

ALKBOROUGH AND WALCOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 19:00 on 6 March 2019

Present

Parish Councillors: S Spencer (Vice-Chairman), J Gaunt and D Roberts

Parish Clerk: J Mackey

Residents' Association: I Cranston

Members of the public: One

1. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillors: J White (Chairman), N Brown, J Ellis, S Fell-Bowers and N Harland.

Ward Councillors: R Ogg, E Marper and H Rowson

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To resolve the adoption of the minutes of the council meetings held on 2 January 2019 and 23 January 2019 as a true record

The minutes were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

4. Clerk's updates:-**a) Online Banking with Yorkshire Bank**

The Clerk advised that the technical problems with the Yorkshire Bank online platform had now been resolved and that the account was now available online.

b) Parish Council Website

The Clerk had addressed the training needs for maintaining the website.

c) Manor House Residential Home

The Clerk advised that North Lincolnshire Council had investigated the concerns raised by local residents about some residents from Manor House wandering onto their private property. Following a site visit by NLC the Manor House management had confirmed that they were aware of the problem and had given assurances that action was being taken to help manage the behaviour of the individual concerned. These measures included providing additional staff at key times, replacement of a wooden gate with one that is electronically-controlled, and a request by Manor House for a follow-up review with NLC's Complex Disability Team.

d) Walcot Hall pruning of overgrown trees

JW had revisited Walcot Hall to discuss the need to cut back the ivy and overhanging trees still further because of the risk to motorists and pedestrians. The additional pruning required would be monitored, and if not carried out, consideration would be given to employing a contractor to complete the work and the cost charged to Walcot Hall.

e) Felling of trees bordering Low Wells and Orchard House

JW had received one quotation for this work and was expecting the other two to arrive imminently. Some branches had already fallen from some of the trees and had been piled up beside the Low Wells village green; SS would arrange to remove these branches.

5. Planning Application – to be advised of Decision Notice for application listed below:

Application No: PA/2018/2342

Proposal: Planning permission to remove an existing porch to the side entrance and carry out alterations and extension to provide two new porches.

Location: The Gables, Front Street, Alkborough, DN15 9JD

Applicant: Mrs M Hawkes and Mr. S Spencer

The Clerk advised that the planning application had been approved by North Lincolnshire Council.

6. To consider acceptance, or otherwise, of a tender quotation from one of three contractors for the cutting of the grass verges in Alkborough for 2019

The Clerk advised that three quotations had been obtained for the cutting of the ornamental grass verges in Alkborough for 2019; the cutting of the verges is the subject of a partnership agreement with North Lincolnshire Council. One of the three quotations was received from a business operated by John White, the Parish Council Chairman, and he had declared an interest in this matter. In view of this conflict of interest, the Clerk had prepared a document that “scrambled” the quotations received, thereby maintaining confidentiality as to which quotation related to which business. All of the quotations were within the amount receivable from North Lincolnshire Council under the partnership agreement.

It was decided to accept the tender placed by Grove Groundworks, at a cost of £3,574.80, because that business was currently responsible for the cutting of the parish footpaths and bridleways and it was considered that this was being done to a very high standard.

7. To consider arrangements for the 2019 Local Council Elections

The Clerk referred to the local council elections due to take place on 2 May 2019 and advised that he had nomination packs for each of the existing councillors. A poster would be placed in the council notice board inviting any potential new councillors to consider themselves for nomination.

8. To discuss the disposal of soil at the cemetery

The Clerk advised that surplus soil arising from two recent funerals had been placed just inside the woods very close to the entrance path for the cemetery. The Clerk would write to the Funeral Directors concerned and explain the correct procedure for the disposal of surplus soil.

The Clerk referred to a Soil Tipping Notice and a Guidelines for Funeral Directors document that had been produced in recent years. These would be updated and distributed to all Funeral Directors in the area. This should remove the problem of inappropriate soil tipping by explaining that prior to grave preparation a representative of the Funeral Directors should meet with either the Clerk or the Chairman on site to discuss the tipping of soil.

The possibility of creating a gate in the cemetery wall adjacent to the woods was discussed; this would enable easier access to deeper parts of the wooded area. It was agreed that this should be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

9. Correspondence

a) **Great British Spring Clean**

A national campaign by Local Authorities and Keep Britain Tidy is planned to run from 26 March to 23 April. The campaign aims to engage half a million people in partnership with community organisations, businesses etc to collect and safely dispose of single-use plastic from Britain's streets, parks, beaches etc., recycling as much of this as possible. NLC are supportive of this initiative and will provide litter-picking equipment, and will also remove the rubbish that is collected. Guidance is available for those participating in the scheme. Volunteers will be covered by NLC's employers' liability insurance.

