

Minutes of meeting of Dersingham Parish Council held on 23rd February 2009 in Dersingham Infant & Nursery School at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr R Johnston, Cllr P Burall, Cllr R Brackstone, Cllr A Bubb, Cllr R Murrell, Cllr A Chapman, Cllr J Houston, Cllr V Brundle, Cllr D McNeil, Cllr A Maxwell

In attendance: The Acting Clerk
The Clerk
County Cllr J Eells

Parishioners: Four

10614 Resignation of Vice Chairman

Chairman explained that due to ill health Cllr Manship had resigned as Vice Chairman although he wished to continue as a Parish Councillor. **Resolved that a letter be sent to Cllr Manship thanking him for his work as Vice Chairman.**

10615 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Johnston nominated Cllr Burall for Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Brackstone, all in favour. Cllr Burall accepted the nomination, but wished for it to be made clear that he did not wish to hold the post beyond the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. **Resolved that Cllr Burall be elected Vice Chairman.**

10616 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Manship, Cllr Smith and Cllr Berry.

10617 Declarations of Interest

None

Chairman sought consent of Council to alter the agenda order to enable the County Councillor to present her report. All in favour.

Chairman suspended the meeting to allow parishioners to address the County Councillor. The parishioners present did not wish to raise any matters.

10618 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Eells began her report by advising that County Council had set the budget at 2.95%, which would equate to an additional 62p per week for a Band D property. She advised that it was intended to invest in local companies to boost the economy. Cllr Eells advised on “damping down” which is a process by which funds given to County by Government are distributed to other counties. The process was quite complex and Cllr Johnston requested that Cllr Eells email the damping down figures. Cllr Eells advised of Highways matters. With regard to the dividing white line in the parking area outside the Post Office, this work was scheduled to be carried out in the next 5/6 weeks. With regard to Council’s requests for the pavement opposite St Nicholas Church to be cleared of decaying leaves, Cllr Eells advised that this was included in the works programme. Council had requested that County set up a regular autumn pavement cleaning schedule but Cllr Eells advised this would not be possible. Cllr Eells advised that a meeting had been held to discuss flood sirens; County Council must now decide whether to hold another review. Chairman invited Councillors to address Cllr Eells and Cllr Chapman asked if she had further information regarding the Icelandic Bank investment. Cllr Eells advised that the negotiations looked favourable. Cllr Chapman asked Cllr Eells if she had any information regarding the Coasthopper Bus passing through Dersingham but Cllr Eells had no further information. Cllr Murrell expressed concern regarding the prevalence of potholes and Cllr Eells advised that additional funds were being set aside for Highways maintenance. Council had passed on to Highways complaints that some roads in the parish were never gritted. Cllr Eells advised that County had received 35 requests from parishes for additional gritting. Cllr Eells

advised that only A and B roads were gritted. In order that the minor roads could be gritted Cllr Eells advised that if Council could purchase grit bins. County Council would provide the grit free of charge.

Chairman thanked Cllr Eells for her report and reconvened the meeting.

Cllr Eells left the meeting.

10619 Minutes of the meeting of Dersingham Parish Council held on 26th January 2009

a. Approval of minutes

Resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record.

b. Matters arising

Minute 10606/10611d Life Wood footpath

Cllr Houston asked if the Life Wood footpath was now open. Cllr Burall advised that the Order had been confirmed on 26th January 2009 and the landowner had until the end of February to reopen the footpath. Cllr Burall understood that the landowners may seek a Judicial Review.

Minute 10606

Cllr Chapman asked if Cllr Burall had any further information regarding the Conservation Area but Cllr Burall advised that he had received none.

10620 Minutes of meeting of Finance, General Purposes and Administration Committee held on 2nd January 2009

Committee Chairman Cllr Burall advised that as all recommendations to Full Council had been related to budget matters these had been raised and resolved at the Full Council meeting on 12th January 2009.

Matters arising

Minute 59 Audit of accounts

Cllr Burall advised that Mazars had now signed off the accounts for 2007/8 but had asked that certain matters were brought to Council's attention. The Annual Return had not been fully and accurately completed; there were inaccuracies regarding interest, bank balances, etc; Council's name had been omitted on three sections; and no bank reconciliation statement had been submitted. Cllr Burall advised that these comments had been noted by Finance, General Purposes & Administration Committee and procedures would be improved in future

10621 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 5th January 2009

There were no recommendations to Full Council

Matters arising

Minute 34 Cycle path

Cllr Johnston asked if there was further information re the cycle path. Acting Clerk advised that letters had been sent to Borough Council, County Council and Ruth Mountain. Borough had acknowledged receipt and Mrs Mountain had advised that the matter would be considered at the next meeting of the Trustees.

