

LINTON ON OUSE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
 held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.00 pm
 in the Village Hall Linton on Ouse

N^o Present

Cllr. Croft (Chairman), Cllrs. Bramma, Goodridge, Keegan and Kirby, District Cllr. Rooke, Patrick Lewis-Brown, Lucy Pope (Clerk). 14 Members of the Public also in attendance.

15-0125 Apologies for Absence

Cllr, Lund, County Cllr. Patmore, M Lumsden (RAF).

15-0126 Councillors' Declaration of Interest

None received.

15-0127 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2015, having been previously circulated, were approved (with one spelling mistake amended) and signed by the Chairman.

15-0128 Actions from Previous Meeting

- All Councillors to consider the draft budget for 2016/17 and to forward any comments, additions and/or amendments to the Clerk. The Clerk reported no comments received so far but also that this is a substantive item later in the agenda.
- Linton on Ouse Village website: Chair to check costs involved and to contact Paul Gregson. The Chair reported that he has contacted Paul Gregson who has no objection to the Parish Council taking over ownership of the web domain. The Clerk also reported that she had contacted the current web host (5quidhost.com): costs depend on the amount of storage space provided but on first looking the most appropriate package will be £5 pcm. Daniel Croft however needs to contact 5quidhost first to initiate transfer of the website account to the Parish Council.
- Clerk to contact all village groups to collate their relevant structures and procedures. The Clerk reported that she had at the invitation of Team Linton attended a meeting with them just before Christmas at which very useful discussion regarding procedures and future working took place. The Clerk is yet to meet with the Village Hall Committee, Gardening and History Clubs but hopes to attend the Village Hall AGM on 19 January 2016.
- Playground: Cllr. Bramma to purchase warning signs and install at the playground. Cllr Bramma reports that he has purchased the signs and will install them when the weather relents a bit.

15-0129 Public Forum

The Chair acknowledged the large number of public in attendance and indicated that if more than the allotted 15 minutes was required to allow necessary discussion in light of the current issues for the village then he would do so.

15-0129.1 Mrs Calaminus, Beech Tree Court: there has been a longstanding problem in Beech Tree Court affecting the discharge of foul water & sewage from Beech Tree Court into the main sewer when there has been persistent and heavy rain. This most recently reoccurred very significantly over Christmas/Boxing Day and again earlier this month. It would appear that when there is prolonged rainfall the sewers cannot cope with the volume of water resulting in foul water and possibly even sewage backing up into Beech Tree Court. Each incidence has been reported to Yorkshire Water over the years who apparently agree that these problems are unacceptable: but in light of these latest recurrences Mrs Calaminus now requests that that the Parish Council undertake to contact Yorkshire Water to encourage them to properly investigate. Mrs Calaminus further stated that it is known that some Main St houses do have permission to discharge into the sewer, as does the RAF base: she would like to know just how many properties do have such permission but also why is that even the case? Furthermore, as more properties are built, renovated or extended there surely will

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be more demand on the sewer from waste & foul water? As such, just how do the sewage & storm water drainage arrangements fit within the planning process?

Cllr Croft indicated his support and commented that the big danger in Linton is actually not necessarily from the river but possibly more so from problems such as these highlighted by Mrs Calmaminus. Cllr Rooke further commented that every application for new houses or for alterations has to be assessed and approved by Yorkshire Water so as to ensure that there is sufficient capacity. Cllr Rooke commented that Easingwold has a similar problem to this in Beech Tree Court and agreed that Yorkshire Water should be asked to investigate.

ACTION: CLERK TO CONTACT YORKSHIRE WATER TO REQUEST INVESTIGATION OF SEWER PROBLEMS IN BEECH TREE COURT

15-0129.2 Penny Johnson, Half Moon St: for the last 25 years there has been 4 working streetlights in Half Moon Street however none are now now working. Ms Johnson has tried to establish who owns or is responsible for the streetlights but cannot find any company that accepts that they supply electricity to those lights. Ms Johnson requests that the Parish Council help to establish who the relevant cables belong to and who supplies electricity to them. Cllrs agreed to this request.

