

South Lopham Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held at Valley Farm, Low Common.
Thursday 5 November 2015 7.30pm**

1 Chairman's Opening remarks

JC will be laying the wreath at 10.50 on Sunday 8/11. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Lee Baker who is retiring from producing the Lopham's News, a replacement has volunteered.

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

Present:

Council Members: John Crisp (JC) (Chairman)
David Huggins (DH)
Sarah Martin (SM)
Jim Pursehouse (JP)
Tim Frizell (TF)
Steve Reynolds (SR)
Clerk Caroline Phillips (CAP)

Apologies were received from Rob Webb. The meeting unanimously resolved that they wished RW to continue in his position as Councillor and recognised his attendance would be limited due to work constraints.

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 (3 Sept 2015).

The meeting notes were unanimously approved.

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

J Alston had been contacted and he confirmed all his footpaths would be accessible in 2016. The garden debris behind the bus shelter had been cleared.

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 £2583.81 cleared cheques £119.00 balance as at 30/09/2015 £3993.64, precept received £1528.83

- a) Lophams' News October & November 2015 (2x£22) £44, unanimously approved.
- b) Royal British Legion poppy donation/wreath £20.00, unanimously approved.
- c) Donation to St Andrew's church £250.00, unanimously approved.
- d) Payment of invoice for Rights of way training £25.00, unanimously approved.

e) Donation to East Anglia Air Ambulance, unanimously agreed, the exact amount to be confirmed at the March 2016 meeting when the expenditure for the year was known.

7 Draft Budget for 2016/17 precept.

8 Refurbishment of the village sign

Items 7 & 8 were discussed together as they are related.

The meeting agreed the precept for next year should, if possible, remain at the current level – the 2016/17 budget has been drafted on this basis, consideration will be given to adjusting certain headings. The Financial Officer gave an over view of the expenditure to date with variances and discussion took place about projected expenditure for the remainder of this year. It was agreed to budget for 3 village projects, the refurbishment of the village sign, upkeep of the bus shelter (**TF** to advise what work may be required and expected costs for budgeting purposes) and war memorial (**JC** to advise expected cost for budgeting purposes). It may be possible to commence work on the village sign before the end of this financial year, subject to endeavouring to obtain a further estimate to comply with our Financial

Regulations. (JC to obtain.)

9 **To receive reports from Councillors on the following;**

1. Planning – White Horse is undecided, subsequently approved with conditions. The enforcement officer has been asked to review a case on Brick Kiln Lane. Noddle Farm has a partial lifting of restrictions & has gone to appeal for the conversion of the straw barn. Low Common has gone to appeal, review 27/10, subsequently refused. New application at Weavers.
2. Highways – JP reported that a number of pot-holes on Low Common have been repaired. Highways have been requested to fill all the grit bins, these are scheduled during November. The water running on the A1066 just past the White Horse pub is scheduled for 12/11. Trees damaged after the traffic accident will be cleared by highways. Water running down Church road is still an issue. **JP** to pursue with Highways. The meeting discussed the recent accident on the A1066 and the unacceptable response S Askew (SA) received from Highways – **SR will approach SA** and write to Highways again stating how unhappy we are.
3. Community, no report.
4. Footpaths – A number of overhanging hedges are causing problems. Pearces Farm and the house at the far corner of Low Common, **Clerk** to contact owners, **JC** will also speak to the owners of a property along Redgrave Road opposite Pansthorne. Discussion concerning the very poor state of the footpath alongside Oxfootstone Barn. **SM** will try to find out who owns this land.
5. Works – garden prunings are being left behind the bus shelter have been cleared

10 **Other Reports**

- a. Parish Website - is up to date again
- b. Lophams' Society, RC no report.

11 **To consider other items of correspondence**

No other items

12 **To transact Any Other Business and receive suggestions for items to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.**

2016/17 budget and more accurate costings for villages projects.

13 **Date and time of next meeting**

7 January 2016

3 March 2016

5 May 2016

Signed..... John Crisp, Chairman