

## **Minutes of the Ashmanhaugh Annual Parish Council meeting held on 04 May 2010 in the Preston Rooms**

Present: Councillors            Councillor N Sharpe - Chair  
   Councillor N Coleman – Vice Chair  
   Councillor T Hannant  
   Councillor Mrs R Buxton  
   Councillor Miss S Hewitt  
   Councillor G Beales  
   Councillor G Saunders

Officer                            Mrs G Sharpe – Clerk to the Council

In Attendance -            6 Parishioners  
   Helen Dixon (NNDC Sustainability Officer)

### **1 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Neal Sharpe was proposed by Cllr Mrs R Buxton. There being no other nominations, Cllr Neal Sharpe was elected Chair unanimously.

1.1 The Clerk witnessed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which had been completed and signed by the Chair.

### **2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr Noel Coleman was proposed by Cllr N Sharpe. There being no other nominations, Cllr Noel Coleman was elected Vice-Chair unanimously.

2.1 The Clerk witnessed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which had been completed and signed by the Vice-Chair.

### **3 TO REVIEW COUNCILLORS REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

All Councillors reviewed their entries in the Register and signed as correct.

### **4 CONSIDERATION OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the District and County Councillor, Nigel Dixon and PCSO Lucy Collyer.

### **5 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 05 MARCH 2010**

5.1 Item 6.7(b), payment to the Preston Room Management Association for the use of the hall from April 2009, was amended from '£155.00' to '£150.00'

5.2 The manhole cover on the common has now been replaced by the cricket club and they will install four short marker posts to avoid damage to the cover.

5.3 The position concerning the Consolidated Stock has now been clarified. It was some £20.00 held by Smallborough Rural District Council on behalf of the parish at the time of the formation of the Parish Council. With the local government changes in 1974, it was put into the Stock and passed to North Norfolk District Council. It cannot be released. The Clerk has arranged for the future income (currently £0.40p per annum) to be paid into the Councils bank account by electronic transfer.

## **6 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Meeting was then Called Off to allow those attending to address the Council.

**6.1** Helen Dixon (NNDC Sustainability Officer) then addressed the meeting about Community Energy Farm and renewable energy. She said that the planning process supported renewable energy projects but, even if the parish had such a community venture, this would not stop other energy projects in the parish. However, it could provide energy security but nationally, by feeding into the grid and, of course any profit would benefit the community. She then went on to outline the various production options, sizes and heights of turbines, ways of setting up the ownership and management of any unit and the process for setting it up. Firstly, if wind power was to be considered, a Met Mast would be needed to determine the suitability of the location. With wind turbines, broadly speaking, the higher the better. (Swaffham turbines are 67m to the hub). Cost is between £2,500 and £5,000 /Kw. She said there were grants and loans available for such a project but it would be advisable to bring in a consultant before committing. The consultant would carry out a full appraisal, product evaluation, advise on funding and likely financial benefit from the feed in tariff.

She was then asked

- 1 who would have the income? Answer, the owner, if the parish council then this would go to the benefit of the parish generally.
- 2 were there any guidelines concerning a conflict of interest with any of the councillors? Answer. She said she would take advice and respond. (The Council already has extensive regulations concerning this matter).
- 3 would there be grants for paying the consultant? Answer, the consultant would assist with seeking funding for his work.
- 4 could this be a community based project for several properties? Answer No.
- 5 are grants only for new installations? Answer. Yes, no second hand equipment was acceptable.
- 6 if the project was to run at a loss, who would be responsible for any loan debt? Answer. Whoever borrowed, if the parish council, then it would be responsible. Risk could be greatly reduced or eliminated, by going into partnership with an energy company/energy developer (e.g. Ecotricity).

Finally, she said that the feed in tariff was very attractive in the current financial situation and that tariff was guaranteed for 25 years.

Three residents asked if they could have copies of the paperwork left by Helen Dixon. The Clerk said she would email the information. Original copies would be circulated to Councillors.

**6.2** A resident raised the matter that the cricket club was blocking off its car park with cricket nets and the resulting displacement of vehicles was causing difficulty at the north end of Church Road.

The meeting was then Called On again

## **7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

## **8 THE INVENTORY AND ASSET REGISTER**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had found a reference to the Council paying for the bench at the crossways. Cllr Hannant said the two payments of £80.00 and £50.00 were for repairing the bench but, as no one else in the village was responsible for it Council agreed that the Parish Council should take responsibility and add it to the schedule. The Asset Register was agreed to be correct.

## **9 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 9.1** It was **agreed and resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation for the period 01 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. Proposed Cllr G Saunders.
- 9.2** It was **agreed and resolved** to approve the completion of Sections 1 and 2 of the Audit Commission Annual Return. Proposed Cllr R Buxton.
- 9.3** The Clerk reported on receipts and payments since the 01 April 2010 –
- 9.3a** NNDC Sponsorship for 17 April 2010 - £100.00
  - 9.3b** Hoveton Hall Gardens Sponsorship for 17 April 2010 - £50.00
  - 9.3c** NNDC Consolidated Stock Income - £0.40
  - 9.3d** Newsletter Advertising / Hoveton Hall Gardens - £24.00
  - 9.3e** Newsletter Advertising / Dorringtons - £12.00
  - 9.3f** NNDC – Precept - £1350.00
  - 9.3g** No payments were made since those approved at the meeting in March
- 9.4** It was **agreed and resolved** to pay the following accounts. Proposed Cllr N Coleman.
- 9.4.a** Norfolk Association of Local Councils annual subscription - £81.55
  - 9.4.b** Preston Rooms Management Association – Hire of Room on 17 April 2010 - £40.00
  - 9.4.c** Costs incurred by the Clerk in connection with 17 April 2010, authorised at the meeting of 05 March 2010. - £108.78

## **10 CORRESPONDENCE**

It was confirmed that all correspondence since 05 March 2010, was on circulation.

- 10.1** The Clerk announced that she had received an invitation for Councillors to attend an evening meeting at Colby on “The Code of Conduct” on 26 May 2010. Cllrs Mrs R Buxton and N Sharpe said that they would go and Cllrs N Coleman and G Saunders said they would if they could clear their appointments for that date.
- 10.2** The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received an email concerning vehicles speeding on Church Road. This had been passed on to the SNT at Hoveton, and the complainant had been supplied with more wheelie-bin stickers.

## **11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

No Planning Applications received since the Parish Council meeting on 02 March 2010.

**12 THE COMMON**

It was **agreed and resolved** that HB Farm Services should be asked to continue to cut the Common, with no increase in cost.

**13 ROADSIDE TREES**

The Chair informed the meeting that two young oak trees on Rectory Road had been ring barked. Cllr Coleman confirmed this. He asked residents to be vigilant in case this vandalism was repeated.

Cllr Saunders informed the meeting that the people who had cut the hedges on the north side of Rectory Road were returning to tidy up.

**14 THE PRESTON ROOM**

Cllr Coleman announced that the Chair of the Preston Rooms Management Committee, Mrs A Mulhall, would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 18 May 2010, to give a report on the Preston Rooms.

**15 COMMUNITY ENERGY**

It was **agreed and resolved** that, as a result of the earlier presentation by Helen Dixon, that Members should study the documents she had left with the Clerk and the matter discussed again at the next regular meeting. Proposed Cllr G Saunders.

**16 REPORTS ON TRAINING AND MEETINGS ATTENDED**

The Chair said that he had attended a meeting with NNDC recently and hoped that they would help with a "vox pop" tent and camera at the Ashmanhaugh PCC Summer Fate in July 2010.

**17 MEMBERS MATTERS**

No Councillors had any matters to put forward to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.50

The next meeting is the  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

This will be held on

**Tuesday 18 May 2010**

**The next Parish Council Meeting**

will be held on

**Tuesday 06 July 2010**

**Both meetings will begin at 7.00pm in the  
Preston Room, School Road, Ashmanhaugh**