ACTION: PENNY JOHNSON TO EMAIL CLERK WITH DETAILS OF ALL ENQUIRIES MADE TO DATE; CLERK TO THEN MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF MS JOHNSON

15-0129.3 There then followed an extensive discussion regarding Linton Bridge, its safety and the current road and footpath closures over it:

Steve Raper, Linton Woods lane: Mr Raper had emailed the Clerk late Sunday evening regarding the situation with the bridge outlining a number of questions and issues that he asked the Parish Council to raise with Highways in order to save time at this meeting:

- review, as a matter of high priority, the bridge closure. The impact on our community is critical and could see the closure of some local business;
- request a copy of their Bridge Plan, in particular the points covering bridge closure policy post-flooding.
- request a copy of any Risk Assessments they have conducted in relation to this closure - in particular any increased risk to road traffic on less suitable alternate routes.
- provide a list of all other NY bridges that have been closed and are awaiting inspection, even though the water levels have subsided. If it is "policy" to close bridges after flooding, why did it take so long for Kyle Bridge to be closed (it was in use for many days after the water levels dropped).
- To ask "If there had been no report of damage to the bridge, would it now be closed?"
- Also are we now to expect massive disruption annually given that Kyle Bridge has flooded almost every year since 2000 and will continue to do so in the future?

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Highways yesterday regarding Mr Raper's queries and had received the following response:

There is not a specific policy relating to closing bridges following floods, I have recently provided the information below which should assist (hopefully);

"Linton Bridge was initially closed under an emergency closure due to rising river levels that raised cause for concern regarding the safety of road users. This occurred during the Christmas period, unfortunately the signage was tampered with on a number of occasions which is why it became confusing to commuters to whether it was closed or not closed.

We subsequently compiled a list of bridges that had been affected by flooding to our Structures team – it was at this point following dialogue with that team the bridge was closed due to concerns for its structural integrity and that of the adjacent embankment.

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Detailed assessments and any associated records are not yet available as the inspections have not been possible yet given the current water levels.

The arch of the bridge can only be inspected when there is a 6 foot draught beneath the arch, as the river level has risen again we are currently not able to advise when the Structures team will be able to carry out their inspection and until the inspection is complete the bridge will remain fully closed.

This position is being reviewed daily and I am providing regular updates via the Parish Clerk, County Councillor and our Customer Services team.

I am really sorry for the disruption this closure is causing, however I hope you can appreciate that the closure is necessary to safeguard the travelling public and until we know that the structure is in a safe condition we cannot allow access."

Other closures can be viewed on our website;

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25369/Current-emergency-road-and-bridge-closures>

Cllrs then explained the circumstances around reporting the flooding at the bridge on 27th December. When contacted directly, the Highways engineer was immediately concerned about the safety of the embankment as well as the bridge and instructed immediate closure. Cllrs highlighted that the Council has a duty of care to the public and so it was only right that it was closed if such concern. It was questioned whether the bridge was only closed because it was reported as actually being damaged and comment was made regarding what about the damage to the local roads as a result of heavy traffic on the diversion routes. The Chair reiterated that when he went to look at the bridge on the 27th he met a lady waiting for a tractor to come and take her through the water which was approximately 2-3' deep and flowing very fast out of the Ouse into the Kyle; both the lady and the Chair agreed that the situation should be reported which he did by contacting the Highways engineer direct to request urgent inspection as a result of which the bridge was subsequently closed.

Mr Raper highlighted that there is a suggestion that NYCC policy is to just close flooded bridges without inspection and made a further request to see the risk assessments done by NYCC as a result especially to identify if they take into account the damage to the minor roads being used as for the diversion. This request was echoed by Michael Keegan who also made comment, as did Mrs Kirby regarding a recent issue in Linton when there was an unnecessary 10 day road closure by NYCC when all that was ultimately required was 2 days at the most and that NYCC need to address this inefficiency. Andy Brown also asked what risk assessments are done in respect of how emergency services can get through with the road closed: the Chair commented that he had asked an ambulance driver who he saw in the village this week: she and her colleagues were aware of the closure albeit there was then discussion in the meeting about whether Ambulance Dispatch reroute their vehicles or whether it is left up to individual crews.