IC offered to advertise this in the Residents' Association newsletter that would be published at the end of March.

10. Residents' Association

a) **Litter**

IC said that residents were regularly engaged in litter picking in the two villages and that the intention was that this would be of an ongoing nature. John Ablott and David Dransfield were particularly active as litter-pickers, and interest had recently been expressed by two further residents; the need for volunteers in this valuable work for the community would be advertised again in the next Newsletter.

b) **Fly-tipping**

The prevalence of fly-tipping was a matter of concern, particularly in respect of kitchen appliances and kitchen units that had recently been tipped on more than one occasion at the outskirts of Alkborough on Whitton Road. IC would include an article in the next Newsletter asking residents to be vigilant for fly-tipping, however it should be borne in mind that the people doing the tipping should not be directly challenged by residents for personal safety reasons.

c) **"Celebrating Volunteering" Certificate**

IC referred to the recent certificate given by North Lincolnshire Council in recognition of work done by the Parish Council and residents in keeping the area safe, clean and green, and asked if he could take a scan of the certificate to place in the next Newsletter. This was held by the Chairman and he would be approached to provide the certificate.

d) Hunt

Reference was made to a recent Hunt held from Walcot Hall. Residents had reported that they had not been advised in advance of the Hunt taking place and the matter of whether permission should have been obtained from an appropriate public body for the staging of the Hunt was raised. Concern was expressed about the safety of the public on the local footpaths affected by the Hunt, road congestion caused by participants in the Hunt and the potential adverse effect on livestock. It was acknowledged that the huntsmen had been polite and considerate whilst engaged in the Hunt when encountering members of the public.

The Clerk would investigate the requirement for permission in the holding of a Hunt.

e) Potholes

A pothole at the top end of West Halton Lane had developed to a size that could possibly now be considered to be a danger to roadusers.

The Clerk would raise this matter with NLC.

f) Local Council Election 2019

Information regarding the forthcoming Local Council Elections would be provided to IC for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

11. To receive report from Neighbourhood Action Team

No report had been received.

12. To receive update on Play Area Sub-committee

A report had been received from Councillor Nigel Brown.

There had been a good response from the recent survey with a total of 19 replies from various parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles of local children across a wide age spectrum. NB had met with Tina Webb, Head of the local school, and she had confirmed that the school were open to expansion of the Play Area into the adjacent school field.

The membership of the sub-committee was now in place and comprised Mr and Mrs A Browne, Mr and Mrs D Kaye, Mrs S Skelton, Miss Z Newsum, and would be led by Councillor Brown.

NB understood that North Lincolnshire Council may have funds allocated for development of the Alkborough Play Area, although there would be insufficient time to complete a funding proposal before the end of the current financial year. The allocation of funding would be investigated.

NB had been provided with a recent successful Play Area funding application submitted by West Halton Parish Council and this would be very helpful.

13. To receive and agree accounts for payment

- a) Staff costs for January and February £329.83 and expenses £23.56. Approved.
- b) Chapel rent for meetings £71.50. Approved.
- c) VANL membership fee for 2018-19 £20.00. Approved
- d) VisionICT website hosting and support £150.00. Approved.
- e) Grants for upkeep of flowerbeds at village signs etc (A Ablott, J Cowling, L Cowling, J Dent, S May, D Roberts, H Rowson) Total £125.00. Approved

It was acknowledged that some of the people who tend the flowerbeds have indicated that they do not wish to receive the grant. The grants form part of the annual budget and because they are prescribed expenditure the declined grants will be recorded as a payment made, however, there will be a corresponding record of that expenditure having been received by the Parish Council as a donation.

An additional flowerbed for planting is to be sited at the end of Huteson Lane and Mrs Skelton and Mrs Keaton had both offered to be responsible for this planter. They would be encouraged to work together on looking after this flowerbed.

- f) Payment for church clock-winding. M Jackson. £160.00. Approved

14. To receive reports from Councillors

Councillor J Gaunt

- JG referred to the dog bin on the footpath running from the cemetery towards The Paddocks Tearoom on Back Street; the dog bin is frequently full and does not appear to be emptied by NLC on a regular basis.
The Clerk would investigate.
- JG complained about the poor state of the footpaths on Back Street.
The Clerk would investigate.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is due to be held at 19:00 on Wednesday 15 May 2019.

16. The meeting closed at 19:50