

## South Lopham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Pansthorne B & B on Thursday 12 January 2012 at 7.30pm

#### Present:

**Council Members:** Robert McCaw (Chair)

Peter Coster

David Huggins

Jim Pursehouse

Tim Frizzell

Sarah Martin

**Parish Clerk:** Stephen Reynolds

Mr Granville Horan (LS); Mr Mike Cox (NLPC)

1. **Chairman's opening address:** The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming all present. He then went on to introduce and thank Stephen Reynolds for taking on the role of Parish Clerk until such time as a suitable replacement can be found. He noted that he has had one enquiry about the job and will be arranging to interview them later this month. The appointment of Mr Reynolds was unanimously approved.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Rob Webb.
3. **Declaration of interests:** None.
4. **Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 10 November 2011:** The Minutes were unanimously approved after the omission of the transfer of £30 from the deposit account into the current account (for the church noticeboard brass plate) was noted.
5. **Matters arising (other than those listed elsewhere)**
  - a. **Phone kiosk – PC.** The Christmas display had now been removed and the book exchange would be reinstated from 13 January. Mike Cox was asked to make the residents of North Lopham aware of the facility and invite them to make use of it.
  - b. **The Bernice Malson legacy – RSM.** The brass plate has now been installed on the reverse of the church noticeboard (there being no practical place to mount it on the front).
  - c. **Hedges at Brick Kiln Lane – PC.** James Alston has now arranged for the hedges to be trimmed back.
  - d. **Drainage on Church Road – RSM.** The ongoing issues with flooding after heavy rain were again reported to the Council who agreed to send contractors with high pressure drain clearance equipment to alleviate the problem.
  - e. **Accident risk on Redgrave Road – RSM.** This was again reported to the Council as a complaint from a local resident. Their response was that the difficult bend is clearly signposted and there is nothing more that they were prepared to do at this point.
  - f. **Complaint about recent "Rave" – RSM.** The first letter to the Council was not responded to – they claim not to have received it so it was re-sent. Their response was that it is now too late to follow up but they have asked us to report any further issues appropriately.
6. **Financial Report**
  - a. The accounts were scrutinised and approved by **SM** before the Meeting.
    - i. **Current A/C** £1,422.56 with commitments £61.50 leaving a working balance of £1,361.06;
    - ii. **Savings A/C** £933.50;
    - iii. **Jubilee A/C** £444.51.
  - b. The following cheques were unanimously approved for payment:
    - i. **Venue hire** £10.
  - c. **RSM** reported that he has had correspondence from Perfitts Stonemasons with regard to the inscription of Ralph Bowell's name on the War Memorial and we anticipate an invoice for the work in the near future.

## 7. Reports from Councillors

### a. Planning – SM.

- i. Outstanding planning applications:
  1. Fir Trees, Blo Norton Road: Approved
  2. The Old Rectory, Redgrave Road: Awaiting Decision (not Approved as erroneously stated on the Agenda).
- ii. In respect of the appeal by Mr Beckford of Ascona, Redgrave Road we have received notification from the Council Planning Department that they will carry out a site inspection at 10am on 26 January 2012. **RSM** enquired whether we can attend. **SM** responded that according to the guidance objectors can attend but not make any representation at that point, the deadline for further comments on the appeal having passed in December (but the SLPC objections to the original application will be carried across and considered during the appeal). **SM** also mentioned that she has had no response from the Council to the letter about the existing mobile home on the site for which the permission has lapsed. **SM to follow up with Breckland Council.**
- iii. We have received a letter from Breckland Council asking us to consider using their Online planning service. It was noted that we already submit our comments online but wished to “opt out” and continue to receive hard copies of planning applications as not all members of the Parish Council have internet access. **SR to respond to Breckland Council.**

b. Highways - PC: PC and RSM met Mr. Gary Overland from the Council Highways Department at the home of Mr. Nibbs and Mr. Barley who were also present. The issue was the moving of the 30mph sign beyond the first houses on entry to the village from the Diss direction. Mr Overland raised an objection to the proposal on the basis of Council guidance in these matters. He has however provided the contact details of his manager to allow us to further pursue this matter. **PC to arrange a meeting.**