The Clerk then reiterated the latest update from Highways in that until the water level and water flow drop it will not be possible for NYCC to adequately inspect the embankment or the bridge and thus it is not possible to assess whether either are safe; until safety can be confirmed Highways have assessed that it is too risky to allow people over the bridge by foot or by vehicle. Cllr Bamma advised that the Parish Council clearly suggest that people should not cross the footbridge or remove any of the signs/barriers to cross by vehicle as has been done so on several occasions. But if an individual chooses to ignore the closures and to risk crossing Cllr Bamma also suggested that it is irresponsible and inadvisable to then advertise the fact on social media as some people have been doing.

Mrs Kirby highlighted the problems, confusion and possible dangers experienced by some local residents as a result of the signs being removed on several occasions and people thus not knowing

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whether the bridge was open or not and risking crossing. The Police were even required one day to close the bridge as the signs had been thrown away however there is now high mesh netting and concrete blocks across the road to prevent further tampering with the closure. There was further discussion regarding signage and it was suggested that additional road closure signs should be requested to alert drivers at Aldwark Bridge and also on the A19 that there currently is no through road.

Cllr Bramma highlighted that if the road ultimately opens but not the footpath then there would be a need to request traffic control across the bridge so as to ensure safe crossing for pedestrians: it is important to plan for any eventualities.

Mrs Calaminus asked if the Parish Council could put extra pressure on Stephenson's to lay on more shuttle buses as there is only an early morning bus out of the village. The Clerk highlighted that this shuttle had actually been laid on following contact with Stephenson's but a further request could be made.

Cllr Bramma highlighted that everyone knows of people who may need assistance and asked that we all look out for them and help wherever possible. Cllr Goodridge also highlighted the even greater need to support our local businesses too.

Cllr Rooke highlighted that the leader of NYCC Carl Les is fully aware of the ongoing problems with Linton Bridge as is the NYCC Highways portfolio holder too.

Comment was then made that we all chose to live here in Linton and also the problems that could happen and affect us here. The problem with this situation is possibly exacerbated by the world we now live in where people are prone to sue for the slightest thing and so no organisation will take the risk.

Michael Keegan reminded the meeting that when NYCC Highways came to a meeting here 3 years ago they were questioned about the substandard aggregate being used to support the bridge which was likely to store up problems in the future: only 2.5 years later all that aggregate has washed away.

15-0130 County Councillor's Report

In the absence of County Cllr Patmore no report was given.

15-0131 District Councillors Report

District Cllr. Rooke reported that a lot of applications are coming through for housing in villages: HDC policy is to now allow a small amount of new build in villages in order to support those communities. Cllr Rooke has also made the Housing Association aware about the pond and what an eyesore it is at the back of the new houses: he is hoping to meet with the Housing Association soon to address this. The Chair suggested that the Community Payback team may be able to assist in tidying this area up. Cllr Rooke reports that he is aware that the field set aside for the new allotments has been underwater recently too and that there is a real need to sort the drainage out in that area: he will address this with the Housing Association too when he meets them.

15-0132 RAF Liaison Officers Report

Patrick Lewis-Brown updated that he is busy trying to compile the annual community needs analysis and will update the Parish Council as he makes progress. He also introduced Charlie Goodfellow the new youth worker at the Station who will be doing outreach work in the community.

The Clerk reported that Flt Lt Mike Lumsden had sent a written report which advised that there are 4 Basic Fast Jet Training courses currently running: Course 255 is due for Graduation on 22nd January 2016, Course 256 is programmed for Graduation on 01st April 2016, Course 257 on 27th May 2016 and Course 258 on 19th August 2016. Night Flying will take place during the period 1st to 12th

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Regarding the future of the Station Flt Lt Lumsdon reports that the Ministry of Defence position currently remains as follows:

Under current planning assumptions, the future of RAF Linton-on-Ouse remains secure until the end of the decade, when the Tucano is due to go out of service. No decisions have been made regarding the Station's future beyond the Out of Service date of the Tucano. Any decisions on the future of RAF Linton-on-Ouse reside outside of the Military Flying Training System programme.

As soon as the Station has any further news on a decision regarding the future of the Station, they will ensure the Parish Council is informed as soon as possible.

15-0133 Clerk's Report and Financial Matters

15-0133.1 The Clerk gave her general report and advised that the RAF Christmas party for local pensioners had again been a great success with 26 pensioners attending from Linton. The HDC Housing needs survey had also been successfully distributed to all households even despite very limited and tight timescales given and the Clerk thanked Councillors and Mrs Kirby for assisting her in the quick distribution. The Clerk further reported that the current Excel-based worksheets used to manage the Parish Council accounts are very cumbersome and time-consuming. She has therefore been researching various open-source (and free) accounting packages and is currently trying one out alongside the normal worksheets to see if it could meet the Council needs. However the Clerk asked that if any Councillors had suggestions regarding any accounting packages that they contact her. The Clerk then presented her quarterly financial report (July – Oct 2015) for consideration by Councillors which was subsequently approved.

15-133.2 The Clerk then re-presented the First draft of 2016-17 budget for Councillors' review. The Clerk reported that she has advised HDC of the tentative precept amount for 2016/17 as per the draft budget but that this was subject to approval at this meeting. Cllrs approved the draft budget and confirmed a precept request of £11,500 for the forthcoming year 2016/17: this equates to a Band D charge of £32.19, an increase of £0.22 on this year's charge.

15-133.3 Payment of the following accounts was approved:

- Jan Jauncey for Remembrance Day wreaths: £40.00
- Gross Salaries December 2015: £479.17
- Park Lane Services for Playground inspection: £42.00
- Andrew Brama for Playground signs: £64.80
- Revenue & Customs Tax on Salaries. £115.00
- Clerk's expenses Oct 2015 – Jan 2016: £60.05
- Gross Salaries January 2016: £479.17

15-0134 Planning

15-134.1 Council noted approval by HDC of the following application:

Construction of conservatory extending 5m beyond rear wall, 3.686m max from ground level & 2.381m to eaves, 5 River View, Main St, Linton, Mr G Scott, **15/01957/RPN**

15-0135 Highways

15-0135.1 Linton Bridge – as per 15-0129.3 above

15-0136 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received:

- Changes to the External Audit Regime: the Clerk outlined that the Audit Commission ceased to

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exist on the 1 April 2015 and a new company – Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA Ltd) - has been created this week to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. Smaller authorities including Parish Councils can now choose to have an auditor appointed to them by the new ‘sector-led body’ or they can decide to procure their own: all such authorities are automatically opted in to the new body and will have an auditor procured for them however the Parish Council is entitled to opt out of the new arrangements. Following discussion all Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should remain ‘opted-in’ to the new arrangements and thus to allow the SAAA Ltd to appoint external auditors for them.

- HDC New Waste & Recycling Collection Policy: for information.
- Queen’s 90th birthday beacons: for information and see 15-0123 below.
- HDC Housing Enablers winter newsletter: for information.
- NYCC Changes to supported bus services from April 2016: for information

15-0137 New Items

15-137.1 To consider and agree Parish Council meeting dates for 2016-17: The Clerk distributed a list of meeting dates for 2016/17 based on the usual 2nd Tuesday of the month. Council approved the dates.

ACTION: CLERK / CHAIR TO PUBLISH 2016/17 MEETING DATES ON VILLAGE WEBSITE

15-137.2 S.106 funding: The Chair outlined that a substantial amount of S.106 money available to claim from HDC. Cllr Rooke advised that this should be applied for ASAP otherwise it will be lost. Cllr Brama suggested that a meeting be held asap to agree an action plan which could then go to the next Parish Council meeting for formal consideration. He suggested that copies of Newton on Ouse’s action plan be obtained to assist completion of Linton’s. The Chair advised that any money obtained has to be used for open space projects: a suggestion from a member of the public was to build a segway/cycling track as there is nowhere flat, smooth and safe for young people to do so in this area. Cllr Rooke advised that S.106 funding is now being replaced by a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in respect of any new builds. This is charged at £55 per m² of which the Parish Council will get 15% which can be spent as the PC sees fit albeit if a Housing Neighbourhood Plan is done this amount can increase to 25%.

