

Weston Longville Parish Council Meeting of the Parish Council - Minutes

Monday 24th of April 2023 at 7.30pm
Hall for All, Church Street, Weston Longville

Parish Councillors present:

Clare Morton	CM	(Chair)
Bob Banks	BB	
Justin Cohu	JC	
Paul Cowley	PC	
Ruth Goodall	RG	
Cynthia Savory	CS	
Dawn Clarke	DC	(Clerk)

Members of the public (11) including Shelly Coventry (SC) Office Manager and Company Secretary, Royal Norwich Golf Club

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were sent from Peter Ross; these were accepted.

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations.

Clare Morton and Paul Cowley as Local Resident Members of The Stables at the Royal Norwich Golf Club (RNGC)

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th of February 2023.

The council **APPROVED** the minutes, and the chair signed them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. To discuss and resolve a response to the potential licencing developments at the Royal Norfolk Golf Club.

Clare Morton introduced the item by recounting the background of the licencing relationship between the Weston Longville Parish Council (WLPC) and the RNGC, with the previous management. In 2019 when RNGC moved to the site; Broadland District Council did not take WLPC's requests into consideration, this in turn lead to an appeal, where WLPC took their concerns to the magistrates' court The magistrate encouraged both parties to talk about their wishes and reach

a mutual agreement. At that time RNGC and WLPC reached an agreement that they felt they could both work with.

RNGC have approached WLPC to discuss potential changes to their licence. It was stressed that there was no application submitted and that WLPC is committed to work with RNGC prior to any application to allow RNGC to move their business forward in a way that would also work for the Community in Weston Longville.

Shelly Coventry (SC) the Office Manager and Company Secretary for RNGC was welcomed to the meeting.

RG: questioned if the agenda item accurately reflected the discussion.
CM: clarified that the remit of the meeting to determine conditions should RNGC wishes to change their licencing in the future so that there were terms in place that WLPC would be in agreement with.

PC: asked if this was to develop a Parish Council response.
CM: clarified that the meeting was to listen to RNGC and both the council and the parishioners. To make representative proposal that was workable for RNGC and would afford protection to the parishioners. However, it was entirely in RNGC's remit to make an application.

SC: RNGC does not want to make an application right now but would like to commence discussions to gauge reaction and is requesting a trial opening of the patio doors open after 21:00.

This would not be for live music events, this would allow customers direct access from the stables room to the patio rather than walking around the building to get to the patio.

There would be only enough doors to allow safe passage to and from the patio for guests and servers and not the whole length of the doors. The only time all the patio doors would be open is in an emergency situation for safe exit of the building. SC explained that some live bands are unable to use the RNGC sound system and in this case they must apply for a Temporary Entertainment Notice (TEN) The RNGC sound system allows noise control. The exact reason for the bands being unable to connect is unknown and is something under review by RNGC. RNGC would be open to looking at making it a condition for live bands to use installed sound system so that the RNGC would not need to use TENS. This would not be this year, possibly next year depended on the number of TENS and the reaction by the residents living nearby. The number of TENS an establishment can apply for are limited.

It was suggested a temporary trial of opening the door later in the evening. This would be over 2-3 months with noise readings – suggested locations for taking sound recordings:
Back of the putting green towards field road. By the driving range
By the top gate to Morton Lane. Towards Field Road.

JC: suggested that 3 points on the boundary along Morton Road and Field Lane. This would measure the noise level at the boundary of the property that was escaping.

Resident: If the trial happens will residents be notified? In their business interests they would like to know when to expect noise.

JC: reminded council that the Dinosaur Park lets the village know when to expect noise and there should be no reason that the RNGC should not do the same.

Resident: They were aware of a number to call and they did not want to call if the noise was not related to RNGC.

JC: suggested that a longer period of variation should be trailed so that a summer's worth of extended hours could be evaluated.

Resident: Asked who will police the customers

SC: assured that staff would (as they are obliged by licencing laws) ask the customers to return inside, refuse to serve or ask them to leave.

RG: Clarified that the wish of RNGC was to extend the hours that the patio doors can be opened so that residents can use the outside space and not to extend the live music events.

SC: explained there were 2 live music events that were scheduled, and the doors and windows would be locked, only the doors that were legally required for safety would be open. Weddings that were currently booked were using DJs not live music and their audio was via the installed sound system that has inbuild sound monitoring.

Resident: Thanked SC for coming to speak to the village. In 2019 RNGC stated they were not intending to actively promote weddings, however the resident noticed that weddings were being extensively promoted on the website, in publications and advertisements but residents were not informed.

SC: apologised that they did not inform the village and responded that there had been a change in management in that time.

CM: reminded all that RNGC had always been open about their need to have external events to make the business work – catering, tours and events: that it was not going to be only a golf club.

JC: recognised that it was good to have a local agreement but still essential to have the Broadland Licensing in place should management change over time.

CM: it was dependent on Broadland placing conditions on a licence, surely it is better to have more conditions that are un-regulated than less that is regulated. The original licence was unrestricted. The concern is that if Broadland take a similar stance, then does WLPC want to work with the RNGC in advance so that they submit a change of conditions that has been agreed. RNGC is looking for an alleviation of conditions.

Resident: expressed concern that this change was the beginning of greater changes including a hotel.

SC: could not imagine a hotel in the next 10 years.

Resident: was concerned about planning by stealth.

RG: reflected on the need for a varied user base, based on the Village Hall, (JC) there is community support for the business, however it is imperative not to impinge on the community.

Resident: living in proximity, was not interested if the doors were open or closed as long as there was no noise impact on him.

Resident: would you consider having marquees for a weddings?

SC: there is no intention to put marquees on the grass.

JC: noted that previously marquees had offered no noise protection and caused great disturbance, JC felt that the limitations had been successful.

SC: would be happy to provide information to the community via the council of changes to the business plan and supply a dedicated phone number for noise complaints.

CM: would publish details in the Wensum Diary.

BB & SC: asked for common sense and sensibility and parties to work together.

RG: let's give it a try, the request does not seem unreasonable.

CS: when would you be having the bands?

SC: not this year, may be not next year, it's about gauging potential. We may not need to do it.

Resident: felt the RNGC deserved credit for being respectful to residents.

A resident asked if it would be suitable to test noise levels during a live music event with the windows open. A discussion was held and this was decided not to be a good idea.

A resident asked for a follow up of the trial – it was **agreed** a report would be produced for the meeting in September.

Parish councillors resolved to support a 2 month temporary trial of extension in time of the patio doors being opened to 22:30 on members nights when there is no live or DJ-ed music. **Agreed.**

Application will be drafted by SC as an application which clearly states how many doors and sent to CM

9 members of the public left.

5. To agree response on proposal for 'Railway Village' near Bintree in Breckland Local Plan.

As part of Breckland District Council's local plan The Council are consulting to see if there is any support for a new town to be built from scratch. 5,000 dwellings, with a mixture of house type and tenure, 25% affordable housing. Bintree Parish Council are against the proposal and have asked other local parish councils for their support.

There are 2 responses, to support Bintree using their pro-forma letter, and, or to respond to Article 13.

It was **resolved** offer our letter of support to Bintree Parish Council and to object directly Breckland with the primary reason being the A1067 is not sufficient to support such an increase of vehicle volume using the road, and also on the basis of loss of farmland and environmental damage, no infrastructure, poor fit and a significant increase in traffic with little or no public transport, or a safe cycling path. – CM to action

6. To agree assistance of WLPC to Morton Parish Meeting in producing Wind Turbine Application for bus shelter repairs and noticeboards.

PC suggest that a material that will not break should be used due to the vulnerable location.

It was **resolved** to assist them in the purchase of a new notice board and bus shelter.

7. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public and County and District Councillors.

It was requested that the county engineer comes and looks at the 'dip' opposite Orchard House and assess its safety and the need for remedial work in the area where a resident had a catastrophic accident. The Clerk will chase the council again.

CS has contacted authorities to alert them of a resident's continued hospitalisation.

8. Finance

- 8.1. To note contractual payments made.
- 8.2. To agree the payment list.

It was **resolved** to make the payments.

For Authorisation

16/03/2023	Rectory Farm	Hedge cutting to the invoice date	72.00
04/04/2023	NALC	Subscription	136.76
04/04/2023	NALC	Website	70.00

15/04/2023	Marion Barnes	Payroll 21-22	60.00
31/04/2023	Dawn Clarke	Expenses / WFH Allowance / Postage / Mileage	88.95

To note the payment

22/03/2023	Hall For All	Meeting room for 2022-23 year	170.00
15/04/2023	Dawn Clarke	Salary	241.00

CIL payment

08/03/2023	Beck House, Lyng Road 20201942	362.70
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It was noted that the Clerk now has full online access and this month online payments would be trailed. The Clerk will set up payments for them to be authorised by a council member with authority (CM/ RG/ PC)

9. Any other business (information only)

Bob Banks was thanked for his continued work with the fire. The waste pile contains carcasses of birds that have died from Avian Flu and Duck waste. The burning heap causes areas to dry out which then re-ignite, and the stench is permeating residents homes. There is some smothering of the pile with topsoil however it is not entirely effective.

BB has not heard from Gressingham Ducks – however does not have an official update, but the heap is very much still on fire.

CM: the fire brigade states Defra told them not to put water on it, Defra says it is nothing to do with them, all they do is authorise is where the heaps are placed, and it is for the landowner to liaise with the environmental agency. The EA were not consulted, however they are aware there is a fire and they have no other interest, the EHO state as it is a commercial site it is the EA. The EA said they would 'pass it to their local team'

10. To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting: Monday May 22nd 2023 in the Hall for All.

The meeting date has changed due to multiple factors, including the contested election, Coronation and work being carried out on the Hall for All, from the 8th of May to the 22nd of May 2023.

The meeting closed at 20:40