

LAXTON AND MOORHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at The Visitor Centre, Laxton commencing 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:

M. Manning (Chair)
M.Hennell
J.Godson
S. Hill
R.Hennell
J.Hill
D. Brown

In attendance:

C. Millward (Clerk)
M. Pringle (County councillor)
S.Michael (District councillor)

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
	<p>The meeting was preceded at 7.00 pm by an open meeting to discuss the installation at key locations of brown signs directing visitors to the village and the design of any such signs.</p> <p>No members of the public attended.</p> <p>After discussion, the following locations were identified:</p> <p>A616 - Kersall crossroad Kneesall crossroad A6075 - At the bottom of Cocking Hill at the brickworks The Tuxford junction between Newcastle Street and Newark Road A614 island at Ollerton and Ollerton roundabout itself Egmanton Green At Weston - B1164 to Egmanton</p> <p>The clerk will investigate the funding available and how to access those monies. Councillor Pringle will support any funding bid.</p> <p>The words, "Laxton - Historic farming village" with a graphic of a plough as a potential working design.</p>	Clerk
LMPC/105/17	<p>Apologies for absence: There were no absences. Mr Godson had been delayed. Councillors noted that, for holiday reasons, there had been some administrative issues regarding the circulation of the meeting papers.</p>	
LMPC/106/17	<p>Declarations of interest: The chair declared an interest as a member of the sports field committee in items 11 a (Property matters – Sports field) and an interest as member of the village hall committee in item 15 b (Village environment – Village hall refurbishment project).</p> <p>There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.</p>	
LMPC/107/17	<p>Dispensations: None required.</p>	

LMPC/108/17	10 Minutes public speaking: No public present.	
LMPC/109/17	Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26 September 2017: The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair. Mr Godson arrived at 7.40 pm during this item	
LMPC/110/17	Matters arising: There were no matters arising.	
LMPC/111/17	Reports from district and county councillors: Councillor Michael reported that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She would seek a progress update regarding the two empty properties in the village 2. The next Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting is at South Muskham village hall on 11 January 2018 at 5.30 pm. Mr S Hill will try to attend 3. NSDC has housed six Syrian families, chosen because each has a family member with a disability and a family member with a trade who will be able to make an economic contribution to the district. Councillor Pringle reported that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. NCC has a new sky lantern policy to address the fire risk associated with the lanterns b. The new LIS funding scheme has opened to applications c. The full council is considering a motion on 22 November 2017 to preserve all county owned land and historic sites from fracking works d. He will chase up the restoration of the fingerpost at Westfield 	SH 11.1.18 MP
LMPC/112/17	Reports from councillors: Mr R Hennell confirmed that the winter salt had been delivered. Mr Brown reported that streetlights 13, 17 and 19 had been repaired but with LEDs which were incongruous with the remaining lights. He and the chair will undertake an inspection of the condition of all the lights to ensure that they are in full working order for the winter.	DB/Chair
LMPC/113/17	2018 meeting dates: Dates as circulated by the clerk approved, save that the January 2018 meeting date should be Tuesday 23 January. The clerk will forward details to the Open Field editor.	Clerk
LMPC/114/17	Financial Matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Financial position as at 31 October 2017: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 October 2017 (incorporating the 2017-18 budget figures). b. Accounts for payment: The council unanimously approved six payments totalling £383.19. c. External auditor's report: Contents and comments noted. Councillors were pleased to receive an unqualified report. They also noted Mr Butler's letter of thanks. d. Appointment of internal auditor: Mr S Hill reported that he had been unsuccessful in his approach to a potential candidate. The clerk will make enquiries of a colleague she had met on her NALC CiLCA training. a. Review system of internal control: Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to 	Clerk

