoption

Cllr. Redgrift advised that he felt policy insufficient and suggested regular testing as part of policy. Agreed that Cllr. Redgrift be designated fire officer for building and he will test everything once a month and fully discharge once a year. Policy to be rewritten with this included.

Resolved: Revise policy to include testing and responsible person and represent

- d) To receive report from Personnel Committee on staff vacancy for Caretaker/Cleaner at Village Hall

Members advised that two candidates had been successful for job share and were now in place.

13/93 Planning Matters

Planning applications considered:

DC/742/13/FRE 44 Station Road, Great Coates
Erect detached dwelling and detached garage with assoc Landscaping access
No objections.

DC/734/13/FRE 76 Woad Lane, Great Coates
Demolish existing kitchen extension, erect single storey Extension and detached garage/games room to rear
No objections

To consider any other planning matters and/or receive correspondence

None.

13/94 Great Coates War Memorial

To receive further update on war memorial relocation project and Agree any further action required

Clerk had made contact with specialist conservator company for war memorial works and awaiting response. Initial design proposals to be sought from both local company and specialist company. NELC had been informed and War Memorials Trust would be consulted.

13/95 Future Dates

Next Meeting Date – Thursday 28th November, 2013

ERNLLCA Autumn Training Programme – October to December 2013

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 10th November, 2013

Christmas Tree Event for 2013 – Saturday 7th December 2013

Agreed to order tree from Hoyes at Stallingborough and then ask TGS to erect again.

Chairman to organize rental of PA system from NELincs. Clerk to present budget at November meeting for approval for expenditure amount for Christmas Tree and event.

**Resolved: That Christmas Tree be ordered and that Clerk present budget
At November meeting for event so expenditure amount can be agreed**

13/96 Reports

ERNLLCA Employment Training Day – 28.09.13

Cllr. Cutting had attended full day. Useful and informative training. Cllr. REdgrift had been unable to attend.

Town and Parish Liaison – 10.10.13

No one had attended.

ERNLLCA District Meeting – 17.10.13

Cllr. Souter-Smith had attended. He advised that this had been turned into a training event and that all Cllrs. should have attended. He accused the Clerk of “gatekeeping” information and proposed an item for the next Agenda but the Chairman said she would ask the Clerk about the necessary information and it did not need to be an agenda item.

Any other reports

None.

13/97 Parish Matters

- a) To receive draft report for submission to final Community Governance Review Meeting in December

Not agreed and to be carried forward to November meeting for further consideration.

Resolved: That the report be c/f to November meeting

- b) To receive report from ERNLLCA on above item and agree any action required

No response received from any members.

- c) To receive update on correspondence with GRASS and receive any response and consider and agree any action

Cllr. Souter Smith was asked by Chairman if he wished to declare an interest and declared a prejudicial interest in the item due to his being Vice-Chair and a member of GRASS and then left the room.

GRASS were advising they had not received correspondence from Village Council, however both Chair and Cllr. REdgrift had seen copy of correspondence from the VC in the circulation bag. Agreed to resend to GRASS for response. Cllr. REdgrift proposed that GRASS be formally invited to a normal VC meeting but majority voted against the proposal. Cllr. M. Frankish proposed that GRASS be invited to an extraordinary meeting to discuss going forward with them and all were in favour.

Resolved: That information be resent and that GRASS representatives be invited to an extraordinary meeting of the Council to discuss going forward

d) To receive complaint from resident with regard to litter picking

Complaint had been received and complainant had been invited to attend meeting and put forward her complaint as part of formal process. After debate and discussion on the matter of the complaint, it was proposed to write to the contractor expressing concern that any children in attendance whilst the contractor was working were kept away from and not allowed into the road.

Resolved: That a letter be sent to contractor as resolved and Clerk advise Resident of outcome

e) To appoint a named substitute member of the Personnel Committee

Recommended as substitute required if current member unavailable. Had to be named substitute and not any "floating" substitute. Cllrs. agreed Cllr. Souter-Smith join Personnel Committee as permanent member.

Resolved: That Cllr. Souter-Smith be appointed as member of the Personnel Committee

13/98 Information Update

Information received from NELC, ERNLLCA etc. for information

All placed in circulation bag.

To receive update from Ward Cllrs. if present

None present.

To consider and agree adoption of FOI policy as circulated

Agreed to formally adopt vexatious requests policy. Now forms part of Council's formal governance documentation.

Resolved: That handling of vexatious requests policy be formally adopted By the VC and immediately form part of its governance procedures

13/99 Great Coates Community News

Next edition – December/January 14. Closing date 10.11.13

13/100 Finance

Cheques for authorisation

Authorized as per list circulated by Clerk.

Resolved: That payments are authorized to be made as per list circulated

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.