

OSGODBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 30/04/18

Present:- Cllrs S Chester (Chairman), A Wilkinson, S Masterman, Y Knibbs, J. Smith, B. Bowley.

Mr D. Liddle (Clerk), Cllr L Strange, Cllr T Smith, Mr A. Taylor, Mrs S. Greig and 38 members of the public

1) Apologies for Absence:- Cllr M Bowley.

2) To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2017:-
The minutes were signed as a true record.

3) Guest Speaker

Cllr Chester introduced Mr. A Taylor Headmaster and Mrs S Greig School Business Manager to give a presentation on the Osgodby Primary School.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

In summary the presentation gave an excellent insight into what had been happening in the school over the last twelve months. Showing how the school, it's pupils and staff had improved across a wide range of topics including academic performance, sports, behaviour environmental issues and performing arts. The presentation also gave a view as to the plan for the school going forward including the building of a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to the rear of the school this providing a facility for both the school and the community to use. Finally, a programme was outlined as to the events that are planned for to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the school with a request to any parishioner or local businesses to sponsor the school in some way.

Cllr Chester briefly interrupted the presentation to ask the meeting for approval of a grant to the school of in the region of £5000 to assist in the building of the MUGA, the request was approved unanimously.

Following the end of the presentation Cllr Chester thanked Mr Taylor and Mrs Greig for a most interesting, informative and motivating presentation.

4) Report by C Cllr Strange

C Cllr Strange began his report by offering his support to the Primary School in their efforts to gain monies for both new school buildings and other facilities.

C Cllr strange then went on to brief the meeting on the plans for repairing "Potholes" throughout the county. The plan would require £12.5 million to complete the work which would be undertaken by 12 off gangs of workers, using a new approve process, with work being completed in one month for all major roads with the minor roads being worked on immediately afterwards. To exacerbate the problem gritting had taken place over 120 nights as against an average of 70 nights using twice as much grit as planned this being significant as the same people as do the gritting also do the remedial road works.

Cllr Strange then explained that as a whole the services provided by the County Council rated as fairly high or above which he felt was an excellent effort considering the demands placed upon the council by budget cuts.

C Cllr Strange then ask if anyone had any questions. One question was asked as to the progress of providing a footpath on Sand Lane as this section of roadway was used on a continuous basis by wheel chair users with a huge amount of difficulty. C Cllr Strange apologised for not being able to answer the question immediately but promised to provide a full update as to the plan by the next parish council meeting.

5) Report by D Cllr Smith.

D Cllr Smith stated that the main areas of change within the district council were the appointment of a new compliance officer to deal with client complaints and the appointment of a new enforcement officer to also deal with client issues. The council had also managed to deal with the reduction in funding and were continuing to look at new and novel ways of increasing revenue.

6) Chairman's Report

MEETINGS

In the past twelve months, the council has held ten ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting in July; no meetings were held August and December. The extraordinary meeting was called to deal with matters which could not wait until the next scheduled meeting in September: namely, payment of an invoice for the Neighbourhood Plan consultants and the resolution of licensing arrangements for access across the Green.

The average number of members of the public attending meetings was just under six – the council is very appreciative of the interest and support shown by those who attend regularly. We are also grateful for the support from District Councillor Thomas Smith and County Councillor Lewis Strange who manage to find the time to attend most of our meetings and take forward matters of concern raised by the Parish Council and members of the public with their respective councils.

COUNCILLORS / CLERK

In October 2017 Cllr Iris Rowbotham resigned from the council to devote more time to her roles as editor of the parish magazine and treasurer of the Village Hall Committee; she had been on the council since May 2015 and her efforts on behalf of the community as a councillor during that time and in her current roles are much appreciated. In January 2018 the council voted to co-opt Mrs Julie Smith to the vacancy.

In July 2017 the clerk, Mrs J Trotter informed the council that she had accepted a full-time position with LCC which would leave her unable to continue as clerk. Mrs Trotter was a highly experienced clerk who did much to improve and update council procedures and policies and her departure was much regretted. She very kindly remained in post until a replacement was found and our new clerk, Mr D Liddle took over in October 2017. The skills and experience he brings from the business world will be very welcome.

At our April meeting, Cllr R Hills resigned as vice chairman with immediate effect and as a councillor from the end of this month. He joined the council in February 2015 and since then the council has greatly benefitted from his wealth of experience and pragmatic good-sense; he will be sorely missed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The council has dealt with fifteen planning applications this year. The number of applications for new dwellings is undoubtedly a reflection on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with the new Local Plan, which has allowed limited development to be considered after the embargo of “unsustainability” which has hindered any new homes being built in previous years. A continuing matter of concern has been the number of occasions in which West Lindsey Planning Department has failed to notify the parish council of applications on which we should have been consulted. District Cllr T Smith who is a member of WLDC Planning Committee has undertaken to pursue this matter on our behalf.

HIGHWAYS

The Council continues to be in regular contact with the LCC Highways Department to raise residents' concerns. The number of pot-holes has been a regular, indeed frequent, point of concern, in particular the time taken and efficacy of repair work. Residents who spot defects in the highway are encouraged to notify LCC Highways on-line or by telephone as well as informing the parish council.

In August 2016, at the request of the council, the Road Safety Partnership conducted a traffic survey on Top Road. The results of this can now be seen by the erection of mobile speed camera signs and the regular deployment of a camera van.

