

LINTON ON OUSE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
 held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.00 pm
 in the Village Hall Linton on Ouse

N^o Present

Cllr. Croft (Chairman), Cllrs. Bramma, Keegan, & Kirby, County Cllr. Patmore, District Cllr. Rooke, Patrick Lewis-Brown, Lucy Pope (Clerk). Six members of the Public also in attendance.

15-0141 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Goodridge & Lund, M Lumsden (RAF).

15-0142 Councillors' Declaration of Interest

None received.

15-0143 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016, having been previously circulated, were approved (with one spelling mistake amended) and signed by the Chairman.

15-0144 Actions from Previous Meeting

- Clerk to contact Yorkshire Water to request investigation of sewer problems in Beech Tree Court: the Clerk advised that she has spoken to Yorkshire Water twice including the Field Case Manager assigned to investigate the sewer problems by Mrs Calaminus. CCTV investigations of the sewers in Beech Tree Court were carried out on 4 February 2016 however no obvious problems were identified. There is the possibility that there may be some misconnections somewhere and/or ground water seepage. The next step is therefore to conduct some larger scale CCTV investigations along Main Street to see if any problems can be located. Mrs Calaminus has been updated to this effect.
- Penny Johnson to email clerk with details of all enquiries made to date; clerk to then make further enquiries on behalf of Ms Johnson: the Clerk advised that Ms Johnson has sent her all the details but no progress has been made so far. Cllr Bramma advised that enquiries have been made with Paul Watson who is responsible for electrical services on the RAF base however he can find no record of any connections to the base systems that might affect Half Moon Street. Ms Johnson is also making further enquiries too.
- Clerk / Chair to publish 2016/17 meeting dates on village website: the Chair advised that this has been done.
- Clerk to forward details of volunteers to NHW chair: the Clerk advised that this has been done.
- Chair to liaise with Post Office / Village Hall Committee re the possibility of installing Wi-Fi in the village hall. The Chair reported that he has spoken to the owner of the Post Office who has advised that he doesn't think that the phone line to the Post Office is suitable for broadband but also that the line is owned by the Post Office and they require a dedicated secure line for all transactions so this is probably not an option for acquiring Wi-Fi for the hall. The Chair further advised that the Post Office owner had also expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the recent bridge closure and the resultant cost to him in lost business.
- Team Linton to consider arranging a village event in support of the Queen's 90th birthday beacons on 21 April 2016: Cllr Keegan advised that Team Linton have agreed that they will hold a bonfire on 21 April in support of the birthday beacons. They also intend to then have a BBQ, and live music on the carpark at the rear of the Village Hall the following weekend (the 21st is a Thursday so it would not be ideal to hold on the same night as the bonfire. Cllr Rooke agreed that he will provide a flat back lorry for use as a stage for the BBQ event. Michael Keegan enquired whether there is any funding available to purchase fireworks for the event. The Chair promised to check if any funding was available and also to check whether Newton on Ouse is

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planning any similar events that Linton could coordinate with.

ACTION: CHAIR/CLERK TO CHECK IF ANY AVAILABLE FUNDING

ACTION: CLERK TO CONTACT NEWTON ON OUSE CLERK TO ENQUIRE IF NEWTON HOLDING ANY SIMILAR EVENTS

- Clerk to contact all village groups to collate their relevant structures and procedures: the Clerk advised that further to the meeting that she had with Team Linton just before Christmas she last week met with the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee to discuss their structures and procedures. Following that meeting the Secretary has since produced an updated Village Hall Information Booklet summarising all the Village Hall booking pricing and usage procedures which is now displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard.

15-0145 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.

15-0145.1 Mrs Kirby extended her and her family's thanks for the condolences sent by the Parish Council regarding the loss of her mother.

Mrs Kirby also reminded the Parish Council that organisation of the VE Day ceremony on 8th May 2016 needs to commence soon.

ACTION: CLERK TO WRITE TO THE RAF BASE COMMANDER TO INVITE HIM TO THE VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Mitchener Award is also given on VE Day and a recipient for this year needs to be identified. There are some potential nominations but Mrs Kirby suggested that the Head Teacher of the school is contacted to ask for her nominations too.

ACTION: CLERK TO CONTACT HEADTEACHER OF LINTON PRIMARY FOR MITCHENER AWARD NOMINATION(S)

Jackie Weedock reported that a number of similar incidents have been posted on Facebook recently regarding apparently adult cyclists who have not been displaying lights or wearing high visibility clothing and thus have nearly been hit by vehicles. Jackie asked for any suggestions regarding how to address the problem. Gary Stoneman-Roberts suggests contacting 95 Alive for advice/resources. Cllr Rooke reported that his daughters were riding along the public bridleway at the bottom of Linton Woods Lane last Saturday and discovered that it had been completely blocked with concrete blocks and agricultural discs. Cllr Rooke has left a message with the landowner and will be following up with him. There actually are various offences involved with obstructing the highway and so if necessary it would be appropriate to contact the police and particularly the rights of way officer. This could also be reported to NYCC Paths for action. Cllr Rooke will speak to the landowner and take any other action as necessary and will update the Parish Council with the outcome.

The Chair advised that he was telephoned by Ken Thompson, The Spinney this morning. Mr Thompson spoke to NYCC Leader Carl Les on a local radio show 27 November 2015 with regard to his concerns that there have been innumerable instances of utility companies digging up the highways and then it is up to NYCC to come and repair the roads which is at the taxpayer's expense. To date he has not received a reply from Mr Les so requests assistance in obtaining a response.

ACTION: CLLR PATMORE TO SPEAK TO CARL LES

Philip Moss, Chair of Linton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW): Mr Moss advised that the village now has 8 or 9 residents interested in helping set up a NHW scheme. The Scheme will be approved by North Yorkshire Police and part of the North Yorkshire NHW Forum and will enable the village to become a

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designated NHW area for anyone to report any concerns, suspicions etc. The next step is to distribute NHW information booklets with reporting procedures to every household in the village and then there will be a meeting on 1st March at 8pm in Village Hall to inform and organise what the village needs next. The RAF is also apparently very interested in getting involved: the Chair spoke to the Base CO in November following which the base's Head of Security got in touch.

15-0146 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Patmore reported that there is little to report at this time until full Cabinet has met tomorrow. Cllr Patmore will report on NYCC budgets and finance at the next Parish Council meeting.

15-0147 District Councillors Report

District Cllr Rooke reported that the next HDC meeting is being delayed a couple of days until the 25th to allow for NYCC to meet and set their precept budget.

Concern has been expressed by a local Community Centre about losing their recycling communal bins under the new HDC Recycling policy. All households, schools and Community Centres are however all receiving new additional recycling bins for their own use and so there should not be a need for the old communal bins any longer.

There was a Planning meeting last week at which there was a call for sites to be nominated for the new LDF. HDC has been inundated with suggested sites and the process is now ongoing to identify which may be suitable.

Cllr Rooke is meeting with Broadacres tomorrow regarding the drainage for the allotments: Amanda Madden from HDC and the builders will be attending too. Cllr Brama commented that Linton Meadows (the adopted road to the new housing) is in very poor state of repair and that Broadacres had said that once all the building had been completed that the road would be made good; the Chair further recalled that Linden Homes did say that any damage to the roads from their lorries would be repaired. Cllr Rooke will raise the state of the road with Broadacres tomorrow but representatives from Parish Council would also be welcome to attend the meeting at 1030am too.

15-0148 RAF Liaison Officers Report

Patrick Lewis-Brown updated that he has set up a children's group holding a Valentines event on the base on 18th February. Tickets are £1.50 and the event is open to anyone but contact must be made with his office to ensure their access onto the base.

Diane Quinney of the Women's Educational Association has emailed details of free half term holiday family fun activities which are to be held in the Village Hall between 1.30 – 4.30pm on 17th February. Also that there are still a few places left on the Helping in Schools course which starts on 25th February; both have been advertised on the village website.

The Clerk then advised that Flt Lt Lumsden had forwarded a written report as follows:

Flying: 4 Basic Fast Jet Training courses are currently running. Course 255 graduated on 22nd January 2016. Course 256 is programmed for Graduation on 01st April 2016. Course 257 is due for Graduation on 27th May 2016. Course 258 is due for Graduation on 19th August 2016. Course 259 has just started and is due for Graduation on 4th November 2016.

Night Flying has been taking place since 1st February 2016. The Station will return to standard day flying on Wednesday 10th February.

Station Future: last week the Ministry of Defence (MOD) signed a contract with ASCENT to deliver Fixed Wing Flying Training, which includes Basic Fast Jet Training as part of the UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS). This contract has been in development over recent years following the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) in 2010.

Under the new contract with ASCENT, Basic Fast Jet Training is planned to move from RAF Linton-on-

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Ouse to be conducted at RAF Valley in North Wales from the end of the decade. If the current plan goes ahead, the MOD will put appropriate plans and support in place to advise and assist those employed at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. It should be noted that the MOD keeps the size and location of its bases under constant review to meet Defence needs.

Future uses for RAF Linton-on-Ouse are being considered under the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Footprint Strategy. The Footprint Strategy is a review of the entire Defence Estate and is being undertaken by the MOD in order to establish a more effective use of the Defence Estate in support of military capability.

Any implications for future flying training bases as a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015 will be fully considered in due course.

Consequently, the future of RAF Linton-on-Ouse is still unknown beyond the end of the decade. Hopefully, we will know more as we move through 2016.

Michael Keegan commented that he had heard that even if the RAF leave the base it could likely be used as a camp for the Army to billet for personnel stationed at Strensall and Fulford as there is a lack of available accommodation. Mrs Kirby commented that there is still a base in Germany which is yet to be closed down which will bring even more demand for accommodation. Comment was made that it would cost the MOD a lot of money to close the base as it is a requirement that it be returned to its former state on vacation.

15-0149 Clerk's Report and Financial Matters

15-0149.1 The Clerk gave her general report and advised that recently much of her time has been taken up with following up on the issues as a result of the recent bridge closure. The Clerk also commented that the focus in the coming weeks will be on preparing for the year end and the tasks that need to be completed as a result.

15-149.2 Payment of the following accounts was approved:

- Paul Boulton for electrical work (CCTV): £100.00
- Gross Salaries January 2016: £479.17

15-0150 Planning

No issues raised.

15-0151 Highways

15-0151.1 Linton Bridge

The Chair encouraged that there is a need to take a positive approach to the issues surrounding flooding and the bridge as it is very likely that we will see more and more of this in the future. The Chair advised that he wrote to Kevin Hollinrake MP about the problems surrounding the recent bridge closure and has received a reply reporting that Mr Hollinrake will be writing to NYCC. The Clerk then advised that she had recently suggested to the Chair that rather than submit enquiries, complaints, reports etc. to NYCC on a piecemeal basis that it could be more effective for the Parish Council to compile a consolidated report to NYCC. Newton on Ouse Parish Council has since done just that sending a letter commenting on issues under headings of Justification for the bridge closure, Policy to close bridge, Impact to residents and local businesses, Communication, Footpath closure, Future incidents and the Clerk has previously circulated this letter to Councillors. The Chair commented that Newton appear to have covered the key issues and asked if there were any additional comments to make. Cllr Rooke reported that there was pressure to clean Kyle Beck out a few years back so as to aid farmers further downstream. The result however has been that the water flow now rushes straight down the Beck with no obstruction and when the flood gates into the Ouse are closed the water backs up the Beck immediately and causes flooding.

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Cllr Bramma questioned whether the flooding of the bridge is actually an Environment Agency problem rather than Highways problem. Cllr Patmore agreed commenting that there are two separate issues involved: firstly the issue of water flooding which an Environment Agency issue and then secondly the access issues when there has been flooding which is NYCC's responsibility; Cllr Patmore recommended that the Parish Council should write to Environment Agency to raise issue of flooding. Cllr Rooke advised that any letter should be sent to the Deputy Chief Executive of Environment Agency who would ensure that the issues highlighted are addressed. The Clerk commented that it was clear that there was a great deal of local knowledge amongst Councillors and residents regarding how the problems being experienced now may have come about and thus requested that anyone with any specific information or comments forward these to her for compilation into a comprehensive and suitably detailed letter.

ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENTS TO FORWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND COMMENTS REGARDING FLOODING ISSUES TO THE CLERK FOR COMPILATION INTO A LETTER TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, NYCC, KYLE & OUSE DRAINAGE ETC

Cllr Bramma highlighted that the access issues in the event of a flood could be addressed by raising just one of the four bridges in the area so that access, albeit quite circuitous, can be maintained in the event of floods. Michael Keegan then commented that what has annoyed residents is that the bridge could have been open 2.5 weeks earlier once the flood water receded off the bridge. The Clerk highlighted that Highways had been concerned from the outset that the embankment may be unsafe and/or the bridge may have been damaged. It was however clear from all her regular communications with Highways over the period that Highways agreed that the bridge not be unsafe or damaged but that they could not confirm this until the water level and flow receded sufficiently to make it safe enough to allow the divers needed to inspect the structure and until such time they could not risk re-opening the bridge.

