



# North Luffenham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the North Luffenham Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

**Present:** Cllr Cummings (Chairman), Mrs Ashpole (Clerk) and approximately 30 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. Special thanks were expressed to the former Parish Clerk, Mr Ian Ferguson, who served the Parish Council for 7 years before retiring in July 2016.

- 1. Open Forum:** issues raised were associated with the challenges of general communication and the combination of website versus other methods as follows:
  - a. the PC are aware that only a third of residents access the village website on a regular basis
  - b. only a third of those present at the meeting indicated being subscribed to the village website – it was clarified that subscribing ensures an email alert is received by subscribers as soon as a post is made
  - c. the PC would welcome the opportunity to work with volunteer parishioners to help improve communication
  - d. exchange of topical issues is more widely available to Parish Councillors via attendance at RCC bi-monthly Parish Council Forum as well as regular liaison and support from local County Councillors, Gale Waller and Kenneth Bool
  - e. a contact scheme was recently initiated whereby a 'ward' councillor is the first point of contact for nominated areas
  - f. contact can also be made to the parish clerk for onward referral to the Parish Council
  - g. the challenges of raising issues more widely via the local press was mentioned; it was noted however that the village coordinator ensures local news is reported in the Parish Magazine
  - h. new residents to village: it was acknowledged that a local village offers a 'meet and greet' system to welcome newcomers
  - i. distribution of Village Information booklets to every household is scheduled for early April; extra copies are available for newcomers to the village – it would be very helpful if Cllr Gina Inman can be informed of new residents (her phone number is listed on the Parish Council notice boards) so that she can arrange to deliver a booklet.
- 2. Consider the minutes of the last meeting:**
  - a. Spire Homes:** the PC wished to be more proactive when affordable housing is offered for sale on the open market, to ensure that these remain available to people in the village.
  - b. Odour from compost site:** no significant issues regarding the smell from the site had been reported last summer. It was clarified

that the site is not closed; whilst the council no longer use it, it remains in use by private contractors.

- 3. Parish Council Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported on the 2016/17 year via a presentation, which would subsequently be made available on the village website. Key points included:
- The work of the Parish Council during the past financial year including thanks conveyed to each Councillor for their hard work and dedication to the Parish Council's respective projects
  - identifying Parish Council priorities and challenges for the forthcoming year and a request for volunteers to help enhance the services
  - The imminent distribution of a Village Information booklet which provided key contact information
  - The imminent distribution of questionnaires (for adults and children respectively) to capture all villagers' contributions to the Village Plan; a resident asked if she could see a copy of the questionnaire for 11-15 year olds prior to them being distributed, which Cllr Tim Smith agreed to provide.
- 4. Responsible Finance Officer's Report:** copies of 3 provisional finance reports for 2016/17 were circulated as follows:
- Parish Council Accounts
  - Parish Council (Trust) Accounts
  - Investment report for the Field Gardens Trust and Former Village Hall

These documents would be published online together with these Minutes.

**The meeting closed at 9pm**