

SEPTEMBER 2012

DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

170

Action by

The 2012 September meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the village hall at 7.30 p.m. with Cllr. Green in the Chair & the following present-Cllrs. M.C. & M. P. Ankrett, Chadd, Cossey, James, Kirkpatrick, Mison, Mulley & Weston together with clerk John Smith. Also present were PCSO Nightingale, County Councillor Tomkinson, District Councillor Allen and four members of the public, two of them being Mrs.G.Ogden and Mr.S.Read, both of whom were applicants for the one council vacancy.

The clerk made reference to the blue print on agendas & pointed out that whilst some was for councillors information it was also for assistance to members of the public.

1. No Apologies for absence as all councillors were present.
2. No Members Interests were declared.
3. Minutes of the last meeting, with two amendments by the Chair, were confirmed & would be signed at the end of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

Roundabout Advertising was considered by the district council to be subject to planning permission but the county council disagreed. With councillors unanimously deploring this distraction to drivers it was left to the Planning & Highways Committee to voice council displeasure to NCC. KW

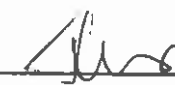
Council Response to Hobart High becoming an Academy would be NO. as KW  
*agreed by a majority of councillors in a ballot.*

Loddon Road verges had been brought up to road level because severe crumbling was taking place and two posts erected to safeguard the footpath entrance. Cllr. Mulley felt the overnight parking by fishermen should be enforced by the Estate and the clerk was instructed to push for the Ecological Study so as to enable a planning application to go forward for a parking area. JS

5. Reports

PCSO Nightingale gave information on the 8 village crime statistics over the last month and reported 83 incident calls from residents. Gathering of young persons at the crossroads had fallen off but patrols would continue monitoring as usual. He replied to the query of partial pavement parking by vehicles saying that this was no longer enforced but any other problems should be put to the Norfolk Parking KW Partnership. The Chair thanked PCSO for having attended & he then left.

County Cllr. Tomkinson reported that the current Police Authority would cease to exist on 22<sup>nd</sup> October & the Police & Crime Commissioner election on 15<sup>th</sup> November had three candidates being one Conservative, one Labour & one non-political. He spoke of the speedy response by Highways to improving verges along Loddon Road as there had been serious road edge crumbling. Some 50 million pounds was being used from the Com.Construction Fund to fund better Broadband but Cllr. M.P.Ankrett felt a better use for this money could have been found.

  
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Cllr. Cossey queried the expenditure on new lighting but Cllr. Tomkinson explained that NCC had been directed to lower light pollution and whilst the standards may appear sound there was rusting below ground level.

District Cllr. Allen paid tribute to Cllr. Weston's efforts in applying for grants which had necessitated lengthy form filling and positive results appeared most likely. The SAM machine had been put to excellent use by Cllr. Mulley & helpers with every chance of further use in the future.

She spoke of the Ditchingham Dam Conservation Area exhibition and of the very successful opening ceremony of the Affordable Housing

The Good Neighbourhood Scheme was slowly gathering momentum & the SN Local Plan would be completed in Spring 2013 for forwarding to the Sec. of State.

Cllr. M.C. Ankrett's criticism of the wasted paper in circulating an election questionnaire to every household, was agreed by other councillors when just one to the clerk would suffice, and was taken on board.

*letter offering Councillors the opportunity to acquire a copy of E Roll.*

6. Finances

Cheques as per annex A were authorised.

7. Planning Committee Report

Applications as per annex B brought no comment but that from the Broads Authority 0267 seeking to repaint the existing boundary fence dark blue & erect signage with development details at the maltings did.

Firstly the work had been done and one sign was outside the boundary. Nevertheless it was unanimously agreed to approve this application given that the Council *is* the scheme

*SW supports*

Two responses to highway issues, reported by councillors, had been passed on to NCC.

- Overgrown hedges
- Broken pavement @ Ditchingham Dam

*SW*

8. Advisory Committee Reports

Planning & Highways Chair, Cllr. Weston, reported that the Local Development Plan had identified a site for 20 dwellings although council responses to consultations had consistently been that none were desired. With a 13 point questionnaire for him to respond to it was agreed that he simply reaffirms that the council position has not changed.

