

# **ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Ashmanhaugh Parish Council meeting held on 07 September 2010, at 7.00pm in the Preston Rooms**

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

Officer                                        Mrs G Sharpe – Clerk to the Council

In Attendance -                            Cllr Nigel Dixon  
   Two Parishioners

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were considered from Councillor Miss S Hewitt and accepted. Apologies were received from PCSO Lucy Collyer.

### **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 meetings of 18 May 2010 and 06 July 2010 and they were signed by the Chair.

### **4 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

- 4.1** Cllr Nigel Dixon said he had attended the Inquiry into NNDC LDF Site Specific proposals, for the Hoveton proposal. With the Parish representatives, he put forward the argument for an alternative site which was preferred by the village.  
He then commented on the NNDC Draft Housing Strategy to the effect that it did not consider the cause and effect of the need for affordable housing.  
He announced that the NNDC contract for refuse collection was out to tender and that NCS (the current contractor) would not be tendering. The contract would be much larger than the present as it would incorporate West Norfolk when their current contract runs out. The successful contractor was expected to be announced in October.  
He also reported that Norfolk County Council had had its Revenue Support Grant for 2010/11, reduced by £10m, by the Treasury. The Authority is also required to show cash and efficiency savings (Gershorn) of £155m in the 3 year period 20011/12 to 20113/14. He said that there was no longer any Capital award for borrowing and, as a result, highway maintenance would be severely hit. There would need to be another re-organisation, although the current one is not yet completed. With cuts of this magnitude, reductions in staff by natural wastage would not be sufficient; therefore, there will be many compulsory redundancies. The result will be that the County Council will only be able to deliver its statutory responsibilities. Cllr Mrs Buxton and the Chair pointed out that this would also hit contractors, suppliers and service providers across the county.
- 4.2** The Clerk read the report from PCSO L Collyer which stated that there had been no reports to the police since the July meeting of the Council.
- 4.3** There were no matters from the parishioners present

### **5 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1** Councillors confirmed that they had seen the correspondence on the circulation list with the exception of Cllr Miss S Hewitt who had only recently received the latest items.

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- 5.2 The Clerk read the letter from British Telecom confirming that the sponsorship of the telephone kiosk will cease on 29 November 2010.
- 5.3 Cllr Mrs Buxton volunteered to attend the Broads Authority Planning Parish Forum, on 29 September 2010.
- 5.4 (a) The Clerk stated that she has received a letter from NNDC confirming that the Inspector had completed the hearing on LDF Site Specific proposals and was expected to give his decision in the autumn.
- (b) The Clerk announced that there were temporary staff recruitment opportunities for the 2011 census. The notice would be put on the notice board and circulated to Members.
- (c) The Chair read out the proposals by the Happening Partnership, for the acquisition and development of the land at the west end of the High Street, Stalham (old station area, car parks and library). Although it was a very general outline, there was sufficient information to discuss the matter. It received no support from the Members. It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** that the Chair should convey this to the Partnership at the next Representatives Meeting.

## **6 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 6.1 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to adopt the accounts for 01 April 2010 to 01 September 2010. Proposed Cllr Coleman. Cllr Mrs Buxton signed the bank statement to confirm agreement with the accounts.
- 6.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of the Annual return and the external Auditor's (Mazars) certificate. There were no matter arising from the Audit.
- 6.3 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to re-appoint the internal auditor, Di Dann. It was also **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to review the audit fee before the next internal audit as it was agreed to be inadequate for the work involved.
- 6.4 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to make the following payments. Proposed Cllr Mrs R Buxton.
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|--|---------|
| (a) External Audit fees (Mazars)   | £58.75  |
| (b) HB Farming for cutting the Common (half year).                         | £117.50 |
| (c) Clerks Honorarium  |         |
| (d) Training. Clerk to attend training on pre and post election procedures | £35.00  |
- 6.5 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** that the Clerk be authorised to arrange training for the Clerk and Members without prior agreement of the Council, within the budget allocation, as opportunities became available and Members indicated their wish to attend. Any action to be reported to the next Council meeting.

## **7 PLANNING MATTERS**

- 7.1 It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to have no objection to application Ref: PF10/0955 Extension of period for commencement permission (ref: 07/1078). Land at Chestnut Hollow, Rectory Road, Ashmanhaugh. NR12 8YP. Concerns were expressed by Members, that work had not yet been started as the owners had emphasised the deteriorating condition and structural problems of the existing building at the Council meeting three years ago, when the original application was considered. In response to an inquiry from a Councillor, Cllr Dixon (NNDC and NCC) confirmed that there was no limit on the number of renewals for approved applications.

## **8 STANDING ORDERS**

It was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** to adopt the Standing Orders which have been revised in accordance with the new Model Standing Orders for Local Councils issued by NALC. Proposed Cllr T Hannant.

## **9 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

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The Regulations were reviewed and it was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** that no changes were required.  
Proposed by Cllr Mrs R Buxton.

## **10 COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUM PROPOSAL**

The Chair went through the main points of the consultation. After discussion it was **RESOLVED AND AGREED** that the Members did not agree with the proposed legislation. The Clerk was authorised to respond to the Department for Local Government and Communities, expressing this view.

## **11 NNDC – NEW HOUSING DRAFT STRATEGY**

The Members discussed the Draft Strategy. Whilst they agreed that, in general, the Strategy was acceptable, they felt that it did not address the quantity of the needed number of affordable housing, the effect of the "Right to Buy" and the sustaining and improvement of the number of affordable housing units. The Clerk was asked to respond with these views.

## **12 REPORTS AND INFORMATION ON MEETINGS AND TRAINING EVENTS**

The Clerk said that a report on the Norfolk SLCC Annual Conference and Training Day would be circulated to Members.

## **13 THE PRESTON ROOM**

Cllr Coleman reported that the Preston Room Management Committee wanted to remind everybody of the Village Show to be held on 18 September and the Big Coffee Morning in aid of the McMillan Charity, will be on Friday 24 September when people will be fundraising all day. Help or donations will be gratefully received.

## **14 MEMBERS MATTERS**

There were no Members matters for future meetings

A draft five year budget was given to each Member for discussion at the November meeting.

**The Meeting closed at 8.40pm.**

**The Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting is:-**

**Tuesday 02 November 2010**

**At 7.00pm**

**In the Preston Room, School Road, Ashmanhaugh.**