### c. Footpaths – PC (for RW):

- i. It was reported that the footpath known as “Rolfe’s Track” requires some work to keep it clear. PC also proposed that the Parish Council Members should walk the footpath at least annually: a date was proposed of Saturday 10 March 2012 starting at 10am from the Redgrave and Lopham Fen visitors centre. **SR to publicise on the website and in the Lophams’ News / Noticeboard.** Mike Cox also suggested that the Lophams’ Ramblers could include it on one of their regular walks.
- ii. Correspondence has been received from the Rights of Way team in the Council stating their intention to focus efforts on the promotion and maintenance of key Public Rights of Way which contribute to tourism in Norfolk and calling on Local Councils and voluntary groups to take on a greater role in monitoring and maintaining footpaths. Mike Cox mentioned the assistance that North Lopham had had relating to the adoption of rights of way in the village and agreed to provide contact details for Jackie Brooks in NCC. It was also mentioned that the Parish Council had considered publishing a map of the rights of way and footpaths in the village but that this had not yet been done. **RW to consider the correspondence from NCC and the proposals for the map and report to the next meeting.**

d. Community Matters - DH: Nothing to report. PC asked for confirmation that the village hall had been booked for the village meeting on 13 April 2012 and the AGM on 10 May 2012. **DH to confirm bookings. SR to publish these dates on the website.**

- e. **Works – TF:** Nothing to report. **TF to look at the noticeboard in the bus stop which is in need of repair.**

8. **Village website – SR:** It was reported that the website is now largely up to date and some enhancements have been made, for example the integration of a “Google calendar widget” which allows upcoming events to be displayed on the home page. The webmaster will be happy to receive details of any events which should be publicised on here. Granville Horan will send details of events for the Lophams’ Society for inclusion on the website.
9. **Malson Legacy – RSM:** Reported that the legacy has now been spent but for approx. £100-200 and invited suggestions on how the remaining funds could be used. Several suggestions were received including a Best Garden Competition or Villager of the Year award. All members were asked to consider this and it will be raised again at the next meeting.
10. **Lophams’ Link - JP:** A meeting of the Lophams’ Link committee was held at the White Horse PH on 11 January 2012. **JP** reported that there was disappointment that funding has not been secured for the proposed play area at the Village Hall and that they are considering other options. The committee will be writing to the Parish Councils who have kindly made donations before our next meeting outlining the proposals.

**10a. The Lophams’ Society:**

- a. Granville Horan gave a report on behalf of the society. The Quiz held in November was very successful, being attended by 86 people and raising £300 towards the Jubilee fund. The Christmas Drop-in in December was also well attended and enjoyed by all with mulled wine and a variety of food donated by the society and village residents; there were carols, music and a raffle. Planning for the Jubilee event on 2 June 2012 is progressing well. The society is selling advertising space in the Jubilee Programme (**PC** handed around a draft copy) and there will also be the opportunity for individuals and families to place a Jubilee message in the programme for £3. Mr Horan asked the Parish Council members to approach their neighbours to get their support for this. **SR to circulate the forms to all members in the next correspondence envelope.**
- b. The following events are planned by the society in 2012:
- i. 17 March (TBC): St Patrick’s Day Quiz;
  - ii. 2 June: Jubilee celebrations (with other groups);
  - iii. 22 September (TBC): Music and food evening;
  - iv. 17 November (TBC): Autumn Quiz;
  - v. 14 December (TBC): Christmas Drop-in.

**11. Correspondence:**

- a. **Donations received from the Bowell family:** Letters have been received along with donations totalling £40 from members of the Bowell family and Mr Phillip Plant thanking the Parish Council for its assistance in the addition of Ralph Bowell to the War Memorial. **RSM** has responded on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b. **Charitable giving:** Letters have been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and a charity called “Home Start” seeking donations. Bearing in mind the modest sum allocated in the precept (just £25) for charitable donations there was some discussion on the Parish Councils policy on charitable donations and it was concluded that we should prioritise causes which have a strong local connection or benefit to the community (with the exception of the donation made to the Royal British Legion annually for the provision of a wreath for Remembrance Day). **PC** suggested that the Lophams’ Society might consider supporting the CAB as it provided a service available to the local community and as such was within the Society’s remit. On this basis it was concluded that the Parish Council would not make a donation to CAB (on the basis that the Lophams’ Society will consider doing so) nor to Home Start (as this was felt to be outside our remit).
- c. **Localism Act:** Correspondence has been received from the National Association of Local Councils with regards to the Localism Act. The information available so far is sketchy and subject to regulations not yet published so the implications are not yet clear.

The letter was previously circulated but is available from the Clerk should any member wish to look at it again.

- d. Anaerobic Digester at Deal Farm, Fersfield: Email correspondence was received by the Clerk in relation to an application for planning for an anaerobic digester at Deal Farm. The property was determined to be in Bressingham and Fersfield Parish and was referred to their Parish Clerk but was circulated in case it was of interest to the members. **TF** gave a brief overview of how the technologies work from which it was concluded that no further action was considered necessary.

**12. Any Other Business and Items for the Next Agenda:**

- a. There were no items of AOB.
- b. The following items will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting:
  - i. Update from **RW** on footpaths;
  - ii. Primrose Lane grasscutting;
  - iii. Suggestions for use of the remaining monies of the Malson Legacy.

**13. Date of Next meeting:** Thursday 8 March 2012 at 7.30pm