

LINGWOOD & BURLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held at the Lingwood Methodist Chapel, Chapel Road,
Lingwood on Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Ben Bethell – Chairperson, Marina Tubby – Vice Chair, Mike Bredbere, Ian Chapman, Tony Gould, Giles Mack, Richard Morton, Ian White and Sonya Dickinson – Clerk. Councillors that were not present at the last meeting filled in their Declaration of Interest and acceptance of office forms before the meeting started.

15/068. Welcome & apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Brenda Jones, Roz Simpson, Simon Stevens.

15/069. Declarations of interest: Sonya Dickinson, item 15/074. Planning, the land is behind her property.
Ben Bethell, item 15/078. Trusteeship of Village hall as Ben is on the Village Hall Committee.

15/070. Public Forum: We were joined by 42 members of the public as well as County Councillor Brian Iles, District Councillor David Ward and PCSO Wally Oldham. Ben asked for a show of hands as to whether people had come to the meeting to discuss Planning Application 20150754, all had apart from 5 people. Public with queries not to do with the planning application were first.

When will the grass at the front of the allotments be cut? It usually gets done by NCC, the Clerk will check with them.

Ben asked the public that had attended purely to speak about the Planning Application, if anyone had come to speak in favour of it, no one had. As there were so many who wished to air their views against the application it was decided that, so not too much time spent repeating the same concerns, Ben would read the decision letter from the Parish Council to Broadland District Council, regarding the previous application and amended application for this piece of arable land, so that the Public did not need to repeat any of the points.

Extra points made by the Public were:

- Not much about the application had changes since the last one, they had increased the offices and reduced the live work units but it still seemed to take up nearly as much land.
- The ridge height of the 'live work' houses are 8.31metres tall, which seems very high, especially as on entering the village there are mainly bungalows, the elevations of the offices could not be found on the plans the Council had.
- They would have to reduce the speed from 60mph to 30mph on this stretch of Road before they could go ahead as the entrance is not more than 215m in each direction away from the 60mph zone or even 115m in each direction if it were 40mph, they only have 75m where they want the entrance.
- They have added a footpath to the Planning application, saying it is increasing the Village amenities, which it is not as no one needs a footpath there.
- They have mentioned that it is close to the Public Transport but it takes @ 10 minutes from Oak Tree Close.
- British Sugar, beet lorries make the roads busy enough coming off the A47 at the White House Junction, sometimes blocking a lane.
- There have been accidents on Lodge Road, a gate was knocked down by a car crashing into it only recently, 3 Elm Road had their fence driven into, (this property is actually situated on Lodge Road) and last week there was a head on collision on the same bend where Lodge Road meets School Road.
- There has been a study into whether 'Live work' units are working and they are not, this is just a crafty way of getting planning on green belt land, once the services are in they will go for housing and then the floodgates will open and a precedent will be set for the field opposite that has also been bought with 'hope value'.
- Brineflow has given a donation to the Housing Minister. Yarmouth Warehouses who have the same Company Directors have also donated to the Housing Minister. Ben pointed out that it is acceptable to give donations.
- It clearly states Phase 1 on the plans so they will go for planning on the whole site if they get this application passed.

- Don't forget the noise pollution as well as light pollution.

Ben reiterated that the Parish Council is only a consultee and it is best for individuals to make their feelings known to Broadland District Council and to David Ward who is our District Councillor.

District Councillor David Ward said everyone can speak at BDC Planning Committee Meetings if you register to speak, you can go to any Committee Meeting even if you don't want to speak. They are held once a month on a Wednesday. The more people that turn up, the more they will be aware of the feeling against it. It didn't get passed by Planning Officers last time so it didn't need to go to Committee.

Brian Iles – County have £40 million savings to be made this year so there will be no capital expenditure but there is money for road maintenance. The big issue at the moment is that it was thought Lingwood Junior School (pond site) was going to be sold to be converted into 4 residential properties but Brian was asked what he thought if the site was used for schooling challenging children – Brian initially objected. There is to be an open drop in session for everybody to find out about it on Wednesday 24th June between 2 and 7pm. The children will be brought to the School by bus or taxi and there will be 12 to 18 children from 5 to 14 years. The advantage to them is a saving because if you have a child that needs special care it could cost £150,000 per child if they have to be sent outside of the County. They say it will be on a 5 year temporary basis until they build a new unit. The grounds will be fenced. Councillor Marina Tubby pointed out that there was an SRB unit in the old Primary School (pond site), where children were brought to the School by bus and taxi but when they moved to the new School, it was said there was no more funding.

