

South Lopham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at Valley Farm, Low Common.
Thursday 8th January 2015 7.30pm

1 Chairman's address.

JC welcomed RC to the meeting and confirmed PC would be joining us to present the LOHP report. JC briefly outlined the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan and informed the meeting that a speaker was attending the next North Lopham meeting, 14/1/15. JC will attend to understand what is involved. SM felt our parish may be too small and the cost burden very high, but consideration might be given to a scaled down plan. The topic will be raised for discussion at the next meeting. **CAP.** JC apologised to SR that he had not progressed his highways proposal.

2 To record attendance and consider the acceptance of apologies for absence.

Present:

Council Members: John Crisp (JC) (Chairman)
 Jim Pursehouse (JP)
 Tim Frizzell (TF)
 Sarah Martin (SM)
 Steve Reynolds (SR)
 David Huggins (DH)

Clerk: Caroline Phillips (CAP)

Invited, Mr P Coster (PC) on behalf of Little Ouse Headwater Project (LOHP) and Mr R Clark (RC) for Lophams' Society (LS)
 Apologies were received from R Webb.

3 To record declarations of interests from members in any item to be discussed.

None declared.

4 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting (4 November 2014).

The meeting notes required one amendment, No 6, 'uncleared' should read 'cleared', these were then unanimously approved.

5 To report on matters arising from the Minutes (other than those listed separately on the Agenda).

Item5; new finger post still required, **JC/RW**

Item 6; clearance works on Primrose Lane are approved but on hold pending further comment from NLPC. Clerk advised the monies need to be invoiced and spent in the current financial year. **Clerk** to progress with NLPC.

Item 9; SR believes a new website host is in place but needs to confirm the provider. **SR**

Item8; Further discussion took place about the possibility of a footpath alongside Pansthorne at an approximate cost of £1700. It was agreed not to proceed with this idea as it was felt the lorries would simply mount the kerb and cause damage.

JC will place a report in the Cock Crow about bonfires.

6 To receive and approve the Financial Report, the statement of current balances and to consider the following accounts for approval or ratification.

Opening balance of £3938.94, cleared cheques £984.27, uncleared cheques £44.00, closing balance £2954.67 cash book balance £2910.67.

a) Lophams' News December 2014 January 2015 (2x£22) £44, unanimously approved.

b) Clerks salary Oct-Dec £300.00, unanimously approved.

7 Approve budget for 2015/16 precept.

A small revision to the draft budget was tabled, but keeping the headline figure to a nil increase. This budget was unanimously approved and the precept request form was signed by JC. NB; subsequent to the meeting the form has been sent to Breckland.

8 To receive reports from Councillors on the following;

- a) Planning – White Horse Public House marquee application – no further news; Old School extension approved; permitted development at Low Common refused; Noddle Farm new application for 2 further conversions under permitted development rules, discussion surrounding a new gap in the hedge at Pooley St which does not appear on the planning application, it was suggested Breckland should be made aware of this and that it may infringe Hedgerow regulations, **Clerk** to advise the complainant. SM/CAP agreed to review the Breckland planning portal on a regular basis in light of the change to permitted development rules as the council do not typically receive written notification.
- b) Highways – JP reported that after numerous reminders a number of the outstanding items had been actioned or were in hand;
 - Flooding drain on A1066 cleared.
 - Repaired posts by War Memorial,
 - Tree along side Lime Tree Farm would be maintained by Highways
 - Damaged bridge on Low Common was scheduled with the Bridge team for repairs, should the bridge have a weight restriction?
 - Repaired - broken drain outside Weavers, flashing speed sign broken. Village welcome signs had been removed and debris cleared. New signs would be erected and the Village sign moved nearer to Diss.
 - Over hanging branches/trees along Brick Kiln Lane.
 - Flooding on Primrose Lane had been actioned and the household affected had been spoken to.
 - Whether there is any support for a speed-watch scheme?
 - New items – the 30mph sign on Blo Norton Rd needs repairing along with pot holes and eroded verge near the council houses.

There was further discussion about the speed of traffic along the A1066 and how best to persuade Highways to allow the 30mph signs to be moved closer to Diss along with the need to move the 30mph sign back towards Thetford. The draft proposal from SR would be amended to include this and then issued to Highways asap. It was felt now was good time to make these requests as the signs were needing to be replaced. **SR**

- c) Community – DH will only attend future meetings at Gressingham Foods if we have something to raise.
- d) Footpaths – no report.
- e) Works – nothing to report.

9 Other Reports

- a. Parish Website - **SR** will be updating the website shortly and will find out who the hosting contract is with. The meeting asked how many hits the website typically gets, **SR** to advise.
- b. Lophams' Society – RC reported 2014 had been a successful year; the Christmas drop in had been very good for the children with generous support from the White Horse funding entertainment and gifts, however the adult only attendance was markedly lower than previous years. New events for 2015 were being planned, namely – Spring quiz, Summer jazz event with Pork Pie Hat, Autumn quiz, along with ideas for a comedian and Western

singer.

c. LOHP – PC, as the Parish Council nominated representative, presented an update on the LOHP activities, report attached. PC offered to continue in this role, the Council thanked him for his efforts and unanimously agreed he should continue.

10 **To consider other items of correspondence** – no other items.

11 **To transact Any Other Business and receive suggestions for items to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.** Neighbourhood Plan and May elections.

12 **Date and time of next meeting**

5 March 2015

7 May 2015

Signed..... John Crisp, Chairman

Date: