

SNETTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Snettisham Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th March, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Cllr E Langford (EL) – Presiding

Cllr J Bailey (JB) [arrived 7.49], Cllr M Fountain (MF), Cllr A Gascoigne (AG), Cllr A Lamplugh (AL), Cllr D Snelgrove (DS)

Also in attendance: Mr A Skipper (RFO), County Cllr J Dobson (JD), Borough Cllr Z Christopher (ZC)

Approximately 25 members of the public

Minutes taken by Simon Bower (Clerk to the Council)

Meeting began at 7.33pm

2014.03.05.01 – Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eddie Fountain, and Borough Councillor Avril Wright (AW)

2014.03.05.02 – No declarations were made at this time, though AG did declare an interest when the agenda reached 11.ii.

2014.03.05.03 – The meeting was suspended for public participation. Subjects raised were: how was Council proposing to repay the cost of the proposed street lighting? – from savings accrued on utility bills, over perhaps seven years; why had the cheque to Ken Hill for Car Park not appeared on accounts? – see note 1 at end.

2014.03.05.04 – There had been no names for co-option put forward. Posters had been at the recent open meeting, and would be at the next, to encourage people to come forward.

2014.03.05.05 – The Chairman raised the following points: Memorial Hall AGM soon - discussion with secretary over dates and protocol; Watermill – Mrs Matsell had donated her share of returned money to RNLI and Meadow House; Santander – still issues with signatories, Heritage fund still in that account; Open Day/Meeting – thanks to councillors who had taken part, 60+ people attending, overwhelmingly positive comments (AL read letter of support), next one on 15th March; Common – cutting taking place on Sunday 9/3/14, AL/JB present from Council, volunteers able to take cut wood, Police aware; Newsletter – printing/delivery in progress, thanks to production team. Finally the Chairman reported his regret that SPC was still under attack in the press and by email; this despite NorfolkALC having told SPC it was happy after last year's meeting; Mr Thorpe and others had written to Henry Bellingham, MP, expressing "serious concerns" over "mismanagement" by the Council.

At this point (7.50) the Chair suspended the meeting, offering Mr Thorpe four minutes to make whatever points he wished. Mr Thorpe responded with "I do not want to comment". Cllrs ZC and JD intervened but no substantive comments were made.

The Chair re-opened the meeting (7.53), but despite repeated requests from him, interruptions from a Member of the Public prevented the meeting restarting; the

Signed:

(Chair)

Date:

Clerk reminded Council of the procedure for removing individuals. *Immediately Council resolved to remove Mr Ebbs from the meeting.*

Prop: AG; unanimous

Mr Ebbs and two others left the meeting.

2014.03.05.06 – The minutes were subject to one change – the word “agents” replacing “legal” in item 05. The Chair signed the minutes.

2014.03.05.07 – Matters arising from those minutes: the photocopier had arrived, but without second toner and stapling facility. On planning application at the Beach Sailing Club (item 13.iv) Council had not been correct with dimensions – Clerk to write to BCKLWN explaining misunderstanding. On issue of Chairman having permission to travel on Beach, the Clerk reported an email from the Environment Agency confirming this; Mr Chapman had been told this at the time; Clerk to copy the email to Mr Chapman.

2014.03.05.08 - JD requested that all correspondence involving MP be copied to him, and he be invited to any meetings with the MP. He talked in detail of the incinerator - £250m more proposed than needed; a possible re-vote; planning permission with SoS; maximum of c.£30m to break contract; similar facility in London took 12 years to complete, so far only 4 at King’s Lynn. CcfA on footpath – sign removal had been approved pending any Councillor “calling in” decision, otherwise becomes valid at 4pm Monday 10th March. NCC had held its budget, but this did not prevent it carrying out its statutory duties. In response to a question from the floor, he confirmed that NCC was responsible for ensuring removal of beach signage.

ZC also requested correspondence with MP for her and AW. The Borough Council was “chuntering on”. She reported improvements to be undertaken around King’s Lynn Town Hall.

2014.03.05.09 – The Clerk read from emails from the Police. A new monthly report was being sent out. He warned of fuel thefts, telephone scams, a burglary and damage to car locally; residents were also informed of a domestic violence initiative, and were warned to maintain security as evenings drew out. Carl Stevens was retiring and handing over to Supt Dennis Lacey.

2014.03.05.10.a – Income and expenditure – MF queried £100 payment for shed – see note 2 below. Clerk to notify BCKLWN that Toilets no longer in SPC hands. Payments for Car Park maintenance confirmed as legitimate. *Council agreed payments as listed.*

Prop: AG; 2nd: AL; unanimous

2014.03.05.10.b – Invoice to be raised to KHE – see note 1 below. Saffron Bond(s) appeared to have lower interest rate than expected – RFO to investigate.

2014.03.05.10.c – Santander: proposed settlement deferred due to continued lack of mandate response.

2014.03.05.10.d – *Council resolved that a “reasonable” sum could be spent on refreshments at Public Meetings. (Section 137).* This to include Open Meetings, Parish Meetings and meetings associated with the Public Inquiry.

Prop: AG; 2nd: MF; unanimous

2014.03.05.10.e – Due to an error at the change in registration of Common Rights in 2006, rights of removal of wood and sand had been lost. SPC wished to maintain those rights for inhabitants of the Village. Subject to NWT recommendations and legal confirmation regarding SPC future rights, *Council resolved to grant traditional rights to inhabitants as Landlord of the Common.*

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Prop: JB; 2nd: MF; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.a.i – Planning:

2014.03.05.11.a.iii – *Council resolved to support the application **14/00197/F** (between 9 and 10 Station Rd) subject to concerns about sewerage and drainage issues being brought to the Borough Council's attention.*

Prop: DS; 2nd: AL; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.a.ii – *Council resolved to support the application **14/00144/F** (5 Sweetbriar Close) provided the materials matched those present.*

Prop: DS; 2nd: MF; 5-0

2014.03.05.11.a.iv – *Council objected to the plans for application **14/00235/CU*** (zorbing etc. at Park Farm) on the grounds of proximity to stables adversely affecting horses, traffic levels, noise and general location. NB: It was also noted that an address of 27 Manor Lane could be confusing.*

Prop: AG; 2nd: AL; 5-1

2014.03.05.11.a.v – *Council made no further comments on the application **13/01736/FM**, other than to request the Clerk to repeat its reservations referred to in previous correspondence, regarding drainage, traffic etc.*

The Clerk then read a mail from a Parishioner expressing concern over plans for a building at the Beach area (to be discussed at the next meeting) due to SoS permission possibly being required. Clerk to contact BCKLWN.

2014.03.05.11.b.i – Amenities

2014.03.05.11.b.ii – *Offers of voluntary work and donations of materials had been received to complete War Memorial in time for a possible re-dedication ceremony. Clerk to confirm panels now able to be sealed as per previous contract. Council resolved to approve replacement of carrstone base to War Memorial by volunteers, using materials supplied by donors, or using funding already agreed.*

Prop: AL; 2nd: JB; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.b.iii – flag: this item ruled out of order

2014.03.05.11.b.iv – *Council resolved to spend up to £150 on removal of chickens from area around Goose Green Road.*

Prop: MF; 2nd: AL; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.b.v – *Council approved expenditure of £320 on "MOT" of all SPC trees in Village.*

Prop: MF; 2nd: AG; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.b.vi – *In the absence of any other quotes, Council resolved to continue Heronwood Landscapes contract for cutting and maintenance work.*

Prop MF; 2nd: AG; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.c.i – Beach – no report

2014.03.05.11.c.ii – *Given proximity of Annual PCM and end of footpath fight, it was felt that a reordering of Support Groups was likely, including a possible "Open Spaces" group; hence there was no vote on a Lead Councillor*

2014.03.05.11.c.iii – *The paper presented seemed not to be referring to the correct cabin. However given the similarity, Council resolved to put the Car Park Cabin up for sale on eBay.*

Prop: MF; 2nd: AL; unanimous

2014.03.05.11.d&e – no reports

2014.03.05.11.f – *The position re: signage at the Beach as above was re-iterated.*

2014.03.05.12 – *MF reported that WECMS would be active again soon.*

2014.03.05.13.a – *A meeting to be arranged with MHT to discuss moving forward with this.*

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2014.03.05.14 – The Clerk reported various press releases including Time Credits and the “Ask Lily” Directory for older people.

2014.03.05.15 – no requests

2014.03.05.16 – The meeting was suspended for public participation. Subjects raised were: minutes relating to Mr Chapman’s questions at last meeting; did the issue in 10.e above affect shingle rights? – no; the contribution to the Heritage Centre ex the Watermill – £1115.88; Mr Ebbs’ ejection from the meeting; newsletter account of SBSC donations to support Mr Chapman – Chair accused of “telling lies”; heated criticism and personal insults of the Chair, some relating to Sailing Club; VAT issue.

After this the Clerk made a brief statement regarding the VAT issue. He observed that this was an issue exercising Clerks throughout the country, and was confused and inconsistent at best. The only certainties were that HMRC should never have de-registered SPC from income VAT, and that since we have been paying for 2013 Car Park income the figures being quoted in the press need to be reduced. He added on a personal note that he resented spending time writing answers to emails only to be told that his answers were not accepted. All answers were sent in good faith, and to his knowledge accurate.

2014.03.05.17 – Next meeting confirmed as 7.30pm, Wednesday 2nd April, 2014; Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.33

Note 1 – the answer given at the time was incorrect. The Clerk wrote asap (6/3/14) to Mrs Parkes to correct the answer. As the VAT due for the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 was not accounted for at the time, KHE had been overpaid. Due to the surplus being smaller in those years, the overpayment totalled more than this year’s rent; hence no payment was made, rather a claim for payment of c£113 was sent.

Note 2 – the Income and Expenditure sheet showed a £100 charge for the shed. This should have read £40 as was confirmed by Clerk and RFO on 6/3/14.

**erroneously referred to as CPU on agenda*

Abbreviations:

BCKWLN – Borough Council (King’s Lynn and West Norfolk)

CcfA – Councillor call for Action

HMRC – Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs

KHE – Ken Hill Estates

MHT – Memorial Hall Trustees

NCC – Norfolk County Council

NorfolkALC – Norfolk Association of Local Councils

NWT – Norfolk Wildlife Trust

PCM – Parish Council Meeting

RNLI – Royal National Lifeboat Institution

SBSC – Snettisham Beach Sailing Club

SoS – Secretary of State

SPC – Snettisham Parish Council

VAT – Value Added Tax

WECMS – Wash East Coast Management Strategy

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