Minute 37f Ditches behind Edinburgh Way and Iveagh Close

Cllr Burall advised that a meeting had been held and Borough Council had agreed to dig out the ditch. Guinness Trust had given assurances that the ditch would be kept clean in future.

Minute 36j Tree in Mountbatten Road

Cllr Brundle expressed concern that the roots of a weeping willow could damage the road.

Cllr Bubb, Tree Warden, explained where the tree was to be planted, and advised that the tree was a cracked willow. He could not foresee any problems.

Minute 37a Tennis Club

Cllr Johnston advised that he had examined the Lease and the Tennis Club is an integral part of the Sports Ground organisation and as such cannot apply independently for grants. Grant applications would need to be made by Sports Ground Management. **Resolved that a letter be sent to Mrs Russell.**

10622 Crime Statistics Report

A crime statistics report had been provided by PC Karen Falkner for the period 27th January to 23rd February 2009. She reported that a fence had been damaged in Stanton Road; a car scratched in Gelham Manor which was believed to be connected to a neighbour dispute; a car damaged in White Horse Drive, two youths named and visited, and soon to be subject to an Acceptable Behaviour Order; an incident of domestic related criminal damage in Centre Vale; a domestic incident involving a father and son; and dwelling burglary in Philip Nurse Road, currently being dealt with by King's Lynn CID. Six youths had been dealt with by Restorative Justice regarding damaged fencing in James Jackson Road.

10623 Reports from Borough Councillors

Cllr Burall

Cllr Burall advised that both matters in his report had been dealt with in matters arising.

Cllr Johnston

Cllr Johnston reported that the Judicial Review had found partly in favour, partly against. The Review had found fault with the Boundary Committee procedures but not with the failure to include the status quo as an option. An appeal would be made regarding the status quo decision, an answer was expected in 2/3 weeks. Cllr Johnston advised that two meetings to discuss Local Government Reorganisation had been held recently. Approximately 160 people had attended a public meeting at College of West Anglia, everyone present wished to retain the status quo. Cllr Johnston advised that he and Cllr Bubb had attended a briefing session at King's Court on 17th February, at that meeting no one had objected to retention of the status quo. Cllr Johnston reported that on 12th February a meeting had been held in St Nicholas Church Hall where Inspector Buckley and Stephen Bett, Chair of Norfolk Police Authority, had explained the changes to policing which would come into effect after April 2009. The Police Force would be more mobile, and would move around more freely.

Cllr Johnston ended his report by advising that Borough Council would set the council tax for the Borough at a meeting on 19th February.

Cllr Johnston invited questions and Cllr McNeil asked if the Judicial Review appeal would take expenditure beyond the £90,000 set aside. Cllr Johnston considered there would be overspend, but explained the costs of the appeal would be shared with Devon.

10624 Dersingham Village Social Club (DVSC)

Councillors had viewed the premises prior to the meeting and copies of financial statements had been circulated. DVSC had asked that rent payment be postponed for six months. Cllr Burall advised that FGP&A committee had asked for a business plan but the ill health of the DVSC Chairman had prevented this from being produced. Cllr Burall suggested that part of the premises could be used as a parish office, although some adaptations may be needed; he would be making this recommendation to FGP&A Committee. Cllr Brackstone and Cllr Brundle were both opposed to the postponement of the rent payment. Cllr Maxwell was concerned at the effect on the parish if the DVSC were to close. Cllr Johnston considered that the main financial problem was caused by staff costs, Cllr Bubb advised that the bar stewardess had handed in her notice, Cllr Johnston considered this was an opportunity to make savings. Cllr Johnston and Cllr Burall advised that they would meet with the DVSC Committee to help to prepare a business plan. Cllr Burall proposed that payment of the rent for DVSC, due on 1st April 2009, be postponed for six months, on condition that a business plan is submitted by the end of March. Six in favour: three against: one abstention. **Resolved that the rent payment be postponed for six months on condition that a business plan is submitted by end of March, and DVSC be included as an agenda item for 30 March Full Council meeting.**

10625 Finances of War Memorial Area Enhancement Project - Cllr Houston

Cllr Houston advised that when he had estimated that the project would cost £12500, he had expected that figure to be the total cost of the project, from which any grant payment and monies

obtained from pledges would be subtracted. Cllr Johnston asked if any further spending was expected, and Cllr Houston advised that he expected an additional £1000 to cover the costs of installing the new railings and the connection of the electrics. Cllr Burall expressed concern that expenditure on the War Memorial project had not been approved by Council, and he was concerned that the auditor might find fault. He advised that he had not been present at the meeting when it had been resolved to appoint Cllr Houston as Project Manager. Cllr Johnston advised that Borough Council had agreed a grant of £4000 or 20% of total cost, whichever was the smaller, this grant would be paid on submission of invoices. Cllr Murrell asked why, if there were concerns, that these concerns had not been raised earlier. **Resolved that Council postpone approval of expenditure until the total cost of the project is known.**

