

South Lopham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Malting Farm on Thursday 8 March 2012 at 7.30pm

Present:

Council Members: Robert McCaw (Chair),
Peter Coster
David Huggins
Jim Pursehouse
Rob Webb
Sarah Martin

Parish Clerk: Stephen Reynolds

Mr Granville Horan (LS); Mr Mike Cox (NLPC); Mrs Caroline Phillips.

1. **Chairman's opening address:** The meeting was opened shortly after 7.30pm at Malting Farm. RSM introduced Caroline Phillips who is currently job-sharing the role of Clerk on a trial basis.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Tim Frizzell
3. **Declaration of interests:** None.
4. **Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12 January 2011:** The Minutes were unanimously approved after the discrepancy of the location of the AGM on 10 May (which was incorrectly stated as the village hall) was noted.
5. **Matters arising (other than those listed elsewhere)**
 - a. Village meeting – RSM. Will be held at the village hall on Friday 13 April 2012. Invitations need to be sent to local groups who may wish to contribute and the event will be advertised with a flyer to be distributed with the Lophams' News, on the website and on the noticeboard.
 - b. Telephone Kiosk – PC: Will shortly be decorated to advertise the Jubilee Celebrations in June.
6. **Financial Report**
 - a. The accounts were scrutinised and approved by SM at the Meeting.
 - i. Current A/C £1,037.06 with commitments £21.50 leaving a working balance of £1,115.56;
 - ii. Savings A/C £933.50;
 - iii. Jubilee A/C £444.51.
 - b. The following cheques were unanimously approved for payment:
 - i. Lophams' News March edition £22.00;
 - ii. Clerk's salary for Jan-Mar 2012 £240, PAYE £60.
7. **Reports from Councillors**
 - a. **Planning – SM.**
 - i. The Old Rectory, Redgrave Road: Still awaiting decision although it was noted that building work has started on site.
 - ii. The appeal for Ascona, Redgrave Road has been refused. Concerns have been raised by neighbouring residents about the risk of asbestos in the temporary structure which has still not been removed. SM will correspond with Breckland regarding removal.
 - iii. Despite representation by the Parish Council the decision to remove the Settlement Boundary has gone through. This means that there is now a presumption against any new housing developments in the village with the exception of certain exempt categories.
 - b. **Highways - PC:**
 - i. The drains on Redgrave Road near Bottle Cottage have been cleared. The on-going problems with the drains on Church Road appear to have been rectified now as the road did not flood in the recent heavy rains. The road in Pooley Street is in need of repair.

- ii. Highways have agreed to put Slow signs adjacent to the village sign before the dangerous bend on the Diss side of the A1066. Improved warning signage on Redgrave Road is unlikely to be done despite another accident recently.
- c. **Community Matters - DH:** There will be a performance of Dickens' "David Copperfield" at the village hall on 24 March which has been advertised with the Lophams' News.
- d. **Footpaths – RW:**
 - i. The Parish Council have expressed their interest to NCC to undertake a more active role in the management of local footpaths. That interest has been noted but nothing more forthcoming at this time. **RW** will contact Breckland to confirm that the contracts for grass-cutting of footpaths will continue this year.
 - ii. **RW** has drafted notes on the footpaths in South Lopham for the proposed footpath guide but needs to contact NCC regarding licensing of OS mapping. **SR will investigate the OS Public Sector Agreement which may cover this.** It was also proposed that we consider a joint venture with North Lopham to reduce costs.
 - iii. It was reported that a hole has been dug in the South Lopham end of the Primrose Lane footpath ostensibly to resolve drainage problems. **RW will endeavour to contact the landowner to find out when the path will be reinstated.**
 - iv. **PC** reminded all of the walk along Rolfe's Track on Sat 10 March.
 - v. **RSM** reported that there had been correspondence from a resident concerning the issue of dog waste being left in bags particularly in Primrose Lane. The Parish Council should consider purchasing Dog Waste bins for this and other key spots in the village (the Breckland waste collection contract with Serco can empty these). **SR will investigate suppliers and costs.**
- e. **Works – TF:** Was not present but had provided his apologies that he had not yet been able to repair the noticeboard in the bus stop. **Primrose Lane Grass-cutting** – There is a joint contract with North Lopham for cutting the Primrose Lane footpath 3 times annually. South Lopham will this year contribute two thirds (£80) of the cost (as North Lopham did last year).

8. **Village website – SR:** Nothing to report.

9. **Lophams' Link - JP:** A letter has been received from Lophams' Links regarding the current proposals around a joint venture with the White Horse PH to site the play area in the pub garden, due to the difficulties of funding the facilities at the village hall. The Parish Council debated the £200 that had previously been donated and voted 4:2 for not requesting the money to be returned subject to examination of the agreement between the publican and Lophams' Links. The objecting members were Peter Coster and Sarah Martin who wished their concerns regarding the use of public money in a joint commercial venture to be minuted. There was also discussion about the availability of funding from Breckland from Section 106 funds. **PC** suggested that it should be investigated whether the monies set aside for Social Housing from the Alston Development could be redirected for funding recreational facilities.

9a. The Lophams' Society: Granville Horan gave a report on behalf of the society. Fundraising and preparation for the Jubilee Celebrations has been ongoing. The programme has raised some £510 in advertising, hoped to increase to £700 from family messages though uptake of these had been disappointing – the deadline for these is the end of March. There will be a quiz at the village hall on Saturday 17 March to raise further funds.

10. **Malson Legacy – RSM:** £164 remains of the legacy and suggestions are sought as to how to spend this. To date these include a contribution towards the Lophams' Links play area, the Jubilee funds, production of the footpath leaflet and tree-planting. Views from residents will be sought at the Village Meeting in April.

11. **Correspondence:** Various items of correspondence were discussed. The only item requiring specific action was regarding concerns raised about the risk of trees adjacent to Blo Norton

Road falling on the road. It was noted that they remained the responsibility of the landowner. **SR / RSM to write to the landowner concerned regarding the matter.** Guidance has been received from NALC regarding the legality of prayers in council proceedings (following the recent press coverage regarding the Bideford Town Council). As this is not common practice in this Parish Council no further action was required.

12. **Any Other Business and Items for the Next Agenda:** Thanks were given to David and Cynthia Huggins for providing a venue for the meeting at short notice.

13. **Date of Next meeting:** Annual General Meeting Thursday 10 May 2012 at 7.30pm