Mrs Kirby commented that irrespective of the rationale for closing the bridge the signage put out by Highways was appalling and caused even more problems: the very least that NYCC could have done was to get the signage right. The Chair commented that he believed that there had been a shortage of signs because of the extent of problems being experienced across North Yorkshire but agreed that what signs were put out needed to be accurate.

15-0151.2 Diversion routes: covered in the discussion at 15-0151.1 above.

Cllr Bramma also highlighted that the speed restriction sign at the west end of the village has broken and fallen over.

ACTION: CLLR PATMORE TO INFORM HIGHWAYS AND ARRANGE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

15-0152 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received:

- Community Resilience Training: 25 February at Leyburn Town Hall & 1 March at Pickering Memorial Hall – open to all
- Joint Housing Need Survey: initial results have been received from HDC. There were 12 responses in total all in housing need. HDC are looking into meeting this full need but this will all be subject to a suitable site being available and a willing RP with funding to develop. HDC will liaise with Broadacres and arrange for them to attend a future Parish Council meeting
- Clerks & Councils Direct January 2016 issue
- HDC Parish Update newsletter February 2016

15-0153 New Items

15-153.1 S.106 funding

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The Chair outlined that little progress seems to have been made regarding setting up the allotments: the Chair Steve Orwell has been trying to instigate some action but there appears to have been a lack of interest. Comment was made that further advertisement regarding allotment availability needs to be made as there is interest in the village. The Chair agreed that a further mail shot would be made.

ACTION: CHAIR/STEVE ORWELL TO ARRANGE FURTHER ALLOTMENTS MAIL SHOT

The Clerk reported that she has been in touch with HDC and established that there is still S.106 funding available to Linton totalling £23,642.85. Currently there is not a deadline to apply for this funding however it should be done asap as at some stage any unclaimed funds will eventually be absorbed elsewhere. As a result the Clerk has drafted an initial action plan based on the results of the Parish Survey that was conducted early 2015 (late 2014?) and also on the discussions at the 106 meeting that the Council had on Oct 18th in which the following projects were identified for progression:

- Allotments
- Planters, bulbs, plants
- Play / exercise equipment – children / adult
- Cycle racks/recycling bins
- Water fountains

The Clerk advised that she has put a tentative priority against each project in the action plan based on the number of positive responses from the survey but that the priority levels are for discussion and decision by councillors as is the amount to be claimed for each project: funding will be allocated by HDC (subject to approval by HDC that each project meets open space criteria) according to the priority given to each project.. Additionally even this substantial amount of money could easily be swallowed up by one large project so it would be worth considering what ratio of funding applied for each project should be.

Cllr Rooke highlighted that it is essential that this S.106 money is claimed asap otherwise there is a danger that it will be lost. In future there will not be any further S.106 money: this is being replaced by SIL money which will have different criteria.

Cllr Bramma suggested some remodelling of the war memorial garden in front of village hall to make it more a more appropriate and pleasant space for the Remembrance events. This would include moving the bench and noticeboard, installation of stone planters, bulbs, removal of the concrete slab with turf and installation of turf. He will advise of costs but would estimate that it would be no more than £2000.

Cllr Keegan advised that she has researched drinking water fountains and surveyed local children regarding what play equipment they would like. Cllr Bramma highlighted that the cost of installing the actual water supply to a new fountain must be accounted for.

The Chair then requested that all Councillors compile a report for the Clerk with suggested projects and associated costs within the next couple of weeks so that these applications can be progressed asap.

**ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS TO COMPILE A REPORT REGARDING SPECIFIC S.106 PROJECTS
 REQUESTED TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED COSTS FOR INCLUSION IN S.106 ACTION PLAN
 SUBMISSION**

15-153.2 Team Linton

Cllr Keegan highlighted that representatives from Team Linton have come to the meeting tonight to inform the Parish Council and hopefully respond to the questions that apparently have been asked in recent months about what Team Linton does, what happens to the money they raise etc. Treasurer

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Michael Keegan highlighted that contrary to some opinion Team Linton was never set up to be the fund raising arm of Village Hall and/or the Parish Council: Team Linton always were and will continue to be independent. Monies raised over the last 5 years have been spent on a number of projects for the benefit of the village and have included the purchase and installation of the defibrillator, Christmas Trees for 3 years, Christmas decorations and Santa outfit for use by village, an outside socket at the Village Hall, 4 years of Easter Egg hunts, Christmas parties, Easingwold Brass Band, Race Nights, three dances: these and many other events were all inaugurated after the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Mr Keegan highlighted that any monies raised have been used for the benefit and enjoyment of the village and any not spent have been banked with the Parish Council: that balance currently stands at just over £1200. Mr Keegan commented that they have been asked why they do not use the Village Hall for their events any more: this is because Team Linton cannot afford to do so as their events tend to last far more than for an hour or two and with rental being £9 per hour the cost of hire soon adds up and is financially unviable. Jackie Weedock (Team Linton) asked why a group that works entirely for benefit of village such as Team Linton does should pay so much for the hall. Further comment was made that they all felt indignant and offended when there appeared to be a suggestion that all the monies raised were not going for the benefit of the village. Cllr Brama clarified that neither he nor the Parish Council had ever suggested that but that he had raised the question about Team Linton publishing the results of any fund raising events as he had been asked by various people. Gary Stoneman-Roberts commented that he is very concerned that there appears to be a constant bitterness and suspicion in the village about Team Linton and that we all should actually be working together. Chair highlighted that the Parish Council appreciate all the hard work that Team Linton has and does put in but suggested that there could be more communication from Team Linton about who they all are and regarding the outcome of their events. There was then extensive discussion regarding what information should be published and why and how that should be published. Team Linton clarified that they do announce at every event what the money raised at the event will go to. Jackie Weedock then suggested that a way forward could be if they put their names and contact numbers and results from events on the village noticeboard. The Clerk highlighted what a useful meeting she had had with Team Linton before Christmas at which she had advised that that it is up to the Team Linton committee as to how they run Team Linton and what information they issue but that publishing more information could be helpful. It is likely that the village website will come to the Parish Council to manage and, as the Clerk mentioned to Team Linton, she envisages that it should be used as a village resource, a "one-stop shop" for any information about the village and that this would thus be an ideal conduit for Team Linton to publish any information they wish or think would be of use.

The Chair then brought this discussion to a close and thanked Team Linton for their work and input. He also undertook to consider what options there may be in relation to rental of the Village Hall.

15-153.3 Village website: lintononouse.com

All agreed that management of the village website should be transferred to the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that she is happy to run the website as it is but that if it is decided that more extensive development of the website is wanted/needed that she does not have this kind of knowledge and thus would require some training. Daniel Croft needs to contact the current website host to initiate closure of his account before transfer to the Parish Council can be completed. The Chair will in the meantime give the Clerk access to the website and show her how to upload any documents.

CHAIR TO REQUEST DANIEL CROFT INITIATE TRANSFER OF HOSTING ACCOUNT TO PARISH COUNCIL; ALSO TO GIVE CLERK ACCESS TO WEBSITE TO ENABLE HER TO UPDATE PAGES/UPLOAD DOCUMENTS

15-153.4 Village Hall Wi-Fi

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As above at 15-0144: it appears that it is not feasible to use the Post Office's connections to facilitate installation of Wi-Fi in the Village Hall. Other options to be explored.

ACTION: CHAIR TO EXPLORE WHAT OTHER OPTIONS MAY BE AVAILABLE TO INSTALL WI-FI IN THE VILLAGE HALL

15-0154 Playing Field & Village Hall

15-0154.1 Cllr Brama reported that the new signs he purchased are now installed. Also that the play equipment and walk ways are quite grubby and so he queried whether the Community Payback Team might be requested to clean it. Councillors all agreed that this was an ideal project to request the Payback Team to undertake.

ACTION: CHAIR/CLERK TO CONTACT COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM TO REQUEST CLEANING OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AND WALKWAYS

15-0154.2 Cllr Keegan reported that the Village Hall held their AGM on 19th January. No members of the public attended however and so the same Committee was reinstated for the coming year.

15-0155 Minor Matters and Items for Next Agenda.

Minor Matters

- None raised

Next Agenda

- No items suggested

15-0156 Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9pm.

Items for Circulation

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.00pm.

Signed: _____

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