

MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 9 July 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Present: R. Langley (Chairman), D. Gough, G. Matthews, B. Norton, HStJohn, I Hogg and C. Frost

In attendance: Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council and 86 residents in attendance for the Public Session concerning item 5.

1 Apologies: R.Soper and S Cusick

2 Declarations of interest: Barry Norton expressed a none pecuniary interest in item 5.

3 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 June 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

4 Matters Arising

(i) NL Website update - none

(ii) Rose Beds

The Clerk confirmed that WODC had attended to the weeding of the Rose Beds

5 Public Session: Gladman development proposals

The Parish Council has received a planning application from Gladman in respect of a proposed residential development of up to 76 dwellings and access on land off New Yatt Road. Residents have also received correspondence from Gladman seeking their views as part of a pre application consultation exercise.

Barry Norton explained to residents the planning process and outlined his role and position in this as a District Councillor, emphasising the importance of him considering all planning application with complete open mindedness.

BN confirmed that the Parish Council would be responding to the planning application by 16 July and highlighted the policy framework within which its objections would be expressed.

Residents raised questions and issues which were addressed by Parish Councillors, some of which would be included in the Parish Council response to WODC

6 Thames Valley Police Report

None received.

7 Planning Decisions:

- Windmill House, 9 Park Road: Internal and external works to refurbish. Approved
- 2 Wilcote View: erection of garage and flat roofed store at front of property. Refused

8 Planning Applications & Correspondence:

- Land to the north of 71-81 Park Road: Sec of State appeal: Council agreed to resend its objections and to request to speak at the appeal hearing; RS to attend on 30 June. Awaiting a response from WODC
- 20 Windmill Heights: conversion of garage to playroom and erection of single storey rear extension: awaiting comments from working group.
- Heath Farm: erection of agricultural building: awaiting comments from working group
- Gorseland hall, Boddington Lane: Erection of self-contained log cabin: awaiting comments from working group

9 Finance

9.1 Accounts for payment: approved: see attached.

9.2 Spend against budget report; approved: see attached

10 Open Spaces Reports:

Received from CF and IH

IH reported that the floor surface on the play area is worsening.

11 Cemetery/ Churchyard

11.1 Reports received from HStJ

11.2 Planting of a commemorative tree in the Cemetery – members discussed the possibility of planting the tree in the Churchyard rather than in the cemetery; at a site between the church and the road. Clerk to write to the PCC. The PCC does not wish the tree to be planted in the churchyard; RS to speak with Geoff Barrell of the British Legion.

11.3 HStJ has received a quotation of £250 for felling the pine trees that need removing in the churchyard.

HStJ said that the trees are several yards from the church and therefore their removal should have no implications for the church foundations. RL expressed concerns about heave and that there might be implications for the wall near to the trees.

The Clerk reported a response from the Rev. Margaret Dixon questioning the quotation from C&M Trees and landscapes. The PCC have agreed to the four trees being felled but are very concerned that the quotation may not include proper treatment of the roots to prevent harm to the church foundations and the crypt. They also raised the question of the contractors insurance and advised that a faculty for approval of the work needs to be applied for prior to any work taking place.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Rev Dixon suggesting that she make application for the faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee before any further discussion takes place. Awaiting a response.

11.4 Review of Cemetery regulations

RS explained that he had received correspondence from a man who lives in the USA requesting to purchase a plot in the cemetery; his mother is buried in the Churchyard.

There is no provision in the Cemetery regulations for this and the Clerk was asked to find out what procedures were adopted by other Parishes in this regard. Members considered the regulations of other parishes and the Clerk was asked to draft a form of words to amend the cemetery regulations. Clerk to circulate. Deferred to September meeting.

11.5 Proposal from the Rev Margaret Dixon to revise the arrangements for administering the churchyard – as follows:

The Clerk reported that she has transferred the administration of interments to the Rev Dixon together with all the documentation.

12 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters

12.1 Community speed watch

Dates to be arranged for September.

12.2 Village Walk/meeting with area steward and CC Louise Chapman

This has been arranged for 18 August at 9.30am; RS and DG to attend.

13 Consultation: none

14 Correspondence:

A letter received from Hailey PC concerning its Neighbourhood planning. Defer to the next meeting.

15 Any Other Business

CF asked that an item be included in the September agenda concerning the village and volunteers.

CF expressed concerns about reductions of buses from Witney to Oxford in the OCC bus services review.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 10 September 2015 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.