4a) **Norfolk County Council report**

Concerns had been expressed about the American helicopter that crashed at Cley in January, and the fact that it was carrying ammunition. Norman Lamb had enquired and found that it was acceptable to the government for American as well as British aircraft to be armed on training missions in the UK. The *Better Broadband campaign* had now received further government grants, which would make it possible to install fibre-optic cable in more less-populated areas. An agreement has been reached with the new owners of the *Coasthopper.* The company will manage without a subsidy during the summer, and NCC will provide a grant for the winter service. This arrangement will be reviewed by autumn 2015. The government has made a special grant of £5.5m to repair potholes. This will assist the £80m backlog. The diminishing of grass cutting on verges is helping to spread wildflowers. However, at junctions grass will continue to be cut short. Forensic accountants are looking at the compensation package demanded by the company that was to build the King's Lynn incinerator. A contract has been signed with Suffolk County Council for Norfolk waste to be carried there for incineration. MS is now the chairman of a new committee which will look into the (poor) coverage of broadband, mobile 'phones and DAB radio.

5) **Planning Matters**

There were no new applications to consider. However, news had arrived that permission had been granted for an application which Councillors had previously strongly objected to. It was agreed to send a letter to planners, signed by all Councillors, asking what the point was in our meeting to discuss planning applications if our comments are continually ignored.

6) **To receive updates on SAM2 speed indicating device**

The device is now installed at the first of the eight sites (including one in Cockthorpe). There are seven volunteers who will help to move it every four weeks and also change the batteries at weekly intervals. In time it should be possible to interpret the data that is collected to decide where the most worthwhile sites are. It is also hoped to be able to regularly publish data in *The Lynx.* A resident near the current position believes that it is making a difference in slowing some vehicles down.

7) **To consider footpath maintenance in the Parish**

There was concern that the County Council were not cutting the footpaths as they used to. It seems to have been established that they have a legal obligation to do so, but will only do so when a path becomes virtually unusable or dangerous and will also only cut if requested by a Parish Council or other body. WW has kindly cut the paths, and therefore they no longer need doing. In future we must put in a request to NCC before that happens.

The footpath in the village adjacent to the Priory wall will be cut soon.

KL would ask the highway rangers to re-site the finger post for the footpath off Field Dalling Road.

8) **To discuss sale of NNDC land in Priory Crescent to housing association**

NNDC had advised us that they were in the early stages of negotiations to sell this land (and other sites elsewhere) to a housing association to enable more affordable housing to be built in the district. Several members of the public had come to protest at this move, fearing that a disproportionate number of new houses might be built there. KL believes that talks are at a very early stage, and any new development would have to go through the normal planning process, but he would try to ascertain the size of the land sale and how many new homes might be proposed.

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