



BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith
31 Dogger Lane, Wells-next-the-Sea
Norfolk, NR23 1BE 01328 710261
keith@leesmith.co.uk

2015/16

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present Mike Bond, Liz Brown, Mike Chapman, David Frost (Chairman), Stan Hewitt, & Lucy McCallum
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), 12 Members of the Public

1) Apologies received: William Wales, Police
Marie Strong & Vincent Fitzpatrick – would be late; at other Parishes

2) Declarations of interest: DF – 5a & 5d - Applicant is related

3) Minutes: Approved and signed for the meeting of 20 July 2015

4c) Safer Neighbourhood Team report

The team were unable to attend but had sent a report which KL read. There had been two recorded crimes since the last meeting: one hate crime, one common assault. In the surrounding area there have been several burglaries, including properties in Wiveton and Blakeney. Police are asking people to check their own security and report any suspicious behaviour, especially near empty properties and those undergoing renovation.

4d) Parish Clerk report

The annual audit had been completed without problems. NNDC are holding a planning training meeting at Wells Maltings on 25 November at 1830. DF has said that he will attend, other Councillors interested should advise KL.

5) To discuss planning matters

NB: LB took the Chair for the discussion of items 5a and 5d. DF took no part in the discussion.

5a) Application for the erection of extensions and alterations etc. at 8 Langham Road – resolved No comment.

5b) Application for the erection of extension to front and side of 1 The Common, Cockthorpe – resolved No comment

5c) Prior notification of conversion of agricultural building to dwelling at Westgate Farm East – resolved No comment

5d) Application for the insertion of new windows and entrance at The Flowerpot, 8 Langham Road – resolved No comment.

5e) Decision notice – prior notification of intention to convert barn to dwelling at Abbot Farm, Walsingham Road, - approval granted.

Vincent Fitzpatrick (NNDC) arrived during the following:

5f) Expected application to build dwellings in Priory Crescent/Walsingham Road area by Broadland Housing Group. DF had been in discussion with Ed Mumford-Smith of Broadland. Broadland expected to be making the application “in the next couple of weeks”. They believed that they were able to address five of the six main concerns highlighted in the village survey. They intended to send a mailshot to each household in the village showing their aims. They offered to send the Parish Council extra sets of plans that could be put on display to members of the public. The following was agreed:

- a) When the plans were received the Parish Councillors would meet as a committee to gain “first impressions” of the proposals.
- b) Drop-in sessions would be arranged at the Village Memorial Hall (at least one afternoon and at least one early evening) to show the plans and allow people to decide if they wanted to make personal comments to the planners.
- c) A public meeting would be held with the single agenda item of discussing the application. At the end of this meeting the Parish Council would formulate its views for official comments to be made to the planners.

Marie Strong (NCC) arrived during the following:

4b) North Norfolk District Council report

Like all other Local Councils NNDC is facing funding pressures due to a reduction in Government grants. It intends to maintain “front-line services” and is looking at other ways to save/make money. One of these is the possibility of sharing some staffing with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, and talks are being held between the two authorities with this in mind. The government is suggesting the possibility of devolving more powers to Local Councils. NNDC is providing two sets of training for Parish Councillors. On 16 September there will be a session in Fakenham to talk about declarations, standards, etc. and on 25 November there will be a planning workshop at Wells Maltings. The Big Society Fund is still open for applications. Recent successful applications include children’s play equipment, and refurbishment of community buildings. NNDC is taking steps to become less “Cromer-centric” and will be holding some events in the west of the district.

4a) Norfolk County Council report

MS is still involved in discussions to ensure that local housing associations, including those at Blakeney, Wells and Holt, do not have the same conditions as “ex-council house” housing associations in giving people an automatic right to purchase the properties that they live in at a reduced rate. Three Companies have expressed an interest in operating the Coasthopper bus service during the winter months. An announcement is expected soon. Norfolk bus passes can be used on the Coasthopper between Hunstanton and Cromer after 0830 although other area passes can only be used after 0930. Each County Council department has been asked to budget for a 25% reduction in income, due to central government action. Computer Scams are increasing as more work is undertaken online. People are advised to be wary of these. There will be a temporary closure of the Wells Recycling Centre from 28 September to 9 November for renovation work to be carried out. In line with government aims to provide all areas in the country with the ability to get a mobile ‘phone signal for at least emergency use, it is proposed that a transmission tower is provided in Blakeney. The intention is that this will be shared by all UK operating companies. There is, however, opposition to the siting of the mast and a drop-in session will be held at Blakeney Village Hall.

6) Financial Report and accounts for settlement

A bank statement and reconciliation had been supplied to Councillors

The following accounts were agreed for payment:

Community Action Norfolk	annual subscription	20.00
Paul R Smith	repair of noticeboard	76.00

Clifford Hudson	grounds maintenance	440.00
Keith Leesmith	2 nd quarter salary & expenses contribution	453.60
HMRC	PAYE on above	109.40

7) Minor Items

DF reported that the self-seeded hawthorn on the lower green has been found to be growing within the root bole of a former tree. If the roots are dug out it will disturb the fitment for the Christmas tree. William Wales will attempt to kill the roots with Roundup.

LB asked if an additional noticeboard could be provided in the Priory Crescent area. It was suggested that if the Broadland development goes ahead, the developers might pay that this for. It was therefore agreed to wait until further information is known on the development.

A tractor has been parking illegally overnight on the grass in front of the telephone exchange, and is beginning to cause ruts. KL said that if the registration number were obtained, he would report it to the police.

One of the people who took an allotment plot in the spring has not undertaken any work on it and there are now problems to neighbours from weeds. KL would write to the person, giving them one month to clear the weeds. If this were not done, the plot would be reallocated.

8) To confirm the date of the next meeting

Confirmed as Monday 16 November 2015

It was however, thought likely that an additional meeting to discuss the housing application would be held before that date.

The meeting closed at 2045