

**MINUTES of the meeting of North Leigh Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall Youth Centre on Thursday 14 May 2015 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** R. Soper(chair), R. Langley, D. Gough, B. Norton, S. Cusick, G. Matthews, H. St John and I Hogg

**In attendance:** Lynda Scott, Clerk to the Council and two residents: Nikki Ferraz and Caroline Fox

**1 Apologies:** C. Frost

**2 Declarations of interest:** B. Norton and I. Hogg expressed an interest in the Gladman development proposals.

**3 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

BN proposed that Richard Soper be elected Chairman; seconded by IH and unanimously agreed by all members present. RS confirmed his acceptance but advised that he would serve as chairman for one year only.

IH proposed that Richard Langley be elected Vice Chairman; seconded by BN and unanimously agreed by all members present.

**4 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 April 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

**5 Matters Arising**

**(i) B Timms' letter re footpath from the school to the top of Windmill Road and from Wilcote View to the newly repaired path near the garden centre.**

BN has referred the matter to CC Louise Chapman.

**(ii) Broadband Upgrading**

Outstanding issues with the BT contract currently being addressed; work expected to begin in June.

**(iii) NL Website**

No new content received. RS will write an account of the speed watch activities for the website and for the Nor 'Lye News..

**(iv) PCC request for signage on Church Road**

The Clerk has written to the PCC advising of the costs provided by OCC highways. Awaiting a response

**(v) Problems with parking outside the school**

BN reported further problems with traffic flow caused by rows of parked cars outside the school and suggested that the PCSO be asked to place cones there to discourage people from parking there. RS agreed to speak the head teacher/governing body.

**6 Thames Valley Police Report**

None received.

**7 Gladman Public Consultation: Potential Residential Development on land off New Yatt Road**

The Parish Council and residents of the village have received correspondence from Gladman in respect of a proposed residential development on land off New Yatt Road.

Residents expressed concern about this proposal, suggesting that a robust campaign be organised to oppose it. BN explained the speculative nature of this proposal and the current of the Local Plan.

Following a lengthy discussion, RS assured Ms Ferraz and Mrs Fox that the Council would discuss the matter further and determine a way forward.

Council agreed that it would not respond to the Gladman consultation at this stage and the Clerk was asked to write to WODC informing them of the consultation and seek their advice.

## 8 Planning Decisions:

25 Windmill Road: withdrawn

16 Common Road: withdrawn

17 Common Road: Erection of single storey rear extension and demolition of existing and rebuilding of new garage with store. Approved

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 and to attend the site inspection. Clerk to arrange.

## 9 Planning Applications & Correspondence:

2 Wilcote View: Erection of garage and flat roof store at front of property: objection submitted

34 Perrot Close: Conversion of garage into living accommodation; first floor extension including dormers; no objection

Lyndon, East End: replacement 4 bedroomed dwelling and one bedroom annexe: comments submitted

Windmill House, 9 Park Road: Internal and external works to refurbish property Removal of two chimney stacks, insertion of two ground floor windows; insertion of three roof lights and change to internal layout. Listed building consent sought only. No objections.

## 10 Finance

**10.1 Accounts for payment:** approved: see attached.

**10.2 Spend against budget report; approved:** see attached

**10.3 Internal audit report**

The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit was complete and that there were no issues/concerns raised. However, the auditor had emphasised the need to keep accurate records of the fortnightly playground inspections and action taken.

**10.4 Annual Return/Governance Statement/Internal Audit Review**

Members reviewed their internal audit arrangements and the Chairman signed the Annual Return, Governance Statement and the Statement of Accounts.

**10.5 Workplace Pensions**

The Clerk reported correspondence received from the Pensions Regulator and confirmed that she had registered the Parish Council as required.

**10.6 Insurance Renewal**

The Clerk was asked to obtain a new quotation for a long term agreement.

**10.7 Youth Project Grant**

Members considered a request from Pat Brown for an increase in the grant from £1100 to £2000. BN outlined the background to the request explaining that the Youth Project had lost significant funding from OCC which had had a considerable impact on the future financial plans of this very successful youth project.

Members agreed to increase the grant to £1500 in this financial year and to consider a further increase when the 2016/17 budget is determined in November this year

## 11 Open Spaces Reports:

Received from CF and IH

**11.1 Removal of sign on Adventure Playground**

IH confirmed that the sign has now been removed.

**11.3 Poor state of repair of play area floor surface**

Noted

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## 12 Cemetery/ Churchyard Report

12.1 Reports received from HStJ

12.2 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. Awaiting a response

12.3 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 was asked to contact the PCC and ask for its comments and how it wishes to proceed.

**12.4 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.

**13 Traffic & Roads Reports and other Highways Matters**

**13.1 Community speed watch**

Following the first three speed watch sessions, members agreed to repeat the operation in other parts of the village. RS will arrange dates.

**14 Consultation:  
Local Plan:**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's comments had been submitted to WODC.

**15 Correspondence:**

An email from Candy Kerpache expressing thanks to Carol Frost for arranging the Village litter pick.

**16 Any Other Business**

RL raised the issue of the mess caused by WODC refuse collectors in East End. BN asked that he submit his concerns to WODC in writing.

**Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 11 June 2015 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....