10626 Implementation of grievance procedure and appeals committee – Cllr Burall

Cllr Burall advised that Council needed to implement a grievance procedure and to set up an appeals committee. He envisaged the appeals committee would be comprised of three Councillors. **Resolved that a letter inviting Councillors to volunteer for the appeals committee be circulated, and the appeals committee be included as an agenda item for 30 March Full Council meeting.**

10627 Implementation of Strategy Working Group – Cllr Burall

Copies of a paper produced by Cllr Burall had been circulated. Cllr Burall proposed that the strategy working group would report to F,GP&A Committee, who would in turn report to Full Council. Cllr Burall considered that the working group should be comprised of four parish councillors and two parish members, he had consulted Cllrs Smith, Maxwell, Berry and McNeil, who were all in agreement. Cllr Johnston advised that the Chairman of the Village Hall Working Party had resigned; Cllr Burall advised that the Village Hall Working Party should now be disbanded. Cllr Chapman enquired as to the timescale for the working group, and Cllr Burall advised that agreeing a work plan and timetable would be the first actions of the new working group. **Resolved that a letter be sent Walter Blaney, Vice Chairman, advising of the disbanding of the Village Hall Working Party and the creation of the new Strategy Working Group and expressing thanks for their work.**

10628 Implementation of Investment Strategy – Cllr Burall

Cllr Burall advised that the Acting RFO had identified a need for an investment strategy if Council has more than £10,000 in reserve. Cllr Burall proposed that Full Council instruct FGP&A Committee to implement an investment strategy and three year forward budget. All in favour. **Resolved that FGP&A Committee implement an investment strategy and three year forward budget.**

10629 Consideration of DCB decision re Babingley House, reference bat survey – Cllr Smith

Acting Clerk advised that Cllr Smith, when giving apologies for absence, had asked if this agenda item could be deferred until the 30 March Full Council meeting. Cllr Johnston advised that the rehousing of tenants presently living in one part of the premises was a current issue. Cllr Bubb outlined the concerns of Cllr Smith, who considered that Development Control Board had failed to follow through on the recommendations of the case officer. Cllr Brackstone expressed concern that any publicity of the concerns regarding a bat survey could result in the bats being destroyed. Cllr Burall considered that Cllr Smith should contact Natural England. **Resolved that Cllr Smith be advised to contact Natural England.**

10630 Beach Road – Cllr Johnston

Cllr Johnston advised that concerns had again been raised by a parishioner. Cllr Johnston had previously contacted Environmental Health but to no avail. Establishing ownership of the derelict buildings was proving difficult. Cllr Johnston advised that the dykes were in a very poor

condition, and he will be contacting Internal Drainage Board. **Resolved that letters be sent to Borough Council and the owner of the yard, if the owner can be identified.**

10631 Planning applications and determinations

a. Applications

08/02746 /CU Mr & Mrs S J Holland (amended application)

Change of use of open grass area to domestic garden with erection of enclosing timber fence at Land West of 21 Post Office Road, Dersingham

Letters received from three parishioners were presented, all opposed to the application. All present agreed that Council should recommend refusal of the application because of a serious loss of sight line.

Recommendation: refusal

09/00168/F Mrs K Greatorex

Demolition of existing conservatory down to dwarf wall and reconstruction in solid masonry and tiled roof at 17A Heath Road, Dersingham

Recommendation: support

09/00201/F Ms Clare Stanford

Extensions to bungalow forming new Utility Room and Garage at 1 Windsor Drive, Dersingham

Recommendation: support

09/00140/F Mr & Mrs M Kennedy Hill

Two storey extension to dwelling at Quince Cottage 28 Chapel Road, Dersingham

Recommendation: support

b. Determinations

08/02804/F J and K Glass and Glazing Ltd

Construction of UPVC white double glazed conservatory at 7 White Horse Drive, Dersingham

Granted

08/02784/F Mr Allen

Erection of Carport at 69 Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

Granted

10632 Correspondence

a. Norfolk ALC – letter re Local Government Review announcement delay

b. Letter from James Thaxter re Community Lunch

A letter received from James Thaxter was presented expressing concern that the Community Lunch to be held on 26th February was being organised by one business, Budgens. All agreed that a reply be sent, copied to Jonathon James, Budgens, explaining that Council could not finance such an event and that Council were grateful to Budgens for their efforts.

c. BCKLWN – inter village games 2009

A letter and DVD had been received. All agreed copies should be sent to Sports Ground Management and Dersingham Entertainments Committee.

d. Norfolk ALC – “Gold summit, our new rural economy” 7 March, 12 March
Cllr Houston and Cllr Brundle wished to attend, Acting Clerk to book places.

e. Norfolk ALC – “Green summit, a localist green agenda” 11 March, 14 March
Cllr Houston and Cllr Brundle wished to attend, Acting Clerk to book places.

f. Norfolk ALC – training courses for Clerks & Councillors, cost £30

Copies of the correspondence to be passed to Cllr McNeil and Cllr Berry

g. Norfolk ALC – training course for Chairmanship & Engagement, cost £45

No interest in attending.

- h. **Norfolk County Council – Norfolk Action, a guide to Norfolk Local Area Agreement**
- i. **Norfolk County Council – meeting re planned roadworks in King’s Lynn, 17 March**

The Acting Clerk advised that the following list of correspondence was available to be viewed:

- a. BCKLWN – Funding Opportunities Jan/Feb 09
- b. Wash Estuary Strategy Group – photo competition
- c. QPSMR Ltd – parish research service
- d. CPRE – visit to Stables & Stud, Hingham 29 March
- e. CPRE – Norfolk Voice winter 09 issue
- f. BCKLWN – “let’s get active” leaflet
- g. BCKLWN – Funding for Sport booklet
- h. BCKLWN – Football coaching courses
- i. BCKLWN – grand east anglian run poster
- j. BCKLWN – introduction to sports leadership course
- k. Norfolk ALC – “Norfolk Link” issue 169
- l. Age Concern – Older People’s Activity Day 5 March
- m. WNVCA – In Touch, etc

10633 Financial matters and authorisation of payments

Authorisation was sought for the following payments:

February	Cheque	£
G Watt – cash for postage stamps	4040	54.00
Tiscali – Broadband	DD	39.12
G Watt – Acting Responsible Finance Officer – fee to 7 Feb 09	4042	269.45
David Lee – cleaning contract	4043	200.00
I Woods – Acting Clerk – fee to 15 Feb 09	4044	730.72
Salaries, income tax and NIC	4045/4047	1,858.04
Norfolk Pension Fund	4048	276.48
Anglian Water- Recreation Ground	4049	15.18
Johnston Press – deliver Village Voice	4050	119.72
V Brundle – warning tape, War Memorial	4051	15.35
Southern Electric – street lighting power	4052	479.83
CPRE - subscription	4053	28.00
Dersingham PCC – hire of Church Hall	4054	30.00
A Moore - mileage	4055	12.91
Semba Trading – materials for War Memorial project	4056	692.08
Brickweave Paving – War Memorial project	4057	2438.00
MHB Services Ltd – street lighting maintenance contract	4058	278.42

Resolved to authorise these payments, cheques signed by Cllr Johnston and Cllr Bubb.

10634 Date, time and place of next meeting

Monday 30th March 2009 in Dersingham Infant and Nursery School at 7.00pm

There being no further business Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Parishioners comments

A parishioner thanked Council for updating the website.

A parishioner asked that the letter of thanks to Cllr Manship include the best wishes of the parishioners present.

A parishioner thanked Council for the opportunity to address the County Councillor.

A parishioner advised that the gate at Beach Road is not in the correct position.

A parishioner asked if a bus service could be provided around Mountbatten Road and Station Road. Cllr Johnston advised that this had already been requested, but another letter would be sent.

A parishioner asked if a bus stop would be provided at the new Health Centre. Cllr Johnston advised that this had been considered but there was no suitable place to site a bus stop. Cllr Bubb suggested that the Patients Participation Group be asked to ascertain the numbers of patients who attend the Health Centre by bus.

A parishioner expressed concern at the increase of dog fouling in the parish, particularly at Sandringham View. The Borough Council no longer employs a Dog Warden. There was uncertainty as to who was responsible for Sandringham View, where there were no dog bins. Cllr Burall agreed to make enquiries as to who was responsible for Sandringham View.

A parishioner expressed concern that the DVSC was being permitted to postpone rent payment.

A parishioner considered that £3 membership for DVSC was too low.

A parishioner advised that Mr North was again parking on the verge outside his property.

Cllr McNeil expressed concern regarding the length of the County Councillor's report and reminded Council that he had asked if written reports could be provided.