

LINGWOOD & BURLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Lingwood Village Hall Meeting Room, Station Road, Lingwood on Tuesday 5th December 2017, 7.30pm.

Present were: Giles Mack – Vice Chair, Tony Gould, Brenda Jones, Richard Morton, Roz Simpson, Simon Stevens, Marina Tubby and Sonya Dickinson – Clerk.

17/162. Welcome and Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Ian Chapman and Ian White.

17/163. Election of Chair: Due to Ben Bethell's resignation from the Council on 23/11/17 there is a need for a new Chairperson. None of the Councillors volunteered as Chair so Giles said he would Chair the meetings until a Chairperson steps forward but he wishes to remain Vice Chair. Brenda suggested everyone has a go at chairing and they may decide they like it once they'd tried it. Simon mentioned the Chairmanship training that is available from NALC and PTS, the latter being the better training course provider, he also asked if the Council could actively advertise for new Councillors via a leaflet drop etc. The Clerk does put up Casual Vacancy notices on the notice boards and website and 3 people did come forward wanting to know more but have not come back since being sent the Code of Conduct. An advert could be put in the Parish News, with information on the role of a Parish Councillor, this information could also be put onto the website.

17/164. Declarations of interest: None.

17/165. Public Forum (10 minutes allocated for Public participation): We were joined by 2 members of the Public and Norfolk County Councillor Brian Iles.

Anne brought in mince pies for everyone which is much appreciated.

It is difficult for the Public when there is no individual Chairperson as no one takes responsibility until the next monthly meeting. The Clerk passes info on but it's not for her to make decisions. E-mail round robins are ok but it doesn't help the Public. This is the 1st time the Public would have known about Ben resigning. Councillors should let Ben know how much his hard work over the years has been appreciated. Giles: The Councillors will discuss this later in the Agenda.

Brian: Budget – The Public have been online complaining about the cuts being made, i.e. the Mobile Library and Rural buses.

Ref the cut backs, Tony: why are all the lights still on at County Hall at @ 9pm, it can't be all to do with security and cleaners, it's the whole building? Brian: They were the reasons they gave the last time he asked but he will raise it again.

Simon: Can you expand on what was in the Norfolk Mag.? Brian: County Hall has a lot of empty spaces and they are gradually moving outlying people into County Hall, instead of leasing other properties. This is gradual as leases have to run out etc.

Giles: What's the value of County Farms? Brian: Millions but they have to keep so many thousand acres. Giles: Why do we have to keep so many acres? Brian: We are a rural Community and the 'bread basket' of London. We need more people growing food.

NDR- This was partially funded, the contract was a shared risk contract @ £178million but would have been 30% more for a fixed price contract. The contractor wants @ £20million more and British Rail agreed spec for work needed but half way through they changed their mind and asked for extra piling etc. Even though there have been extra costs the contract chosen still saves money.

Broads Authority- Brian has resigned from the Broads Authority, he was put on there as an elected representative as it is run by un elected people, selected by the Secretary of State. He hasn't got the time to deal with the paperwork and extra meetings. The chap that is there for Great Yarmouth is now taking over for the next 4 years.

Simon: Can District and County Councils run it instead of Broads Authority? Brian: Not really as it is like a National Park.

NDR – Section 1, the Northern part is open and has made a great difference.

Brenda: How much response from the Public to the online consultation regarding the cuts? Brian: Not much response, it finishes in January.

17/166. Minutes of the meeting 7th November 2017: Were signed as a true record.

17/167. Matters arising from 7th November 2017 Meeting: None.

17/168. Correspondence: a) None.

17/169. Planning: a) 20171975 - Single Storey Front & Rear Extensions, 8 Lingwood Gardens, Lingwood, NR13 4TL. **Decision:** Unanimous Support.

- b) 20171843 - Sub Division of Curtilage and Erection of End Terrace House, 2 Saint Edmunds Road, Lingwood, NR13 4LU. Decision: Support by majority. (5 for and 2 abstentions).
- c) 20172045 - Erection of 2 No. Workshop Units Burlingham Business Centre, Main Road, Burlingham, NR13 4TA. Decision: Unanimous Support.
- N.B. Tree T10 root protection area may be affected by the foundations.*

17/170. Village Hall Trusteeship: Currently the Village Hall is owned and run by volunteer trustees; The Parish Council could become the Corporate Trustee to safeguard the future of the hall. Giles would like to hear everyone's opinion. An informal get together with free flow of speech is needed as no one should feel pressured into anything.

Tony sent an e-mail with his concerns to Councillors.

There hasn't been a proposal from the Village Hall Trustees, it's still quite informal.

Have the Parish Council got enough facts to make a decision?

Simon proposed taking legal advice, on becoming a Corporate Trustee, NALC or SLCC may have some advice.

If a Councillor chose not to be a trustee, would they have to step down as a Councillor? Yes as that would be part of a Councillor's duty if the Council decided to be Corporate Trustee.

Village Hall Trustees have apprehension so they may not want the Parish Council to take over.

What would the benefits be? It is hard to fathom out.

The Meeting was adjourned to allow a Member of the Public, who is a Village Hall Committee Member, speak. Trustees and Village Hall groups want to know if the Parish Council would consider it, the Village Hall is not ready at the moment but want to know for the future.

The Meeting was re-opened.

The Parish Council as Corporate Trustee would put a control mechanism in place, to safeguard the future Management of the Hall.

Tony: It would mean more work for the Council.

Giles: He has asked others and they say sometimes it does make more work, sometimes it doesn't.

The Councillors could meet as a group in January? The date decided was 9th January 7pm at the Village Hall.

Councillors can attend the Whole Hall meeting on 12th December 7pm, to observe and see how it runs.

17/171. Highways: The A47, the sign when turning into North Burlingham is still not there and is causing a problem.

Footpath, Lingwood Lane to North Burlingham, Overgrown brambles still not cut.

17/172. Finance: a) Payments authorised: i) K. Monsey Cemetery Grass £100 (Chq No. 233).

ii) EAS, Millennium Green Grass from 30/5/17 to date. £ 793.80 inc. VAT. (Chq No. 2108).

iii) Anglian Water – Allotments £4.76 (Chq No. 2109).

iv) CPRE subs – suggested amount £36. **Decision:** It was resolved to continue with £36 (Chq No. 2110).

b) Cemetery Fees April 2018 onwards. **Decision:** After looking at the charges made by other Parishes it was found that the Parish Cemetery is of reasonable value and not overpriced. It was resolved to add £5 to the Burial Exclusive right and interment and £3 to the Ashes Exclusive right and interment along with the headstone and tablet. There will be no increase in the charges for Children under 10 yrs.

c) Budget and precept this usually has to be in by the end of January but Broadland e-mailed to ask for it to be done by the end of December. **Decision:** After going through the Budget prepared by the Clerk, Councillors resolved to put the precept up by 8% to £24,702 p.a., which will be an increase of £1,830 p.a. from last year, which is a £1.96 p.a. increase from £25.79 to £27.75 p.a., per Band D property.

d) The Councillors want to send a big note of thanks to Ben Bethell for his dedication and hard work over the years and for stepping in as Chair, when no one else wanted to take it on. He has such a set of skills for doing the job no one else on the Council feels they could match. It was noted that the Chairman's allowance is paid for the full year term from May. **Decision:** It was resolved the Clerk sends a letter of thanks to Ben and to ask for reimbursement of the remainder of the term of Chairman's allowance (£1,100 p.a., term served, 9th May to 23rd November = @ 29 weeks). Payment of 23 weeks Chairman's allowance = £486.54, this will be allocated to new Chair, pro rata, when appointed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.10 -

Next meeting of the Parish Council for Planning, 16th January 2018, at Lingwood Village Hall.