

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

HELD: FRIDAY, 28th APRIL 2017 AT 7:03PM

VENUE: ALL SAINTS, BOUGHTON

Present:	The Chairman	Cllr Tom E Roberts
	Councillors	Cllr Andy S Beeston
		Cllr David Cooper
		Cllr Mark Pogmore
	Norfolk County Councillor	Cllr Martin Storey
	Parish Clerk	Carole Edwards
	Members of the public	1

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Davis (work commitment) and Borough Cllr Colin Sampson.

The apologies were accepted.

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

Proposed by Cllr Pogmore

Seconded by Cllr Beeston

'That the minutes of the Boughton Parish Council meeting held on Friday, 27th January 2017 (pages 102 to 109) be accepted as a true and accurate record.'

All in favour.

4. Matters arising

Correspondence

- a. The annual membership fee letter had been received from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Members agreed that it was important for Boughton Parish Council to renew its membership with NALC, the national body for local (parish and town) councils, who work with County Associations of local councils to support, promote and improve local councils. The help and advice supplied by NALC has always been invaluable.

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Proposed by Cllr Cooper

Seconded by Cllr Pogmore

'That Boughton Parish Council's membership is renewed for the 2017/2018 year at a cost of £95.91.'

All in favour.

- b. Boughton Parish Council had now received a remittance advice confirming that funding for a laptop, which the Clerk had purchased for £288.79, had been paid into the bank account.

Proposed by Cllr Beeston

Seconded by Cllr Pogmore

'That the Clerk is reimbursed £288.79 for the cost of purchasing a laptop for Boughton Parish Council.'

All in favour.

- c. Councillors had been invited by Norfolk Constabulary to an event on Tuesday, 2nd May 2017 to discuss and find out more about the Rural Policing Strategy. The Chairman, Cllr Roberts would be attending and will report back to members.
- d. A Temporary Traffic Restriction Order had been made by Norfolk County Council prohibiting the use by vehicles of the Mill Hill Road 345m south from junction of Gibbet Lane for 50m south in the Parish of Boughton to enable the water network to be upgraded.
This was with effect from 15th May 2017 to 19th May 2017 for the duration of the works expected to be about 5 days within the period.
- e. A letter from the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (BCKL&WN) re review of Boundary changes had been received. The chair asked if any present had any knowledge whether this would affect Boughton. Cllr Martin Storey was aware of the matter and that BCKL&WN were reviewing boundaries with the possible aim of reducing the number of Borough Councillors. At this time BCKL&WN had not made any decisions.

Conservation area designation – 40th anniversary

The Chairman, Cllr Roberts had drafted an article for Group 4 News.

5. Chairman's report

The chairman advised that Cllr Cooper and he had attended RAF Marham update meeting on 25 April at RAF Marham. It appeared that all the, quite considerable, upgrading work was on target. The first new F35A fighters were scheduled to arrive in spring 2018. Interestingly there was likely in the future to be a significant Naval presence at RAF Marham because some of the new planes would be operated by the Fleet air arm.

Work to improve the pond water quality by placing Barley straw (in netting bales) in the water was well advanced. Monitoring was continuing and it may be advantageous to place some further Barley straw in the pond.

The Chairman noted that there were two vacancies for Councillors. It was important that we had as full a council as possible and advertisements would be placed in Group 4 news to try to attract potential candidates.

6. Reports from Councillors

Communications – Cllr Davis

There was no report.

Fen report – Cllr Pogmore

Since my last report, work has continued apace with a number of working parties clearing scrub and generally tidying up. Areas of reed have been cut by our contractor, Stephen Eyles, followed by a couple more sessions gathering up and burning the resultant stooks.

In February, we were joined by a group of young volunteers from Balfour Beatty as part of their community involvement. A good day was had by all, with lunch provided for everyone by their colleagues, and the young people leaving the fen with new found skills. One of their team has asked to be included on our email list to join us at future working parties.

The new outfall weir for the upper half of Middle Fen has been purchased, but we were unable to install it as planned due to the poor weather causing a sharp rise in water levels a couple of weeks before the installation date. At the same time, a pair of marsh harriers started bringing in nesting material to the reedbed, only about thirty yards from the proposed work area. This work will now be carried out in the early autumn.