BURIAL GROUND

The council has continued to pursue the purchase of land adjacent to the current burial

ground (which is expected to be full by 2032. This is likely to be a lengthy process as there are certain technical difficulties to overcome before the purchase can be finalised, but the council is optimistic that this can be achieved in due course.

There have been other difficulties in the burial ground regarding the moving of markers placed for the grave-diggers and the council has strengthened its procedures to prevent this problem re-occurring. There has also been report of the repeated removal of flowers and ornaments from a grave. These events have caused considerable distress to family members which the council deeply regrets and extends its sympathy to those concerned.

FINANCE

The precept for this year again has been held at £5350 which should enable the council to just balance its budget for expected expenditure but with continuing pressure on District and County Council spending, parish councils will face paying for some services which those other bodies have previously funded.

The council continues to maintain a healthy level of reserve funds, much of which may be required for the purchase of land to extend the burial ground. Nevertheless, the council is minded to support the future of the primary school by contributing funds towards the construction of the multi-use games area; a donation of £5000 has been suggested and the public's views on this would be welcomed.

PURCHASES

The council has ordered a second defibrillator and cabinet at a cost of £400 which will be installed next to St Andrew's Church in Kirkby. The council are very grateful to Mr & Mrs Fairhall of "Hillbury" for generously providing the use of their house on which to site this.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan was completed and submitted for inspection in November 2017, and then underwent independent examination in February 2018. The examiner recommended some minor amendments but praised the quality of the plan and suggested it should be offered as a template for others. The amendments were accepted by the council and implemented by the consultants Open Plan. This unforeseen expense has resulted in a slight overspend for the whole project of £127. The final step for the plan to come into force is for a "yes" vote in the referendum which will be held on 24th May 2018.

7) Village Hall & Playing Fields- Bob Lawson

The highlight of our year was without doubt the installation of the new play equipment. You will know that the old play equipment was coming to the end of its natural life and had been condemned because of safety issues, so for the last three years we have been applying for grant funding. We received grants from the National Lottery "awards for all", Tesco "bags of help," West Lindsey District Council match funding and also used some of our own funds. All this money financed the main play area and the "zip line", but, no matter how hard we tried we were left £4000 short to complete phase 3, the toddler area.

We sent out letters to local businesses in the village and Mr. Boyles very kindly stepped forward to pay for the toddler's area and allowed us to complete the project. Installation was completed in September and the grand opening took place in November. Dave Boyles was asked to cut the opening ribbon and say a few words. We thank Dave for his generosity which I am sure will be appreciated by the village for many years to come.

We organised the village fete last year. It was a lovely well supported event which raised over £1000. Our 100 club currently has 82 members with cash prizes. Thank you to Sue Hurt for acting as the 100 club secretary. If anyone wished to join see Sue or collect an application from the Post Office.

Our hall is well used by keep fit, martial arts, TOPCAT, mother and toddler group and the newly introduced monthly social evenings.

We are employing the services of a mole catcher and a grass cutting contractor and feel both are doing very good jobs.

Later this year Market Rasen Junior football club will be using the field at agreed times for training and coaching sessions. With this in mind we have put up some signs asking

motorists not to drive on the grass. We hope drivers will respect this request. It would be a shame not to be able to offer sporting facilities because of safety issues caused by inconsiderate people.

Our next major project will be to try and upgrade the heating in the hall. The current system is over 30 years old and we realise it is probably not as efficient as it once was.

We are organising this year's fete to take place on Saturday 9th June and would be grateful for any help offers of help setting up and running a stall etc.

We are also organising a Jumble sale on Saturday 7th July 11am until 1pm. Which we hope everyone will support.

I would like to end by pointing out we are a charity and all our trustees and members of the management committee are volunteers. We are not connected to the Parish or the District councils. We are responsible for raising and managing all our own funds so none of your lovingly donated council tax ends up in our coffers.

Sue Masterman then went on to highlight the success of the Pantomime with the school being involved and all who were involved and saw the performances thoroughly enjoyed the event. Rehearsals will begin again in November for the next one.

A vote of thanks was given to Sue for her efforts.

8) TOPCAT- Jo Trafford.

Litter picks continue to be useful please come along the more the merrier.

Quiz nights have been very successful again please come along the Picnic was not well attended.

The carol singing at Christmas was well attended and was a great night.

There are only 3 members of the team so please come along to meetings and help as all residents are members.

9) Bowls Club.

There are currently 30 members of the club that will continue to play in 3 leagues with 50 games Home & Away.

We are looking for any new members at the fee of £28 and we need to raise £2000 to pay for the upkeep of the club.

10) Parish Pump Any articles please send to Iris Rowbotham and assistants are required for distribution.

11) St. Andrew's Church- Archie Dodds

The church continues to have one service per month where all people are welcome to attend. We are continuing to look for a Vicar. The community garden is in the land at the bottom of Lincoln Lane.

12) Nature Reports- Swifts are nesting if anyone should see any please inform Archie as we are trying to develop a map of the species in the area.

13) LIVES- John Topliss there was a request to the meeting for a "Lives responder"

14) Open Forum- Issues were raised with respect to certain Planning applications the council responded by saying that the council had responded to all applications in line with the Neighbourhood plan and within the rules available.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date.....

Signed.....
(Chairman)