Public - Some of the neighbours of the School were told by Mr Reynolds, when he visited, they should be prepared for children climbing the walls and expect lots of bad language. The painters and decorators have already started so it is probably going ahead. It was a School so no change of use is required.

They could be asked for safeguards against this. There will be 2 to 1 care and they will be contained in the School and grounds.

There were concerns about the care farm but all fears were put to rest once it was explained.

David Ward – David thanked all who voted him back in as District Councillor. The NDR has been passed and the route is on You Tube.

Bus Stops – later in the agenda. David has been in touch with First Bus regarding the infrequent bus schedules and is writing another letter, if you have any problems with your schedule let him know and he will add it to his list/letter.

Public – The buses need to be more comfortable and it would be nice if all other villages' rejects weren't used on our route. David said they are currently re scheduling routes and are trying to upgrade the buses.

Public – There are buses to Brundall and Norwich but you can't get to Acle, No 15 should go but doesn't come to Lingwood.

PCSO Wally Oldham – It's the biggest audience he's had in a while. Wally read out his report for May, there were 7 reported crimes mostly thefts from vehicles so the big message is lock your car even on your driveways and lock sheds, spread the word.

Maureen – It's nice to have Wally back.

Richard – The Burlingham Open Gardens were a great success and the shed made things a lot easier.

Public – The Dog situation on the Millennium Green is bad, the few are spoiling it and not clearing up after their dog. The 'Dogs must be kept on a lead' sign is back again as was covered by the election notice on the board. Dogs are off leads and have jumped up people making them scared and feel vulnerable, on an occasion when asked to keep the dogs on leads, the dog owners in question were abusive.

Marina said the Minute Reference 12/207 on 4th December 2012 said signs were going to be put up 'no dogs in the Toddler area' and 'Dogs on leads'. Perhaps instead of on the notice board the relevant signs should be on the 4 entrances to the Green and the Toddler area. If there are specific instances, where dogs are not under control, call the Police Acle Safer Neighbourhood Team. Broadland also has a page on their website where you can report it. The advice of who to report it to should be put onto the website.

N.B. PCSO Wally Oldham left at this point, 8.15pm.

15/071. Minutes of the meeting 12th May 2015: Were signed as a true record.

15/072. Matters arising from 12th May 2015 Meeting: Sean Donovan the Parish Handyman cleared the corner of Avondale of rubble and stumps and trimmed back the trees, it can now be cut by the verge cutters. Maintenance of the zip wire is next on the list.

15/073. Action Log: The Millennium Green Bins and planter bases have been done ready for installation.

15/074. Planning: a) 20150754 – Live Work Development including independent B1 Office Space – Revised proposal. Land at Lodge Road, Lingwood.

Decision: Unanimous objection on the grounds that it falls outside of the development boundary on a Greenfield site.

The application is on a too larger scale and in the wrong area and would sprawl the Village to merge into South Burlingham. The access to this site from the A47 is a small country Road and the increased traffic generated by this development from residents, deliveries and visitors would be unacceptable, there are already issues with traffic and sugar beet lorries queuing to get off the A47 at the White House junction and blocking a lane on the A47. The Highways report of no accidents along Lodge Road is misleading as several accidents have occurred to our knowledge, it is perhaps that they have not been reported to the Police, there was another bad accident only this week.

Added light pollution and noise pollution are a concern as is the strain it would put on the existing infrastructure.

There is no evidence at all that these units are needed, or suggested control method to ensure that they are used for their intended purpose. Lastly, the scheme appears to provide no tangible benefit to residents of the Parish – something we would expect in a scheme of this size and nature.

N.B. Ben said to the Public that he understood if any of them wished to leave at this point. – 35 members of the Public left.

15/075. Correspondence: a) Invitation to CPRE Norfolk AGM, 2pm, 20th July 2015.

15/076. Bus Shelter Prices: The Clerk presented the prices she had for Cantilever type bus shelters and they varied from £2,500 to £4,000 so it is viable from a cost point of view but would only be any good for vertical rain if the shelter is without sides. Sides can be added at a small extra cost but space is the problem, if Homelea Residents association gave permission for it to be on their land then sides could be added. Section 106 could be used and there may be a chance of 50% from the Parish Partnership Scheme. It cannot go ahead without permission from Homelea and a consultation with residents. David Ward had brought it to the Council as a request from Homelea residents so he will go back to them with the Council's request.

