The Annual Parish Meeting was held **on Wednesday 17th of April 2023 at 19.00 -** NL Community Centre.


North Luffenham Parish Council

Minutes

1. **Chairman’s Report from Cllr Tim Smith.**

**Community Service Award**

The parish council resolved that there should be recognition of service to the community of North Luffenham and at the APM the award will be made. There has been an online poll as to who should receive this, the first North Luffenham Community Service award.

The award is proposed to be on an annual basis, and it would be good to see residents attend the APM.

The parish council would like to thank all those nominated, and there were three who requested not to be included, for their community spirited contributions to the parish.

**North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan**

This was passed at a referendum on the 19th October 2023 and is now a legal document and has significant influence in planning applications that effect the parish. The NP sets out the vision, objectives and planning policies along with design codes until 2037 to ensure the parish maintains its uniqueness and setting in the countryside.

One outcome of the NP being in place is that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), monies from developments within the parish, is increased from 15% to 25%. A CIL working group has been meeting to recommend to the parish council how the accumulated monies can be used to benefit residents.

A quick win was the restoration of the village pump but there are other projects being considered such as better community facilities for meetings and events as well as better recreational activities for young people.

The Parish Council would like to thank all involved in bringing the NP to fruition.

**Local Plan** (Regulation 18 draft LP)

The new Local Plan (LP) is under development and RCC aim to have it implemented by 2026. It is at a stage called Regulation 18, which is basically the LP in draft form, on which there was a county wide consultation. All the responses to the consultation will be considered

following which it will be redrafted to form the draft LP for submission, called Regulation 19, to an independent inspector. Once again modification may be made, and the final LP then adopted.

In the Regulation 18 document North Luffenham has been designated a larger village and land south of Glebe Road has been proposed as a reserved site for 10 houses. As a reserved site it would only be considered if the housing numbers in the county were not met. The North Luffenham NP would have a significant roll if this was to be proposed.

It is still not clear what the proposals are for the main site at St. George’s Barracks, but in the Regulation 18 draft plan it states, ‘redevelopment proposals are not expected to deliver more than between 350 and 500 dwellings as part of a mixed-use development’.

**Parish Precept**

Unfortunately, the precept has had to be increased to keep within the budget. This has been due to increased energy costs and the street lighting. The parish council is trying to save on costs; for example, by installing our own meter in the community centre, so that we only

pay for electricity used rather than a percentage basis. Another example is rather than purchasing a new notice board at a cost of over £1,000.00, having the old one renovated by Men and Women in Sheds.

The parish council would like to thank residents who facilitated this and the resident who at no cost securely sited the renovated Pinfold Notice board.

**The Oval and Field Gardens**

The Oval is much appreciated by the community and reflected in the surveys of 2017 and 2020. However, it does take quite a lot looking after with regular mowing, inspections of the trees and play equipment. There are over 100 trees on The Oval and significant costs may be occurred particularly if remedial work on trees is necessary.

Once again there was good weather for the November 5th bonfire, resulting in a particularly good turnout, with the event being much appreciated. As a result, all costs were covered, with the surplus adding to parish council funds. Many thanks to the organisers and volunteers who were responsible for making the event such a success.

The Woodland Walk is much used by walkers and dog walkers and the extended walk along, the inside of the hedge bordering Edith Weston Road bringing it out at the top of Pinfold Lane is appreciated. A plea to dog walkers; please pick up after your dog.

The allotments continue to be well used and there is a demand for additional plots. The PC is looking to create more plots on land that it owns near the present allotments. These areas do not look after themselves so many thanks to Charles Cade.

The parish council would like to thank village residents who have helped bring the community together, Good Companions, the Garden Club, the Church, the Good Neighbour Scheme, and not the least the pantomime.

1. **Financial Report from Clerk of NLPC**

The clerk presented the financial report which will be uploaded to the website. This report shows that the Parish Council had income of £120.87 after all expenditure was made leaving our bank balance at £62,289.69. Of the £62,289.69, there are certain ringfenced amounts such as the CIL money at £28,929.42 and Community Centre funds at £4115.79, meaning the Parish Council have £29,244.48 in reserves.

Trust had an income of £4691.81, leaving £13,912.12 in reserves.

1. **General Items for discussion/residents’ concerns.**

An issue was raised with the community centre venue being too small for some local village groups. The Chairman advised that one of the objectives of the CIL committee was to provide an alternative venue for community uses.

1. **Reports from village organisations and groups.**

The first report was from the Scouts Group. They have 3 Scouts presenting the report with support from one of the Scout Leaders. They presented a list of what they had completed this year, including multiple activities such as water sports, axe throwing, Remembrance Parade, Hikes, Promo Videos and much more! They also reported on what activities they were looking at doing this year, including ‘I’m a Scout get me out of here!’, Rutland Castle trip, Leicestershire Cubs Camp and Environmental and Community projects. They also provided information about the group such as they have a waiting list, 3 children were awarded their Gold Scouts Award. 6 Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Award. They have 9 leaders, 6 of which achieved district recognition. They have 2 young leaders. They then presented Charles Cade a certificate for his 10 years service to the Scouts and encouraged those who have the time to volunteer – even if its not with the children and providing support for administration or finance for the Trust.

Our second report was from the Good Companions. Jason introduced the group that was run by Evelyn Pickard for 22 years and Jason having run the group for the past two years. It currently has 30 members that meet every 1st Wednesday. Some events include the trips to Springfields and Hunstanton, a tea party and the annual Xmas Lunch. They have also arranged a trip on the 16th of July to go to Sheringham. The group have received support form the Village Trust and the Good Neighbours scheme.

The third reports was from the Garden Club. The group currently has 75 members and a waiting list. Meetings take place every second Wednesday of the month. They have an interesting mix of guest speakers and have recently hosted the Gardeners World Presenter Nick Bailey. Membership runs from 1st Oct – 30th Sept and is £20 /year. The annual Plant Sale is on 1st June at the Fox, 10am-1pm and they encourage everyone in the village to come and grab a bargain from their wide selection of plants that will be on sale. Events are hosted throughout the year but are members only due to venue capacity restrictions.

Our fourth report was from the Bowls Club. The 2023 season was a successful and busy time for the bowls club which took place from late

April until early September. In that time as well as the regular Tuesday and Thursday ‘roll ups’, they played 30 matches against other clubs in and around Rutland, had an open evening each month for prospective bowlers to come along to try the game and held several social events.

They also repaired and redecorated the outside of the clubhouse and replaced the rainwater goods. The number of members remained similar to the previous year and so they are again holding open events for people to give the game a try in the hope this may increase membership. This

year they have decided to hold these open events on the weekends during May. These will be on Saturday 4th, Sunday 12th and Saturday 25th between 1 - 5pm, they will provide bowls and those wishing to participate should wear flat soled shoes. They are also happy to welcome anyone at their Tuesday and Thursday roll ups throughout the season which take place from 2 -4pm.

This year they are holding a fundraising event later in the year which will feature the Uppingham Jazz and Soul Band at North Luffenham Primary School on the evening of 5th October, details will be published nearer the event so please keep an eye out for posters around the village.

Our last report was from the Cricket Club. The club continues to run on the Oval. Played successfully last year in Tuesday league and got promoted. They are doing well playing on a Tuesday. Always interested in new players.

1. **Awarding the first NL Annual Community Service Award.**

After a public vote, with 76 votes being cast, the winner of the Annual Community Service Award was Janet Whittaker. Her nomination reads: "Janet has been an unrecognised force in the village for decades and still continues. Her knowledge of village ‘stuff’, archive and church is unrivalled." "Janet has been a church warden at St John’s for many years. She has worked tirelessly over decades to ensure continuance of our beautiful church, organising concerts, services and fund-raisers. She’s there to open the door in the morning and lock up at night, despite her increasingly challenging personal situation. In addition, any village event – bonfire night, jubilee celebrations etc – she’s there with a home-baked cake and a cheery smile, serving teas to us all.”

1. **Any other business.**

The minutes of the 2023 APM were agreed by those who attended and were signed.

No other business was raised.

Jadene Bale, