

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 13 November 2017, 7.30pm in the Hall for All, Weston Longville

PRESENT:

Clare Morton (CM), (Chair), Ruth Goodall (RG), Peter Ross (PR), John Staveley (JS).

Other attendance: Sonya Blythe (clerk)
County Councillor Greg Peck (GP)

Members of the public

1 Chairman's welcome and to receive apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Justin Cohu and Anthony Thomas. Gary Cannell was not present.

2 Members' Declarations of Interests

None declared.

3 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

13.2 - bin store – should read litter bag store

4 To receive information on matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- 4.1 11.3 - CM reported that Martin Guymour had responded to correspondence requesting a footpath to the Dinosaur Park, noting that only 0.01% of customers arrive on foot, but that in principle there was no objection to the installation of a footpath. CM to ask Weston Park to meet with WLPC and Martin Goymour to agree way a forward. ACTION CM.

5 To discuss the application for the Parson Woodforde to become a community asset

Mark Boyd, landlord of the Parson Woodforde attended the meeting to give an update on the sale of the public house. He reported that he had appealed the decision for the Parson Woodforde to be made an asset of community value, which Broadland Council had granted. The business had been for sale for six months thus far. The main issue which had forced the sale was the increase in business rates, which had doubled in April 2017 on the basis of estimated turnover. Mr Boyd could not rule out the possibility of selling the building for a change of use, if a buyer was not found for a public house.

GP agreed to raise the issue of the increased business rates with Broadland Council to ascertain whether there was any flexibility in the charges. He agreed to feedback to WLPC to allow councilors to formulate a formal response afterwards. ACTION: Council

Mr Boyd was thanked for attending and clarifying the situation.

RG agreed to canvas opinion within the village to establish if somebody was willing to carry out a feasibility study on the community making a community bid to purchase the public house. ACTION: RG

6 To agree the updated publication scheme

The updated Publication Scheme was considered and agreed. The Clerk would add to the website. ACTION: CLERK

7 Highways issues

7.1 a) To receive an update

JS advised that the speed camera had been due in the parish on 13 November. Due to the current roadworks the rota had been allocated differently.

JS reported that the newly installed road narrowings were too wide to be effective. This was disappointing as Councillors had lobbied for smaller ones.

It was noted that a six-mile stretch of the NNDR from Taverham was now open.

b) To consider tasks to be reported to Highways

None

c) NNDR and traffic calming

RG reported that the next meeting to discuss the route of the western link of the NNDR would be held on 15 November.

8 Village Hall and Play area

8.1 To receive an update

RG reported that bookings remained steady. A firework and bonfire event for families had been organised for New Years Eve. The Norfolk Foundation had been approached with a funding request.

8.2 To discuss the purchase of an overflow car-park sign

After discussion, it was agreed that the current signage was sufficient.

9 Greener Weston

- 9.1 A member of the public reported that the area behind the church yard would be developed in the spring. The plans were not yet finalised. This would be added to the February agenda for discussion. ACTION: CLERK
- 9.2 CM would write to Tony Finch to thank him for carrying out several litter picks. ACTION: CM. RG to organise a village litter pick during January 2018. ACTION: RG

10 To consider Planning issues:

Planning Applications/Enforcement –

- 10.1 20171890 – Holey Oak, Honingham Road, Retention of Existing Travelling Showperson Site Involving Change of Use of Existing Area of Hardstanding.

Following discussion it was agreed to object (see appendix for detail). CM to write objection and circulate. ACTION: CM.

GP agreed to call the application in with Broadland Council.

- 10.2 RG reported that she had been advised that Atlas Works would shortly be submitting an appeal to the refusal of their waste processing site, which WLPC objected to on a previous occasion. Once the official appeal was received a response would be considered.
- 10.3 Hornsea Windfarm - RG noted that she had advised the applicants that the Atlas Works site would be a better location for their construction compound than the old airfield.

11 To receive correspondence and agree action/response

- 11.1 Changes to local police service which would result in the removal of PCSOs were discussed. This would likely affect the parish, as it suffered from lower level crime which PCSOs would usually deal with. PC Devlin would be invited to the next meeting to discuss concerns. ACTION: CLERK
- 11.2 Be winter ready – information from UK power networks would be added to the website and facebook page. ACTION: CLERK
- 11.3 Consultation on updating disqualification criteria for local authority members – it was agreed to support option one and object to the rest of the criteria. ACTION: CLERK

12 Financial matters

- 12.1 The updated accounts were noted.

- 12.2 The following payments were **agreed**:

- Clerk salary and expenses (salary £459.80, expenses £8.10). Standing order of £459.80 paid 1 October).
- HMRC - staff tax £ £114.80
- Peter Ross – remembrance wreath £25

The following income was noted:

- 12.3 • Broadland Council – CIL £2,614.68

- 12.4 To set the budget / precept for 2018/19.

The draft budget circulated by the clerk was considered and agreed. It was therefore agreed to increase the precept to £5500 for 2018/19, to allow for an adequate sum to be left in reserves. Clerk to report to BDC.

- 12.5 A letter to Lloyds Bank was signed, to move £1695 from the solar fund monies account to the main bank account, to pay for the solar blinds and wind turbine noise consultant for planning application 20170173 charges paid during 2017/18. Consideration would be given at the next meeting to adding the Clerk as a signatory to enable internet banking.

13 Any Other Business (items for information only).

- 13.1 RG reported that NCC would be bringing in charges to use recycling centres, which could lead to an increase in fly tipping. She would circulate the article and an objection would be written. ACTION: RG

- 13.2 It was noted that GC had not attended a meeting for several months, and had sent no apologies. RG would raise the matter. ACTION: RG.

- 13.3 CM agreed to forward correspondence from the golf club regarding the footpath to GP. He advised caution in taking this forward until the route of the western link was known.

- 13.4 It was noted that the church would be selling Christmas trees in order to raise funds.

14 To confirm the date of the next meeting:

Monday 12 February 2018

Meeting closed at 21:30

Signed
Chairman.

Objection to Application No. 20171890

Dear Mr Beaumont,

The Weston Longville Parish Council would like to object to the planning application 20171890 for Retention of Existing Travelling Showperson Site Involving Change of Use of Existing Area of Hardstanding.

1. This is a retrospective planning application which appears to have only been lodged to avoid planning enforcement action by Broadland District Council. There have now been a number of failed application attempts on other paddocks in the immediate area, not least the very recent one 20170173, the cause of rejection being due to the rural nature and lack of facilities in nearby communities causing a failure to meet the sustainable criteria. The Government Planning Policy for Travellers Sites 2015 states:

25. Local planning authorities should very strictly limit new traveller site development in open countryside that is away from existing settlements or outside areas allocated in the development plan. Local planning authorities

2. Access to and from the site is unsuitable for multiple and large vehicles. The Honingham Road, from which the site is accessed, has more than 100 – 200 vehicles per hour travelling along it during daylight hours, all of which can be doing the national speed limit of 60 mph. There is therefore considerable risk to road users if large vehicles such as caravans turn into and out of what is a gated private drive.

3. There is no evidence submitted that the applicant fulfills the definition of a travelling showman family under the 2015 Department of Communities and Local Govt Planning Policy for Traveller Sites definition 2015:

3. For the purposes of this planning policy, “travelling showpeople” means:

Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

Because the exceptional nature of the approval depends on their being travellers then there should be clear evidence that they are.

The presence of more elderly people will require access to public services and this would be particularly contrary to the relevant Local Plan policies which seek to protect the countryside by restricting development, in the main, to existing identified settlements (LP Policy GS1), whilst achieving good design and accessibility (LP Policies GS3 and ENV2). The site does not have ready access to public transport, there being no bus service running through

Weston Longville. As previously stated, the Honingham Road, from which the site is accessed, is busy, with traffic travelling fast. This makes the road extremely dangerous for walking, cycling or riding and means that the car is the most likely method of accessing the local services. Such services are at Hockering which is more than 3 miles away, or at Gt Witchingham which is nearly 5 miles away. This is not in keeping with the sustainability aims of the policies.

4. The Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk Joint Core Strategy (last adoption Jan 2014) indicates that Travelling Showpeople should be provided with sites within the Norwich urban area (area wide policy 5) and The Joint Core Strategy Annual Monitoring Review Report 15-16 indicates that the Gt Norwich target for provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches (DM14) is on target (to provide 8 between 2015 and 2018), several of which are already in the Broadland District. A new site at Swanton Rd in Norwich is nearing completion which gives a planned provision of a further 13 pitches. There is thus no requirement to allow such development in undesignated land. As has been previously stated, the site is in a rural location, in surroundings designated as agricultural, and were this to be a member of the settled community seeking to develop the plot for residential purposes, this would not be granted since the parish no longer has a settlement boundary and the policy is to allow development only for affordable housing on exception sites.

5. 3 of the 4 paddocks on this part of the airfield are now owned by travellers. There is already an additional unauthorised static caravan and touring caravan on the site closest to the road (which have been reported for enforcement action), and a third site is fenced in such a way as to suggest future development of a similar kind. Should similar permissions be granted to these sites then this scale of development would, if all the pitches possible were in use, be significant when compared to the numbers of people in the local settled community. The Planning Policy for Travellers Sites indicates that sites in rural areas should respect the scale of, and not dominate, the nearest settled community.

The Weston Longville Parish Council therefore Object to Application No. 20171890 and urges the Council to refuse it.