15-137.3 Allotments: the Chair reported that a meeting had been held with the landowner and a small committee had been formed to try and get the allotments established. Unfortunately the last meeting was only attended by the Chair and the Chair of the Allotment group and minimal work has been progressed. As discussed at 15-0131, there has however been concern about the water flooding the site which has contributed to the lack of progress.

15-137.4 Neighbourhood Watch: the Chair reported that a Neighbourhood Watch Chair and 3 coordinators are now in place however there is a need for more volunteers to be coordinators. The Clerk explained that a coordinator merely takes responsibility for a small number of houses and for coordinating the flow of information between them. Three members of the public then volunteered to act as coordinators.

ACTION: CLERK TO FORWARD DETAILS OF VOLUNTEERS TO NHW CHAIR

15-137.5 Village website lintononouse.com: as per 15-0128 above. Also that Council agreed that PC should take over ownership of the website and that the Clerk should manage the site. The chair has Mrs Kirby questioned whether the website could be used as a forum to issue relevant information to the village such as all the information about the bridge closure this week: Council agreed that this would be an ideal use for the website. Discussion then ensued about whether the website could have links to local (village) businesses on it and whether effectively providing advertising could be an

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issue for the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that she would envisage that any local group e.g. Team Linton, the Village Hall, the Gardening group etc could have their own page on the website and that the website as a whole would be a complete information portal for and about the village. Council agreed in principle that allowing links to village businesses e.g. B&Bs, the shop etc could be shown on the website without charge. For the next agenda.

15-137.6 Village Hall Wi-Fi: for future agenda.

ACTION: CHAIR TO LIAISE WITH POST OFFICE / VILLAGE HALL RE POSSIBILITY OF INSTALLING WI-FI

15-0138 Playing Field & Village Hall

15-0138.1 Cllr Brama reported that Dave Pattison has continued to conduct regular inspections and has completed inspection reports on which a few minor issues have been noted: the wire netting along one side of the playground is being trodden down when children are standing on it to climb over and so he has suggested that a rail is installed instead of netting. Cllr Brama has purchased the relevant safety signs and will put them up in the near future at which time he will also remove the wire netting. Cllr Kirby advised that as soon as the field is stable enough to allow machinery on it they will cut the hedge as far as possible – this must be done before mid-March before birds are nesting. Cllr Goodridge also advised that he has lined a contractor up to cut the rest of the hedging for when the weather is better.

15-0138.2 The Chair reported that Paul Boulton the electrician has been back and tidied up the final bits of trunking. Also that following recent discussions between Chair and Cllr Goodridge it was agreed that the new equipment should be placed in a cabinet instead of on a shelf but that an additional camera really is required to cover the rest of the back carpark. Council approved this work and Paul Boulton to install another camera at a cost of £100.

15-0123 Minor Matters and Items for Next Agenda.

Minor Matters

Cllr Goodridge queried whether the village should have a bonfire on 21st April as part of national beacon event and the Chair asked whether Team Linton might like to discuss at their next meeting.

ACTION: TEAM LINTON TO CONSIDER ARRANGING A VILLAGE EVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BEACONS ON 21 APRIL 2016

Next Agenda

- Team Linton (including possibility of Queen's Birthday Beacons event)
- Village website lintononouse.com
- Village Hall wi-fi
- Highways – traffic control, possibility of installing regular passing places on diversion routes

15-0124 Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at pm.

At this point both Mr Raper and Mr Knott both requested that their thanks be recorded in the minutes for all the Parish Council's efforts; this was reiterated by other members of the public too.

Items for Circulation

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.00pm.

Signed: _____

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