

North Lopham Parish Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th January 2007 in the Methodist Schoolroom, North Lopham

1. **Attendance and Apologies:** Present were Brian Frith (Chair), Jan Tate (Vice-Chair), Graham West, Mick McManus, Robert Carley and Mike Cox (Clerk). Also in attendance were John Baskerville and Penny Sheppard. Four members of the public were also in attendance. Apologies received from Val Garnham and Joan Muncila.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** Councillor West declared an interest in item 7a (as landowner of part of the route of the footpath) and withdrew from the meeting for that item.
3. **Minutes of last meeting held 8th November 2006:** Approved, proposed by Graham West, seconded by Mick McManus. All in favour.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - Dog bins – Jan Tate reported that consultations held with school had resulted in approval to reposition the bin just beyond the school gates on Primrose Lane. The bin had now been re-sited.
 - Dog Fouling Notices – Still no useful information as to where notices could be obtained or sited.
 - Progress with Letchmere / 'Awards for All' grants application – Application submitted at the end of November, expecting to hear about the end of January (depending on delays caused by the Christmas holidays). Working parties on two Saturdays in December (involving 12 people) spread and levelled a large proportion of the topsoil, which had been donated by Paul Sturman and delivered by Jonathan Rednall. Tim and Denise Colyer and Brian Frith had planted 1000 daffodil bulbs donated by 'The Garden Enclosure' at Banham Zoo. It was hoped that a further working party would spread the rest of the soil during January. Graham West had said that he could provide grass seed. Recent heavy rain had shown the damage that can be caused by water flooding out of the road drains because of blockages and lack of kerbing, but we are hopeful that Norfolk County Council will solve these problems in the near future. In addition it was reported by the Chairman that the Jubilee bench had fallen apart and was in a state of disrepair. Meeting agreed to scrap and replace later.
5. **Finance Report & Accounts for Payment:**
 - Clerk's salary and expenses – Clerk's salary £200.00 and £18.40 expenses.
 - Hire of Methodist Schoolroom - £15.00
 - CAB and Victim Support scheme - £25.00 to each organisation
 - The Chair reported that 'grants', fundraising and donations had almost matched the money transferred from the investment account. Moved that £2,500 be returned to the National Savings Account.
 - Proposed by Robert Carley and seconded by Jan Tate that all accounts be paid as listed above. All in favour.
6. **Planning Applications:**
 - Sherbourne, Church Road – withdrawn
 - Vehicular access at 20. The Green – passed
 - Extension to Beech House – refused
 - New house at Fortune's Well – to be heard 22/1/07
 - Application just submitted for 22, The Street – barn, shed and tree house
7. **Footways, Roads and Footpaths:**
 - Footpath No 1: Formation of a proposal to divert the footpath along Primrose Lane and the existing heavily used path towards Tanns Lane. The formal council meeting was adjourned so that members of the public could air their views. The Chairman reported on the history of the proposal to divert this path and a recent meeting with the Head teacher

of the School following a proposal from 'The Open Spaces Society' that part of the school field should be given over to divert the path. Mr. Brunning, owner of 'Chiltern Lodge' outlined his view of the situation and said that he would favour the diversion. There were also contributions from John Baskerville (NCC Councillor) and Penny Sheppard (Head of the Primary School) and they were strongly in favour of the diversion as proposed. All present agreed that the proposal should go ahead. When the formal council meeting was reconvened it was proposed by Mick McManus and seconded by Jan Tate that the Chairman should write to the footpaths officer at Norfolk County Council to request the diversion of the footpath from its existing start point at 'Chiltern Lodge' to a point some 300m down Primrose Lane and then heading NNE along the existing track towards the end of Tanns Lane/start of the drive to Lodge Farm – as shown on map distributed at meeting and attached to letter.

- Church Road footway – Legal problems have resulted in delay to the start date but we have been assured that this will go ahead.
 - Any other comments/problems – Jan Tate reported that she had been in contact with Adrian Sewell at Norfolk County Council, as had the Clerk. She had seen some work completed on the highways but there were still other matters to be resolved e.g. road repairs. The Chairman reported that he had been told that there would be consultation over a possible weight limit later in the spring.
8. **Future arrangements for grass cutting at the Burial Ground:** The Clerk reported that the only people to provide a positive response to the maintenance of the cemetery were RGM of Yaxham, offering a cut and strim for £80.00 per session, under the instructions of the Clerk. The Chairman asked if the company could provide details of existing customers for reference. Clerk to pursue.
 9. **Consideration of format of Annual Open Meeting:** The Head teacher of the primary school had asked if there could be a report from the school at the annual Open Parish meeting. The Chairman knew of other councils where various village organisations were invited to report at the meeting and suggested that this could be tried at the meeting scheduled for May 9th 2007.
 10. **Correspondence:** Summary document received from National Association of Local Councils (via William Nunn) of White Paper on the future of Local Government. Among other key points The White Paper encourages consultation of citizens and communities about the shape of local services and policies using for example, surveys, focus groups, neighbourhood or parish plans. More details/ conclusions later.
 11. **South Lopham Parish Council meeting:** The Chairman reported on his attendance at the November meeting. About 20 people were present to hear about the Suffolk Wildlife Trust proposal to close some footpaths across the Fen. Very heated arguments mainly about the way SWT had seemed to act unilaterally without prior consultation. SWT had agreed to collect more evidence of need and potential damage before reporting back to the Council.
 12. **AOB:** The Chairman outlined the timetable (published by Breckland) for the forthcoming elections. Key date – nominations must be in by Wednesday 4th April.
 13. **Date and time of next meeting:** *Wednesday 14th March 2007 at 7.30pm*