



North Luffenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st July 2019
at **7pm** at North Luffenham Community Centre

Present: Cllrs Cummings, Smith, Mason, Anker, Cade and County Cllr Waller

There were 5 members of the Public present;

The Chair welcomed everyone, outlining the format of the meeting

67/19 Apologies: Cllrs Bishop, Burrows and Sewell and County Cllr Bool

68/19 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Cade re Community Centre

69/19 Public Forum: The state of the woodland walk was raised especially with regard to the scorching of some of the trees following the spraying of the ragwort. In response they were advised that there would be no permanent damage and that the future maintenance of the walk was discussed at the recent strategy meeting and that a long term plan was being developed, with the intent of involving more residents. It was agreed that more man-hours were needed to maintain the walk

70/19 The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2019 were duly approved and signed.

71/19 Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that the PC had a very useful strategy meeting on 17th June with the following areas discussed

- Woodland Walk including the need for a long term plan
- Oval Recreation Ground:
- To try to get more involvement of residents in village matters
- Lyndon Road Parking: Cllr Mason had produced a proposed plan to deal with the parking in Lyndon Rd which was causing issues of access especially for farm transport and large lorries including emergency vehicles. It was agreed the next step was for the Planning Committee to call a meeting with residents of Lyndon Road to discuss the parking issue and possible solutions.
- VE Day Celebrations: 9th/10th May 2020.
- Village Hall Community Centre
- Neighbour and Resilience Plans

Notes from the meeting were taken and are attached.

The Chairman advised that he would be standing down as Chairman and resigning from the PC immediately before the next PC meeting due to a planned move away from the area.

72/19 To receive an update of St George's Barracks Development. – Cllr Cummings

The next meeting of the SGB Advisory Group is scheduled for **Wed 24th July** at which point we should get a full update. Cllr Anker to attend with current

Chairman. Copies of the consultation responses relating to the proposal to include SGB within the scope of RCC's local plan and the minutes of recent Parish Council Liaison Group Meetings had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was announced last week that RCC had been successful in their bid for funding from the Garden Communities Fund, but that the amount of the grant had not yet been promulgated. James Brokenshire, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that as outlined in the Masterplan, the St George's Barracks development of 2,215 homes would be a dementia friendly development, without any caveats regarding the RCC decision making process, including the Local Plan. CE RCC issued a statement on Friday afternoon stating:

The Ministry for Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) informed us on Tuesday evening that Rutland would be among 19 confirmed bids for Garden Communities funding and that this information would be embargoed until Saturday 30th June.

On Wednesday, it became apparent that MHCLG had provided advance information to the Daily Mail, highlighting that some of the money we were to be offered would relate to the design of dementia-friendly neighbourhoods, which is referenced in the St. George's Evolving Masterplan and included within our bid to the Garden Communities Fund.

There is a family connection between dementia and the Secretary of State, which no doubt added to the interest in this particular aspect of our successful bid.

In dialogue with MHCLG, we stressed the fluid nature of the St. George's proposals at this stage of the project and were very clear that they remain subject to a number of independent processes – not least the ongoing review of Rutland's Local Plan.

Subsequent to this, we were notified late on Wednesday afternoon that information about successful Garden Communities bids would be made public the next day (Thursday 27th). We responded late on Wednesday (23:30) with our own statement, reiterating that St. George's is a wider project within which the concept of dementia-friendly communities is one element. Regrettably, this information was overlooked or ignored by the national press.

You can read our full statement here: www.rutland.gov.uk/my-council/council-news/rutland-successful-in-bid-for-garden-communities-funding.

I would like to reassure you that every effort has been made to provide all St George's stakeholders with timely and accurate information about the Garden Communities announcement – while respecting to the restrictions placed upon us by MHCLG.

A more comprehensive briefing for the Advisory Group will be provided once we have received the full details and conditions relating to the Garden Communities grant.

It is hoped that development proposals will be discussed at the Parish Council Forum on 15th Jul at Catmose. In respect of this project the next major hurdle will be the Cabinet discussion regarding the development on 20th Aug 19 before consideration by full Council in the Autumn.

Last week Cllr Cummings had visited Whitehill/Bordon – whilst the development there continues apace, it was interesting to note that the employment site remains but a fenced field.