KW

SAM deployment had been most diligent & Cllr. Mulley had prepared a summary of the 52 hours worked which gave very interesting statistics which would be in the next LINK periodical. He stated that what was needed now was a hand held camera so that the many irresponsible speeding drivers could be prosecuted. His effort to help safety in the village was most appreciated by councillors and thanks were given to him.

Hedges causing concern in Loddon Road had been investigated and that opposite to the Duke of York cut, with that opposite the garage being dealt with by NCC who had written to the owner which should result in a drastic cut back to the proper boundary. No success had been had with that to the rear of 20 Windmill Green as the owner had not been able to be contacted as yet.

JS

*[Signature]*

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Local Development Chair, Cllr. Jane Chadd, reported on progress with projects on the Dip with grant applications very time consuming. but a 10K conditional one had been made which, if paid, would enable improvements to the Skate section together with a possible Youth Shelter. Goalposts were to hand and would be sited shortly. The archery evening had been a huge success and more Sportivate sessions would follow.

Maintenance & Environment Chair, Cllr. Kirkpatrick, reported the allotments to be in good order & the Play Area inspection report (32 colour pages) was to hand. RK A WREN application needed input from youngsters & he had involved the School Council.

Finance & Resources Committee business would be taken in Item 10.

9. No issues not decided by Committee.

10. Council Working Practices

Terms of Reference, attachment 1, were just the bare bones & need to be expanded and each committee may elect their own Chair. KWRKJC

Draft Health & Safety, attachment 2, will be developed to cover more of Council assets and responsibilities


Draft Equal Opportunities, attachment 3.

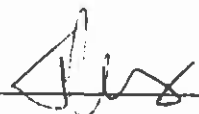
Cllr. Weston, proposed that these two drafts be reviewed & returned and Cllr. Chadd seconded with all in agreement.

Finances & Resources Committee had circulated a Protocol for the Production of Minutes, attachment 4, with paras requiring the clerk to allow the Chair to have prior sight of them before other councillors, to check for clarity, omissions, & any factual or typographical errors. It was known that the clerk was now refusing to do this, as a matter of course, following meetings. Vice Chair Cllr. Weston circulated a further Protocol with the objected to para 3, amended to say "it would be helpful for the draft minutes to go to the Chair....". Reference: "Governance Toolkit" endorsed by the Soc. of Local Council Clerks. The clerk quoted from the Soc. of Local Council Clerks which made it clear that, as a matter of policy, the minute taker could not be required to give prior notice of minutes to the Chair before other councillors. He had also confirmed this with the Assce. of Local Councils.

Consequently an amendment was put by Cllr. M.C. Ankrett that paras 3 & 4 be deleted and substituted by "the clerk should be allowed to deal with his minutes as he had done so prior to May 2011". This was seconded by Cllr. James and the amendment carried 8 to 2.

Drafts of Risk Policy & Village Green(Dip) hiring would be discussed at the November meeting.

  
Soc of Local  
Council Clerks  
to  
Assocn of  
Council  
Secretaries  
as Secretary.

  
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### 11. Co-opt a Councillor

With two candidates having provided details of themselves they were given the opportunity to enlarge on these with Mrs.G.Ogden speaking first and happily answering questions.

Mr.S.Read then followed and did likewise.

A secret ballot was then taken and Mrs.G.Ogden with an absolute majority accepted to fill the vacancy.

Cllr. Kirkpatrick, and others, expressed the view that with two such suitable people it was a pity only one could be accepted.

Recognising this sentiment the Chair suggested that Mr. Read might be co-opted on to one of the committees in a non voting capacity if he and the council agreed. This could be Local Development and with all councillors and Mr. Read happy with this suggestion this was done.

### 12. Correspondence

Information had been received from SNC Neighbourhood Officer, Nigel Bailey, about a scheme whereby residents could benefit from up to 50% subsidy towards the hire of mopeds.

Full details were on our notice board.

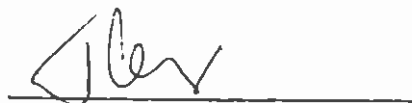
13. There was no other Urgent Other Business.

14. Next Scheduled meeting dates were agreed.

15. Items for next agenda

The question of "No Dog" signs being erected around the Village Green(Dip).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10 p.m.



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