

STOKE FERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July, 2016

Attendance:	Chairman	S Lintern
	Vice Chairman	Mrs J Taylor
	Councillors	Mrs D Clements
		M Leamon
		J Nicholas-Letch
	Borough Councillor	C T Sampson
	Members of the public	30

1. Emergency Evacuation

Members and members of the public were advised of the emergency evacuation procedures for the Village Hall.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence

3. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members on any item to be discussed

Cllr Clements declared an interest in the item referring the Car Scheme

4. To discuss the recent resignations of Parish Councillors

Letters of resignation had been received from Cllrs' Mrs Hardy and Precey.

There would now have to be an election for a new Chairman and Vice Chairman

Election of Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Taylor

Seconded – Cllr Nicholas-Letch

That Cllr Lintern is elected as Chairman

All in favour

Election of Vice Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Lintern

Seconded – Cllr Leamon

That Cllr Mrs Taylor is elected as Vice Chairman

All in favour

5. To agree Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June, 2016

Proposed - Cllr Lintern

Seconded - Cllr Mrs Taylor

'That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th June, 2016 be approved'

All in favour

6. Matters arising

Further to the debate on the grass cutting of the playing field a meeting would be arranged with CGM for the week commencing 25th July, 2016.

Cllr Mrs Clements has resigned from 2Agriculture Community Committee, but it was noted that Cllr Lintern was still on this committee.

It was now necessary to amend the bank signatories on the Parish Bank accounts and it was agreed that Cllrs Lintern and Mrs Taylor would be added and Mr Precey would be removed from the account.

The Clerk still had to purchase a projector to display plans for future meetings.

7. To receive report on Public Rights of Way (Footpaths/Bridleways)

Cllr Lintern and Mr Philpott had attended a seminar on Public Rights of way and found that the Parish Council is on the right track in preserving its footpaths and public rights of way. Work would be needed on historic rights of way as if they are not registered by 2026 they could be lost forever. Information from residents was essential to find these of paths. Evidence would be needed to show that the path was still in use and this normally meant that a form had to be completed by each user to show constant use of the path.

10. Update on requests for Parish Council funding

i. Funding for the electric supply for the Playing Field

This was now completed and the bill would be paid.

ii. Village Hall

Mrs Taylor of the Village Hall Committee gave a short report on the repair and refurbishment of the Village Hall roof. The updated cost was £8600. It had been agreed in previous meetings that the Parish Council would provide funds of up to £2700.

Proposed – Cllr Nicholas-Letch

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Taylor

‘That the sum of £2700 be donated to the Village Hall Committee to go towards the cost of the repairs needed to the roof’

All in favour

11. To discuss an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

The event held to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday had been well attended. (see attached report)

12. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Nicholas-Letch advised members of the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan. This document is produced by the village in order to help with future developments and gain input into design and type of properties which would enhance the area. It is not a document to prevent future planning applications. There are procedures which need to be followed and document goes through an examination process which results in a referendum of the electorate of the village and over 55% have to agree to the content of the Neighbourhood Plan for it to go forward.

There is funding available to pay for professional advice and that is up to £15,000.

To take this forward a working party would need to be formed and contact made with the BCKLWN to initially get agreement of on the area to be covered by the plan.

13. Website

Cllr Nicholas Letch gave an update on the progress with the website. Further information would be available for the next meeting.

12. To discuss Hospital/Doctor Car Scheme

The Clerk had requested information from Cllr Nicholas-Letch with regard to bank statements and cheque books. This was to help alleviate concerns raised by members of the public on the amount of money which has been donated by the Parish Council and payments made to the drivers of the scheme.

The documents had not been received. Cllr Nicholas-Letch advised that he would arrange a public meeting before the end of July, 2016 to give a full explanation of the scheme.

It was agreed that Cllr Nicholas-Letch would meet with the Clerk to provide the bank statements and cheque books.

15. Update on the purchase and siting of new dog bins

Permission is being sought from the BCKL&WN for both the permission to site a new bin and also the agreement to empty it once it has been put in place.

16. To approve payments of bills

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Taylor

Seconded - Cllr Clements

‘That the bills be paid as per the attached schedule’

All in favour

17. To receive correspondence

Allotments – this is something that can be incorporated within the Neighbourhood Plan. Currently there is no land available, but it was noted that there are vacant allotments at Northwold.

Mrs Judith Taylor – email concerned about a Councillor having access to the prospective new website. Everyone was assured that once the website is ‘live’ only the Clerk would have access to putting information on it.

18. To receive information or suggested items to be considered at the next meeting (Councillors/ Public)

Future agenda items: Village Maintenance

Cllr Sampson gave a short report on Devolution and advised that there was a consultation document on the BCKLWN website and everyone was able to comment. There would be an elected Mayor, who would have some powers but it was stated that this could be seen as another level of decision making, although one of the benefits would be additional money which would be made available to spent at a more local level.

Bridleways – concern was raised about two footpaths which were particularly overgrown: part of the path between The Bull and Greatmans Way and Old School Lane to Wretton.

One of the owners of the adjacent land had been contacted and he had agreed to cut the path.

High Street – there are some wooden railings and it was suggested that these should be changed so that they were more in keeping with the conservation area.

Grass cutting – there were many comments about the state of grass cutting within the village. Cllr Sampson advised that there would be only 12 cuts per year for Borough Council land and 6 cuts per year for any land owned by Norfolk County Council. The Borough Council were suggesting that if more cuts were required then local parishes could pay for this. It was felt that the village would be better looked after if it employed a local person to cut the green spaces and keep everything clean and tidy.

Car Scheme – concern was raised about the clarity of the scheme, lack of evidence on how the money was spent. If the Parish Council was subsidising this scheme then full accounts should be made available for openness and transparency. Mrs Judith Taylor had read through the minutes and felt that there were discrepancies as they were not clear and concise. Further investigations were to be made by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Allotments – it was noted that the allotments at Northwold cost £10pa but there was no water supply. If anyone is interested they should contact Mrs Judith Taylor.

Car Park – the car park adjacent to the Church is owned by Norfolk County Council.

Cemetery – concern was raised over the amount of rabbits in the Cemetery. It was suggested that CGM had a way to discourage rabbits and therefore it was agreed to ask their advice.

2Agriculture – the current noise levels were commented on and also that Glazewing drivers were using Wretton Road to return to the business premises in West Dereham. Contact would be made with 2Agriculture.

Playing Field – there was serious concern over this year's cutting schedule. As previously stated a meeting would be arranged with CGM and members of the Playing Field Committee would be invited to attend.

Gateway – the gateway at the bottom of Oxborough Road was difficult to get through.

The Bluebell – the owner of The Bluebell was extremely upset that the Parish Council did not support a local business. He had been contacted to provide food and drink for the event held on the playing field to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday, but was later advised that someone else had been offered the contract. If it had not been for Cllr Mrs Taylor advising him he would not have known he was not providing food and drink at the event. It should be noted that The Bluebell can provide a Hogg Roast if requested. There was support for The Bluebell from the public and most agreed that the Parish Council should have supported the local business.

It was reiterated by a member of the public that *'it was disgusting that The Bluebell had not been supported and offered this contract'*

19. Date and time of next meeting - Wednesday 10th August, 2016 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm