

Minutes of a meeting of Scarning Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 21 July 2008.

Present

Mr A Glister, Mr M Steward, Mrs H Hudson and Mrs W Brown

In attendance

Mr N Hartley Mrs E Gould

16 members of the public

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that apologies had been received from Mr P Wadsworth, Miss J Magrath and Mr C Farnham, who were detained by work and Mr N Eagle, who was sick.

Mr Glister noted that the Council had received a letter of resignation from Mr S Faulkner. Mr Faulkner resigned due to increased work and family commitments. Mr Glister said on behalf of the Parish Council and the people of Scarning how indebted they were to Mr Faulkner for his professionalism and expertise. The amount of time Mr Faulkner had given to the council was exemplary. Mr Faulkner was also thanked for his work regarding the play area on the Water Meadows.

2. Presentation by Peter Smith

Peter Smith of Norfolk Rural Community Council addressed the meeting on Parish Plans. A Parish Plan is a report based on consultation in the community, which describes those features most valued by the community. A Plan identifies the major issues affecting the community. It is a statement about how the community sees itself developing over the next few years and what actions are needed to achieve that vision.

A Parish Plan, he said, is the basis for action by the community and can be used as a route to winning funds for local initiatives. It should involve the whole community and should be led by members of the community. Its committee should include, he suggested, no more than three Parish Councillors.

3. Declarations of Interest

Mrs H Hudson declared an interest in discussions on the Local Development Framework Site Specifics document.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2008 were confirmed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

6. Finance

The clerk informed the meeting that the current balances are as follows: Current Account, £5,287.97 Scottish Widows £13,996.23

Payments made and approved in accordance with budget

Cq 100881 L F Everett & Son, newsletter printing, £79.00

Cq 100882 Breckland Leaflet Distribution, newsletter delivery, £40 Cq 100883 T Brown, newsletter delivery, £40

Cq 100884 Flying Cloud Ltd, Internal Audit Report 2006/07, £125

Cq 100885 Adventure Playgrounds Ltd, repairs to play equipment, £3 76 Cq 100886 N Hartley, reimbursement of expenses, £116.52

Cq 100887 Wybone Ltd, purchase of dog bin, £256.42

Cq 100888 E-On, electricity charges, £90.01

Cq 100889 Johnson Hire & Sales, resurfacing track at Scarning Fen, £1,762.50 Cq 100890 D A Ovenden, risk assessment report of parish assets, £135

Cq 100891 R B Allsop, grass and hedge cutting, £1,139.75

Payments Received

H M Customs & Excise, Refund of V AT

£1,217.64

7. Approval of Annual Governance Statement & Signing of Annual Return

The clerk and the chairman signed the Annual Return.

8. Financial Regulations

The clerk noted that the Financial Regulations had been amended in line with new Audit procedures. The clerk had distributed a copy of the amended Financial Regulations to all councillors. There were no objections,

9. Planning

a. Parish Council comments sent to Breckland District Council

- Mr & Mrs J McSkimming, Hope Springs, Dereham Road Side first floor extension and detached garage/garden store

No objection

- Executors of Mr K J Hunt, Kenmur, Podmore

Retention of bungalow without compliance with agricultural condition

No objection

Breckland Council Decisions

- Laurence Wright & Sons, erection of grain

Approved

- Mr Tillcock, 6 Grove Close, two storey side extension & garage

Approved

- Mr & Mrs J McSkimming, Hope Springs, Dereham Road Side first floor extension and detached garage garden store

Approved

- Mr & Mrs M Brown, land adjacent to Delrow, Dereham Road Garage conversion to dwelling & erection of single garage

Refused

Planning Application Considered

Ms V Fisher, 30 Hawthorn Drive, erection of front porch

No objection

10. Local Development Framework Site Specifics Document

Mrs Hudson declared an interest and left the room. Members of the public were invited to examine the site specifics map. In view of the number of councillors attending the meeting, no decision was taken regarding the document. The chairman asked the clerk about the council's land at Broadway Allotment. The clerk noted that as the Secretary of State has refused permission to sell the land, the council should probably withdraw the site. The chairman said he would prefer to leave the matter to the next meeting.

The chairman asked if other landowners had been approached regarding selling land near the allotments on Dereham Road. The clerk noted that he had received a response from Mr S Archer indicating a willingness to consider a sale of his land. The clerk had also written to the School Trust and Mr Howell of Vale Farm, but had received no response from either.

11. Risk Assessment Report of Parish Assets

An assessment of the Parish Council's assets had been carried out by DA Ovenden. A copy had been sent to all councillors in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that the clerk will decide what items in the report most need addressing and arrange for any necessary works to be carried out.

12. Scarning Fuel Allotment Charity

The chairman noted that the charity has an obligation under Charity Commission rules to consider the distribution of funds to those in need. He noted how difficult it was to identify those most in hardship. In the light of increasing fuel costs, he suggested that a small allocation of approximately £20 could be made to the elderly, the disabled and those who can prove they are in hardship. Applications will also be considered on behalf of those in hardship. It was agreed to place an item in the next newsletter.

13. Parish Website

The clerk had spoken to Richard Allan with regard to establishing a parish website. Mr Allan explained there will be costs involved in setting up and running the site. It was agreed to establish a working party comprising Mr Glister, Mr Steward, Mrs Brown to liaise with Mr Allan. The clerk will also approach Mr C Farnham to see if he will become involved.

14. Exercise Equipment for Senior Citizens

Mrs Brown explained that there is a range of exercise equipment available for the elderly. The equipment can also be used by younger people. It was agreed that the clerk will get costings and the item will be included in discussions on the parish precept at the next council meeting. Mr Glister noted that the equipment might be the much needed catalyst regarding the Water Meadows play area.

15. Scarning Water Meadows

The clerk read a letter from Ray Johnson of Breckland District Council in which he noted that the District Council was still in discussions with the Hawk & Owl Trust regarding the site.

It was noted that no response had been received to the request in the parish newsletter for members of a committee to run the play equipment site. A request will be put in future newsletters in view of the parish's changing population.

16. NCC & Breckland Matters

The County Council is considering the Parish Council's request for a foot way between Chestnut Road and Cooper Terrace.

Work to replace the centre lines on Stone Road and a painted 30 mph roundel on Drayton Hall Lane have been programmed.

The 20 mph speed limit outside the school has been assessed for inclusion in trials, but does not meet the accepted criteria, having a foot way on one side only and a school crossing patrol at Drayton Hall Lane junction.

The seepage of water at Blackthorn drive had stopped on last inspection. The inspector will monitor.

The potholes on Grange Road have been filled and ditches cleaned.

The surface water on the C470 near the school is to be programmed for inspection and near the allotments. It was noted that there had recently been an accident on near the allotments.

The clerk had received Breckland Council's Environment Strategy and copies of an information booklet explaining how the planning system works. These were distributed to the chairman for onward transmission.

17. Correspondence

The clerk noted that letters of thanks for the Parish Council's grant had been received from the Village Hall Trust & Estate and Scarning PCC.

The Boundary Committee

Mrs Gould will provide the council with more facts and figures about the proposals. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

Police Community Support Officer

The meeting welcomed the appointment of a new Police Community Support Officer, who is living in the parish.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

The meeting was then opened to members of the public for further comments.

- It was noted that a bush on the pavement near Podmore Lane needs cutting back.
- Mr R Steward noted that the copse near the church on Chapel Lane is owned by the Diocese and that hopefully a public meeting about it can be held at a later date.
- It was noted that the hedge near Scarning Hall needs cutting back.