It is hope to hold a number of smaller summer working parties to keep the wildlife walk neat and tidy. This will be to supplement the main cuts done by our contractors. I will be asking for volunteers in the near future.

The fen is now clean and tidy following our autumn and winter works, and can now be left to the wildlife until we begin again in the autumn.

Financial report – Cllr Roberts (Responsible Financial Officer to 31st March 2017)

Cllr Roberts had prepared the accounts for 2016/2017 and the budget for 2017/2018.

The accounts for 2016/2017 were being checked by the Clerk.

The 2017/2018 precept had been received.



Highways report – Cllr Roberts

The Chairman, Cllr Roberts was continuing to raise the ongoing problem of serious verge erosion and potholes in the village with Norfolk County Council Highways.

Planning report – Cllr Roberts

There was no update. Planning application received and to be discussed under item 8.

Playground report – Cllr Beeston

The playground has survived the winter without any problems. The hedge bordering Frank Reids was cut back to encourage new growth to replace the ivy which was encroaching into the play area. The bulbs planted under the hedge last year have blossomed well.

The grass is being cut weekly along with the grass round the pond. Frank has been doing some strimming as and when he's able to, we are grateful for his help.

Some of the posts round the pond have been replaced using broken posts from the Magpie Centre, more will be done as they become available. The village sign, seats, footpath signs and benches have been treated to freshen their appearance and preserve them.

As mentioned at the last meeting I will be running in the Kings Lynn GEAR 10K on Sunday to raise more funds for the playground, sponsorship forms are available to be completed. We have extended the selling of FYM and added a few more pounds to the funds.

Public footpaths and signage – Cllr Cooper

Most of the public footpaths had been cut. The job would be finished next week, along with grass cutting on the village green.

Village assets – Cllr Cooper

These would be discussed under item 9.

7. Clerk – contract of employment and ratification of payment for 2016/17

Proposed by Cllr Beeston

Seconded by Cllr Pogmore

'That the Clerk's contract is agreed by members and that the Clerk is appointed Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 1st April 2017.'

All in favour.

7/17

Proposed by Cllr Beeston

Seconded by Cllr Pogmore

'That, as the Clerk's post was unpaid during the last council year 2016/2017, the Clerk is reimbursed £300.00 to cover expenses during 2016/2017.'

All in favour.

8. Planning application

Ref No: 17/00699/F

Location: Hall Farm Mill Hill Road Boughton King's Lynn Norfolk

Details: Extension to rear of dwelling

Proposed by Cllr Pogmore

Seconded by The Chairman, Cllr Roberts

'No observations.'

All in favour.

9. Insurance: Insured asset list and values

The asset list was being updated by the Chairman, Cllr Roberts to include the new laptop and various other items including Christmas Lights and barn games (now being looked after by the Parish Council).

The Boughton Fen assets list was being finalised by Cllrs Cooper and Pogmore. Cllr Pogmore agreed to query the value of the Boardwalk which had been previously been valued at £1, but would actually cost £5,000 to replace.

The Chairman, Cllr Roberts would type up the revised asset list during the next week.

Boughton Parish Council's insurers, Came & Co had been very helpful during the insurance review process.

10. Documentation – preparation for review at Annual meeting

Draft documentation had been circulated. Members were happy with the draft except for the Pond Risk Assessment, which needed updating as soon as possible. Cllr Cooper would ask Mr Andrew Faherty for his expert assistance.

TA

11. Reports from visiting officers – County and Borough

Cllr Martin Storey updated members on Norfolk County Council's recent activities and concerns:

- A 4.8% increase in Norfolk County Council's budget had been agreed, with 3% ring-fenced for Adult Social Care.
- Disability grants were to be targeted towards those who needed them the most.
- There had been progress made with looking at children's services.
- Cllr Storey is always happy for people to contact him to discuss anything at any time.
- Councillor elections were being held on 4th May 2017.
- The Wind Farm at Coltishall had proved to be a good investment for Norfolk County Council.
- 16,300 acres of land are owned by Norfolk County Council and this brings in good income.
- There is a project to look at land for young farmers.
- Fly tipping is a big problem countrywide and the government is looking at it.

12. Public questions

There were no questions from members of the public.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting and it will be held at 7pm on Friday, 12th May 2017 at All Saints Church, Boughton.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.17pm

M. Storey
21 July 2017