

ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ashmanhaugh Annual Parish Council meeting held on 06 July 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 - 3 Parishioners

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting 04 May 2010 and they were signed by the Chair. Proposed by Cllr G Saunders.

There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING

- 4.1 There was no report from the District/County Councillor.
- 4.2 There was no report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- 4.3 The Chair said he would open the meeting to the public at Item 11 to allow Mr Mulhall to present his memorandum.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 All Councillors confirmed that they had seen the circulated correspondence, with the exception of that of 04 June 2010.
- 5.2a Norfolk ALC will be holding a Café Cluster for Councillors on Tuesday, 03 August 2010, at the Waterside Centre, Rollesby Broad from 3 – 5pm. All Councillors are welcome.
- 5.2b The Clerk apprised Members of the North Norfolk District Council “Green Build” event, to be held at Felbrigg Hall on Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 of September. Cllr Sanders hoped to attend and report.
- 5.2c The Clerk read out a note of congratulations to the Council on being awarded ‘Quality Council’ status, which had been received from Rita Massingham, the former District Councillor for this area.
- 5.2d North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) – Re New Housing Strategy for North Norfolk. The draft strategy will be sent toward the end of July and they ask Councillors to consider the draft strategy and pass comments to the Clerk at the September meeting. These will then be passed to NNDC before the closing date on the 30 September 2010.
- 5.2e The Clerk read out the report received from the CARS (Caring about Rural Speeds) Road Safety Campaign Section of Norfolk County Council following three visits to the village of the Speed Awareness Message (SAM) van. The van was situated in Stone Lane and School Road, for an hour at each location, on 11th May, 18th May and 4th June.

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6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to approve the presented accounts for the period 01 April 2010 to 30 June 2010. Proposed Cllr Rachel Buxton. Cllr Mrs Buxton signed the bank statements confirming agreement with the accounts.

6.2 The Clerk reported that a further £24 had been received for advertising in the Newsletter.

6.3 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to pay the following accounts. Proposed by Cllr Noel Coleman.

6.3a Norfolk ALC for 2010/11 Parish Council Insurance £193.99

6.3b Norfolk ALC for the purchase of Part 1 of the new Standing Orders £ 25.00

6.3c NorfolkALC/SLCC Conference and Training Day – 13 July 2010
Attendance by the Clerk £40.00.

6.3d Internal Auditor Fee (Di Dann) £ 5.00

It was noted that the report from the Internal Auditor had been seen by all Councillors.

6.4 Continued Sponsorship of the Telephone Kiosk.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment. All those attending thought that, in the current climate and the small amount of usage of the telephone, it was not something on which the Council should be spending resources.

The councillors then discussed the position in view of the Budget forecast 2010/11 – 2014/15. It was pointed out that to take the alternative route of purchasing the kiosk would probably cost more than sponsorship as insurance would be in the region of £250. Councillors then voted - Agreed 6, for 1 against.

It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** that the Clerk should write to BT to terminate the Agreement for the sponsorship of the Telephone Kiosk at the end of its current year.

7 INTERNAL AUDIT

It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to re-adopt the Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit procedure without change.

8 PLANNING MATTERS

8.1 It was reported that application PF/10/0446 The Old Rectory Road, had been approved with conditions. The Clerk read out the conditions attached to the approval.

8.2 No further applications had been received since May 2010.

9 REPORTS AND INFORMATION ON MEETING AND TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED

9.1 The Clerk reported that three councillors and the Clerk attended the Standards training evening at Banningham. All members had been given a copy of Cllr Mrs Buxton's report.

9.2 The chair read out the Clerk's report on the costs and benefits of Quality Status requested at the Annual Parish Meeting.

10 THE PRESTON ROOM

Cllr Noel Coleman gave a report from the Management Committee meeting. There was to be a "Mothers and Daughters" Avon Evening. The team is small and would welcome the input from others to help and encouraged anybody to attend their monthly meetings.

11 RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Chair opened the meeting to the public for them to speak. Mr Mulhall gave an overview of his memorandum to the council and others, developed as a result of Helen Dixon's presentation. He said that a wind farm was a long term and complex issue and initially, thought it was a good idea. He felt that a feasibility study was a step too far at this stage. With such an important issue, he thought that the whole community should be consulted for a general opinion, giving people the full argument and the opportunity to give their thoughts. Having spoken to a number of residents, their opinion was that they would get free electricity. He agreed that this would not be the case.

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The Chair said that the council could not say much about any detailed proposals at this stage. The idea of a study was to obtain facts on:-

- 1 possibility of energy production
- 2 the options for the alternative types
- 3 the risks
- 4 costs, funding and return on investment
- 5 timeframes and land take.

Without this sort of information he could not see how the parish could be consulted as the council did not have many answers.

Mr Mulhall thought Helen Dixon was only concerned about wind generation. The Chair replied that wind was only one option and that the Council was not predetermining any specific form as the Council did not have a team of officers to prepare such a report, commissioning a study by an independent third party, appeared to be the way forward.

Mr Newstead felt the discussions, so far, had been just about wind generation. The Chair said that he would not discuss any specific form at this stage, as the knowledge was not available.

The Councillors then turned to debate the matter.

Cllr Miss Hewitt expressed her concern that there would be few people without a vested interest and was against the proposal.

Cllr Mrs Buxton agreed that the residents should be consulted at the earliest opportunity but, without a high level study, it would be difficult to answer questions. She supported the proposal.

Cllr Beales thought all residents should have an opportunity to put their view but supported the proposal.

Cllr Saunders agreed with the approach of Cllrs Mrs Buxton and Beales but said that there should be no age limit on the residents who could give opinion as it would be for the future generation to continue the project.

Cllr Coleman thought the possibility of a grant and feasibility study should be investigated.

Cllr Hannant could not see how it could be done as the Council did not own land. He did not see why the Council should be a leader in this matter but should wait until others had succeeded with a similar project and then use their expertise. He was against the idea.

The Chair pointed out that, if the project went ahead, it would mean a great deal of hard work, for probably, two to two and an half years. Councillors would have to play their part with taking responsibility for items of investigation and returning written reports to the Council. The project would have to be managed on a formal project methodology (eg PRINCE) with audit checks throughout.

As support was not unanimous, it was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** that the proposal should not be progressed at this time but reconsidered in twelve months.

12 MEMBERS MATTERS

Councillors had no matters to bring to the Council's attention. There were no matters for future meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

The Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting is:-

Tuesday 07 September 2010

At 7.00pm

In the Preston Room, School Road, Ashmanhaugh.