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North Luffenham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of North Luffenham Parish Council held on **Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.00pm** at NL Community Centre

**Present:** Cllrs Smith (also C.Cllr), Cade, Spiegl, Gorse and Burrows.

**141/23 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from C.Cllr Waller and Cllrs Barsby, Forbes and Marsh.

**142/23 Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Spiegl declared a financial interest in agenda item 153/23 and Cllr Smith declared a conflict of interest in 148/23 (Officers Mess Site) as he has a role on the planning committee at RCC.

**143/23 Public Forum**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**145/23 To approve and sign Minutes**

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th of August 2023 were correct and be approved and signed following a change to the chairman’s report section, regarding the wording of RCC’s decision to purchase waste lorries.

**146/23 Ward Report**

The Childrens services sector at RCC, in partnership with Leicester, have been awarded a grant to improve local SEND facilities/services.

RCC have decided to hire a front of house staff member, to support people with enquiries, at the reception of the RCC building.

**147/23 Chairman’s Report**

Community Service Award - to be presented to those individuals in recognition of the work they put into North Luffenham. It was agreed that the award will become a standing feature of the Annual Parish Meeting, in which the recipient of the award will be awarded a cup (a smaller cup to take home and one larger cup will stay in the Community Centre with the names of the engraved winners updated every year). A further suggestion of a monetary prize will be discussed at the next meeting. The nominations will be open in January next year and will be open for any NL resident to nominate another. Specific rules and regulations will be discussed in full at the next meeting.

Our local MP has started a petition to object to the Mallard Pass Solar Development. It is on her website under the campaigns heading if anyone would like to support her campaign.

**148/23 Correspondence**

* **Request for memorial tree**

The Oval committee will continue form a policy, using the policy sent by the clerk as a template and will report back in the November meeting for final approval.

* **Broken Bin in play area – inspected by RCC and recommended repair**

The Clerk has since received communication from RCC to suggest the bin on the play area is not an RCC bin. Therefore contractors will be contacted to provide quote for the repair and waste removal services for the bins that RCC have now notified the clerk they will not be taking responsibility for. For reference these are the bins in the play area and any on the woodland walk site.

* **Offer to Purchase Land**

The council decided not to make an offer at this time for the reduced price suggested.

* **Damage to housing in village due to traffic**

The council has raised this issue with RCC and will chase up the report.

* **Grass cutting.**

RCC has sent information regarding the decision to decrease the amount of cuts from 10 to 6. In doing so they have asked councils to consider if they would wish to contract other contractors to complete the grass cutting in the village. Several companies have since reached out to advise they would be happy to quote for the service. The council will discuss, before the budget in December, as to whether they would like to stay with RCC grass cutting or to contract out. Several grass cutting companies will be contacted to quote. RCC will be contacted to obtain further details regarding the Service Level Agreement that will need to be put in place.

Greenspace near Ancaster way – Green Belt will be contacted again to discuss the tidying up of that area.

Greenspace near Geoff Sewell Close – The council will request a quote for the works to tidy up the site.

* **Officers Mess Site**

The council voted to object to the application based on the current application being not in line with the policy regarding master plans for military buildings. A comment will be made on the RCC planning portal.

* **Fireworks**

The Clerk has had correspondence from the trust to ask permission to host the annual fireworks event on the Oval. The council unanimously gave permission for this event to be hosted again this year. We hope to see as many residents in attendance, at this traditional North Luffenham event, as possible.

**149/23 Finance Report:**

1. **To receive, consider and approve the Finance Report [Document]:**
2. **To approve the following payments:**

* Clerk’s Salary – £679.17 (£543.37 Net and 135.80 HMRC)
* Payroll – J Butlin - £105 (Payroll from Sept 23 – March 24)
* Zen – £42
* RCC Election Results - £155.19

Payments of the above expenditure were unanimously agreed.

**150/23 Planning - Cllr Burrows**

No planning comments to be made.

Clerk will contact RCC regarding building works signage having been put up in the parish that doesn’t conform to regulations.

**151/23 To receive and consider the report from the Community Centre Management Committee – Cllr Cade**

It was decided the Scouts Group can use the kitchen and CC facilities overnight for the remembrance service weekend. This will be on a no fee basis.

It was agreed to advertise the hire charges.

A separate electric meter will be installed in the near future to get a better idea of the community centre usage.

**152/23 To receive and consider the report from the CIL Group – Cllr Burrows**

There has been no further meetings since the last PC meeting. The next meeting is due on the 4th of October.

**153/23 Neighbourhood Plan**

The referendum was agreed by councillors and will take place on the 19th of October. The final copy of the Neighbourhood Plan will be released shortly following guidance from RCC.

It was agreed that the council spend £133.15 for printing of leaflets to be distributed twice before the referendum to encourage people to vote and have their say. A budget of £60 was also set for banners to be purchased to further encourage a good turnout of voters.

**154/23 Date of next meeting:**

It was previously agreed that meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the new time of 7pm.

Upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

18th Oct 23

15th Nov 23

20th Dec 23

17th Jan 24

21st Feb 24

20th March 24

17th April 24 - Annual Parish Meeting

**Jadene Bale, Parish Clerk**