15/077. Highways: Traffic speeding on Station Road, could a 20 mile an hour limit be put on this stretch? When it was requested for the Orchard Site on Chapel Road, no traffic calming measures or 20mph signs could be used, Highways said it wasn't legal as there are no street lights. The School children even designed 20mph signs, they got put up by Highways but had to be taken down again when they realised they shouldn't have allowed them. Brian Iles will ask Highways for a site visit.

Highways Bedford has still not replaced the temporary Burlingham Green signs and BT has still not repaired the fallen line that has been hooked over the 'Caution Horse' sign on Dell Corner Lane. The Clerk has had e-mail confirmation that Highways are dealing with the sign and Open have sent 3 e-mails and phoned twice to let the Clerk know they are aware.

15/078. Trusteeship of the Village Hall: The Council is strictly governed but the Village Hall could potentially be mismanaged in the future. There are currently 2 people employed and by 2017 all employees will have to be enrolled into a pension unless they opt out. The reason it is on the agenda is that a) the Hall will be finished by their next AGM in March and

b) Pensions through the Local Authority Scheme, set up recently by the Clerk, would be easier as the Parish Council is already enrolled and it would save setting up another scheme. Tony would like to opt out as Trustee as the Parish Council should remain independent as he feels there would be a conflict of interest, he would not want to be a Trustee.

Conflict is not an issue as the decisions will be for the Hall – No individual will be liable it will be the Council as a whole.

Employment issue? – The Parish Council would be the employer and doubling the workforce. How many bar staff? There are 3 recruited so far, so would more than double the workforce. What happens if there is a misdemeanour, who would discipline them? Karen as Steward would run the Payroll for the Village Hall.

What do the Trustees think about this? The 8 Village Hall Trustees voted for it.

If complaints from the Public come to the Parish Council about anything to do with the Village Hall, then it would have to be reported to the Management Committee of the Village Hall to discuss.

The Reading Room accounts are done by Sonya the Clerk but she wouldn't have to do the Village Hall accounts.

It would run with a Management Committee with a set of rules about spending limits, a Councillor on the Committee who could make sure anything that needs the Council's permission gets put before the Council.

Does the Village Hall need a 'bedding in' period before? One deadline is March at the AGM when the current trustees stand down and this would be missed if there is a 6 month bedding in period.

Information about Trusteeship is needed before the Parish Council takes over Trusteeship. Work to be done to find out the 'ins' and 'outs', the arrangement for Transfer needs to be known before March, what is needed to achieve the aim? Corporate Trustee – what's involved?

Trustees get voted in at the AGM and the Council does not need to stand if they decide not to.

If it wasn't going well the Parish Council wouldn't be able to walk away anyhow.

Ben said he could start the process of finding out how it would work and how to get it moving and get the details to report to the Council.

9.23pm - At this point Ben Bethell left the room declaring an interest.

Decision: The Council needs more info in how to run the Hall and how staffing is going to be run. If the Council is not trustee then there is no safety net for mismanagement. Is it common practice for Parish Councils to run their village Hall? This would need to be checked out.

It was resolved to work towards the process of Trusteeship – 5 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

9.27pm – Ben Bethell returned to the meeting.

Ben wanted to inform the Council that he has received an anonymous letter. Although there is no reason to act on anonymous letters, he decided to share it with the Council in the interest of transparency. The Council were asked to consider whether points raised warranted additional discussion. Councillors to let Sonya know if they feel anything needs further thought.

15/079. Pension Policy Statement to be agreed and signed: The template sent by Norfolk Pension Fund was tailored to Lingwood & Burlingham Parish Council and signed.

15/080. Finance: a) No Payments Received.

b) Authority to pay was given for: i) S. Donovan – Clearing of Avondale corner in May. £80. (Chq No. 916).

ii) Rogers & Norton Interim invoice for work carried out to transfer the Nursery Building to Lingwood Parish Council. £825.40 inc. V.A.T. (Chq No. 917).

iii) K. Monsey – Cemetery Grass May £0 Invoice not yet received.

iv) Beighton Builders Cemetery lych gate, fence and bench treatment. £619.20 inc. V.A.T. (Chq No. 206).

v) Beighton Builders - Allotment tap fitting to comply with Anglian Water £84.92 inc. V.A.T.

(Chq No. 918).

vi) Pauline James – internal audit of Accounts. £68.75 (Chq No. 919).

c) To sign off annual accounts for External Audit. Ben read out the internal audit report and went through the external audit check list with Councillors, the audit report was signed and dated and will be sent to the External Auditor, Mazars.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55 – Next meeting is on Tues 7th
July 2015.*