

LEADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the above Council held on Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs J Thurlow (chairman), Mrs K Willgoose, Mrs C Stokes, Mr N O'Brien, Mr S Locking, Ms M Nelstrop, District Councillor Ms Laura Conway and PCSO Sarah Kennedy.

1. Apologies - none

Declarations of Interest – none

2. Consideration and signing of the Minutes of the Previous meeting

Mrs C Stokes proposed that they be a true record of that meeting. Mr O'Brien seconded the proposal. All members were in agreement. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

3. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a) New Footway from North Road to Railway Bridge – ongoing.

b) Transparency Code (which changes External Audit system in operation from 2017) – current information indicates an annual fee could be payable whether an External Auditor is required or not. Discussions continue.

c) Street Lights – Station Terrace is now repaired (took 4 months from first report) Two additional reports have been made – Queensway and North Road. LCC Street Lighting has been informed.

d) Broken windows in house on Poor Row (opposite Village Hall) – to be checked out, following report to Savills.

e) Bowls Club Meeting – Clerk reported on recent conversation with a representative from Bowls Club urging progress on matters pertaining to Bowls Club, Village Hall Committee and Bowls Club. Clerk will push forward to seek a date as soon as possible.

f) Dog Waste Bin – reported received from NKDC at last meeting asked for the Dog Bin at North Road/A607 to be lowered. Councillor O'Brien measured the height of the bin and it is in fact beneath the recommended level. NKDC have been informed.

g) Speeding signs – ongoing. On Agenda for this meeting.

h) Pavement Sweep requested last meeting – was carried out within a couple of days of the PC meeting - according to the schedule agreed when Jenny Bailey (NKDC) attended for a walk around the parish to note all areas requiring regular work.

4. Consideration of Planning Matters

None.

5. Consideration of Planning Matters

a). Bank Statements

H.I a/c as 4th Jan '16 £6,239.90

Community a/c as 4th Jan '16 £854.14

b) Payments in

Wayleave (for Poles/stays in Parish Field) £40.17 (to be paid in)

c) Payments to be made

Mr P Orme (Dog Warden Services) £64.00

d) Any other Financial Matters – none.

6. Police Report

PCSO Sarah Kennedy reported - One theft – building materials from Bowls Club, Main Road.

7. County and District Reports

County Report – none.

District Councillor Laura Conway reported as follows:

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

The consultation period for the Further Draft of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan finished on November 25th 2015 and all responses are being collated, and a report will be presented to the next meeting of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on the 18th January. The report can be viewed as part of the agenda pack which will be published on the NKDC website a week before the meeting, and can be viewed here:

<https://nkdc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=729&MId=6227&Ver=4>

The Final Draft of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is expected to go out for consultation in April and May, with submission for Examination in June. The plan is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016.

Council Tax Consultation Events

NKDC will be holding two Council Tax Consultation Events to explain the financial framework in which the Council is operating, and to seek the views of local residents on the Budget. These events are taking place at 7pm on January 25th in the Council Chamber at the NKDC Offices in Sleaford and on February 4th at the Terry O'Toole Theatre in North Hykeham. Lincolnshire County Council representatives also attend these events to explain the County position. All residents are welcome to attend and take part in the Consultation. I would strongly encourage residents to attend, these sessions are extremely informative, and they enable residents to meet senior Officers and Members at District and County.

8. Matters of Correspondence

a) Copy of letter from LCC Highways to Leadenham Estate requesting the trimming back of overgrown branches/vegetation from St Anne's Well towards Fulbeck.

b) Notification from Local Govt Boundary Commission of Electoral of Electoral Review of Lincolnshire; Draft Recommendations which can be viewed on line:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/5183> where you can comment on those recommendations.

c) LALC News – Bi monthly publication which is designed to keep Clerks and Councillors up to date with all things pertaining to local Govt.

9. Consideration of quotations received in preparation for Precept.

a) Cutting of Grass verges – currently undertaken by LCC at no expense to the parish – 7 cuts per year (April – Oct). Councillors have long felt this is an insufficient number of cuts to contribute towards keeping the village tidy. Should the Parish Council take over responsibility for Cutting verges (and many parishes do) we can claim an annual grant from LCC. They pay for 7 cuts per year at £86.95 per cut. The Parish Council would therefore receive a total of £608.65 per year towards the total cost. The Parish Council would look to carry out additional cuts per year above the 7 currently carried out by LCC.

Quotes are being sought to balance a total (including the LCC grant) which will be acceptable within our budget. VAT can be reclaimed by the Parish Council. One quote has been received to date and others awaited.

b) Cutting of Playing Field

This used to be carried out by Serviceteam (based Lincoln) who were then taken over by Veolia (based in Staffordshire, then Hertfordshire). They have now sub contracted the works to Glendale Countryside (based in Cheshire). All the above have teams based locally to carry out all works.

Their quotes for Playing Field cutting has always (and remains this year) extremely competitive.

c) Fountain – this requires maintenance work. The Council has tried to get quotations for such work several times. The specialism required for work on the roof however is proving difficult in encouraging specialist companies to show interest to date. A need has also been identified to trim back overgrowing tree branches from the properties behind the Fountain. The roots of a well grown tree are also causing damage to the retaining wall around the Fountain. Efforts continue to find Companies to quote.

d) War Memorial – initial costs have been sourced for works to make the Memorial good and initial grant applications have been forwarded. We have to date sufficient costs to be able to move forward with work, should grant application be successful.

e) Revaluation of the Village Hall site is a requirement this year. Came & Co (Insurers for the site) has forwarded costs.

f) Website for the Parish Council – Councillor McLusky continues to investigate the link with LCC for parish councils to set up their own web site. Costs will be minimal.

g) Maintenance works required within parish:

While aware that many residents maintain their own frontage/verges throughout the village and we have volunteers who do additional grass cutting work in communal areas around the village – there is an additional need:

i) Seat on the Green to be painted

ii) Notice Board at North Road Bus Shelter needs renovation work.

iii) Notice Boards at Village Hall entrance and by Bus Shelter at Traffic lights all need work to be able to open/close freely in wet weather.

iv) Edging of footpaths throughout the village to keep footpaths wide enough to allow safe passage for pedestrians (no longer carried out by LCC on a schedule but will complete work where there is a danger to life – by request e.g North Road to Railway Bridge.)

v) Weed/moss control on footpaths – used to be on a twice yearly schedule by LCC but never on a pattern to control effectively – hence weeds growing from pavement/kerbs unchecked and moss on footpath surfaces.

Monies available to cover such work and how to achieve it is still under consideration.

10. Clerk's position

Clerk reported that she wished to relinquish the position as Clerk for Leadenham PC. Discussion took place as to the format for appointment of a new Clerk and the time span required – also the effect of such a change on the budget as a higher salary was recommended to be offered.

11. Matters for Urgent Discussion

a) Post Office Yard – Rubbish again is accumulating and often making pedestrian passage hazardous. NKDC Environmental Health has been requested to attend again. Contact to be made with Savills and Leadenham Estate regarding the situation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday Feb 1st to finalise the Budget/Precept application.