	<p>operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand.</p> <p>e. Consider need for interim internal audit: The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They decided that, given the thorough nature of the internal audit carried out by Mr Butler and routine nature of the parish council's financial affairs this year, an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified.</p> <p>f. Review schedule of fixed assets: Councillors reviewed the schedule of fixed assets. They confirmed that, contrary to the existing schedule, the council owns four benches in Laxton at a value of £400 each. They also decided that the value of Glebe Field was too high and that £10,000 was the appropriate figure. After extensive discussion, it was confirmed that the Wellington bomber memorial belongs to the council and should be recorded in the schedule.</p> <p>g. Donation to Open Field printing costs: Councillors recognised the contribution the magazine makes to the community and in bringing the council's minutes to residents' attention. They agreed that the council should support the publication by donating £60 per year towards the printing costs. They thanked the editor and her team for producing the much valued Open Field.</p>	
<p>LMPC/115/17</p>	<p>Property matters including:</p> <p>a. Sports field: Having declared an interest, the chair withdrew from the meeting. Councillors discussed whether there was an agreement that the sports field committee would reimburse the council for the field rent. The clerk will review the council's minutes for any record of an agreement and write formally to the sports field committee asking them to check their minutes for any record of what had been agreed. The chair returned to the meeting.</p> <p>b. Cricket pitch: The chair confirmed that the landowner had indicated a willingness to retain the cricket pitch in case the cricket team was ever re-formed in the future. No longer required as an agenda item.</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>LMPC/116/17</p>	<p>Parish council website – Transition arrangements and update: Mr Brown agreed that his editorial access should be withdrawn to comply with the council's risk management arrangements. The chair will supply the photos used in the Visitor Centre display to be used on the website. Councillors noted that the website is now being updated with council news.</p>	<p>Clerk Chair</p>
<p>LMPC/117/17</p>	<p>Planning matters:</p> <p>a. Applications:</p> <p>i. 17/01671/FUL Householder application for the relocation, reconstruction and restoration of a timber and blockwork barrel roofed building. Twitchill Farm House Cross Hill Laxton: Councillors considered the application and unanimously decided to support the proposal.</p> <p>ii. 17/01772/FUL Householder application for construction of single storey side and rear extension and demolition of a uPVC porch and the construction of an Orangery. Twitchill Farm House Cross Hill Laxton: Councillors considered the application and, on the understanding that the Orangery is no longer part of the proposal, decided that they had no objection to the proposal.</p> <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: 17/01814/TWCA –</p>	

	<p>The Dovecote, Cross Hill, Laxton – Fell sycamore (x1), clear branch tips blue cedar (x1) – Approval noted.</p> <p>c. Compliance: No issues raised</p>	
<p>LMPC/118/17</p>	<p>Village development including The Crown’s long term strategy: Councillors discussed Mr Iain Mills of The Crown’s email and Mr R Jenrick MP’s letter, both dated 16 November 2017. They were pleased that attention is now being paid to the community’s concerns and needs and that plans are being developed to transfer ownership to a body more structurally suited to the stewardship needs of the open field system and community.</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting is taking place on 7 December 2017 between the Director of Rural Estates and the tenants to discuss matters further. Councillors did not wish to pre-empt those discussions. Until matters progress a little further, the council will not, therefore, be in a position to reach an informed view regarding the future.</p> <p>The councillors agreed that the matter is unlikely to proceed quickly. They were anxious to ensure that they and the village gain the maximum benefit from all the support and interest Mr Jenrick was engaging and would be delighted to welcome Ms Coffey MP, Junior Minister for the Environment, to the community. However, if the full value of that visit is to be realised, its deferral to later in the New Year might be more useful.</p> <p>The clerk will write a letter of thanks to Mr Mills and seek an indication of The Crown’s estimated timescale for the production of a strategy. She will also write a letter of thanks to Mr Jenrick and explain the concern to ensure that Ms Coffey’s visit is as informative as possible.</p> <p>The chair, Mr Brown and Mr S Rose are meeting with Sir John Starkey and Sherwood Forest Trust to explore possible stewardship options.</p> <p>There was discussion of the formation of a working group to help maintain the momentum and support active engagement by the community.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>LMPC/119/17</p>	<p>Village environment and appearance, including:</p> <p>a. Location of and access to community resilience container: Mr R Hennell confirmed that the containers are situated at Corner Farm and at Home View. They are left unlocked for swift access. There was discussion as to whether Home View was the best location for the second container. Mr S Hill and Mr J Hill will investigate.</p> <p>b. Village Hall refurbishment project and grant: The chair reported that the necessary financial arrangements have been made and funds are being paid. It is hoped that work will begin in spring 2018.</p> <p>c. Brown information road signs: See above public meeting preceding this meeting</p> <p>d. Moorhouse – Village fingerpost: This year’s LIS funding has been announced. It was agreed that the council is not in a position to make a strong funding bid at this stage. After discussion, it was decided that the council should begin to accrue a fund to be used for match funding the cost of a fingerpost in the future. The clerk will make a formal request for a donation from councilor Pringle.</p>	<p>SH/JH</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>LMPC/120/17</p>	<p>Service faults: See LMPC/112/17 above (Reports from councillors). The clerk will write to thank NCC for the quality of the works to the Moorhouse ‘bumps’.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

LMPC/121/17	Correspondence: All items of correspondence noted together with NCC's validation consultation received after circulation of the agenda. The clerk will email a copy to all councillors for their information.	Clerk
LMPC/122/17	10 Minutes public speaking time: No public present	
LMPC/123/17	Agenda items for next meeting: As above. British legion lamp post poppies to September 2018 agenda	
LMPC/104/17	Date of next meeting: 23 January 2018 at Laxton Visitor Centre	

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.