The Officers' Mess site was raised. County Cllr Waller advised that this site was no longer going to be developed by RCC as the planned development of 70 houses on the site would not be sufficient to cover costs, with 90 houses being more realistic. RCC were now awaiting to see if a developer was interested based on 70 houses.

73/19 Correspondence – **Clerk**

- **Citizens Advice Rutland** – Request for funding
- **Gary Chisholm**: GSL 1st North Luffenham Scouts

Both pieces of correspondence were read out both of which were seeking funding, though neither mentioned an amount. It was agreed that both organisations would be sent a grant application form. It was also suggested that the Scouts may want to get involved with the Woodland walk

74/19 Finance Report – **Clerk**

1. Due to the late apology of Cllr Sewell the bank reconciliation was not undertaken, however it was noted that there had been no change since the last reconciliation.
2. The Finance Report was considered and approved
3. The following payments made in accordance with contractual agreements were duly noted:
 - £1,186.51; J Willoughby Clerks salary
 - £296.40; HMRC

75/19 **Planning: Cllr Burrows**

PROPOSAL: Reference: 2019/0487/FUL The Coach House 10A Church Street

Alteration and extension to form two bedrooms with ensuite facilities and utility/boot room to an existing residential dwelling. Insertion of first floor juliet balcony to existing side (south) elevation.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the planned application.

The Horse & Paniers Site

The PC had been approached by Ian Lapsley from Smithers Purslow (on behalf of the owner) with regard to the possible development of the site, seeking an initial meeting prior to a possible new planning application being submitted. County Cllr Waller strongly recommended that as a planning application had been declined in 2013 on several grounds that they be directed to contact RCC planning. Following this recommendation the decision was made not to meet.

76/19 To receive an update on RCC policy in respect of affordable housing in Geoff Sewell Close- **Cllr Cummings**

It was noted that the current house for sale in Geoff Sewell Close had now been sold. It was confirmed that it had been initially offered for sale to people with a connection with the village. There had been no applications therefore was offered next to people with a Rutland connection. This had resulted in three applications which had been considered by Spire Homes and the sale of the house agreed.

County Cllr Waller will now check that RCC have a robust procedures in place regarding the sale of such shared ownership homes.

77/19 To receive a report on progress to updating website – **Cllr Burrows**

In the absence of Cllr Burrows Cllr Smith reported the following:

- Cllr Bishop and the Clerk have actioned the changes to the website adding the governance documents to it
- Formatting of the village booklet had been completed and the new booklet printed at a cost of £40 (Agreed budget of £50)
- Cllr Bishop and Anker have discussed an email campaign tool and this will be presented to the next IT Working group
- Email notifications will now show full content
- GDPR Policy has been finalised and placed with the other governance documents
- Currently looking at Cllrs being provided with PC dedicated email addresses through the use of Gmail suite.

78/19 To receive an update on the situation with regard to the Community Centre. - **Cllr Cade**

Notes produced by RCC with regard to the future of the Community Centre had been pre-circulated. The following was noted:

1. Once the School building works were completed use of the Community Centre by the school would be less
2. RCC would continue to maintain the fabric of the building and the Community Centre would be redecorated once the building works at the school were completed.
3. A new formal agreement to be finalised with regard to the future management of the Community Centre
4. The annual cost of managing the Centre was approx. £1,000

It was hoped that a full proposal would be put to the PC at the September PC meeting. Cllr Cade also mentioned the need to regularise the situation with regard to the Community Centre Working Group now that Claudia Riorden was no longer a Parish Cllr. It was recommended and agreed that Cllr Smith be a 2nd representative on the working group. The working group would now be: Syd Overington, Claudia Riordan, Janet Whittaker, and Cllrs Cade and Smith

79/19 To receive, consider and approve the Terms of Reference of the IT Working Group. The terms of reference were duly considered and approved.

80/19 To consider initial ideas/plans with regard to VE Day Celebrations in May 2020. The Chairman sought ideas as to how we can best promote this event and get as many residents involved both with regard to its organisation and attending. At past village days many local groups have got involved and it was hoped that this would be the case with this event. It was also agreed that we should seek to create a memorial to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, possibly a bench on the Walkway.

81/19 Date of next meeting: **Monday 2nd September 2019, 7pm North Luffenham Community Centre.**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm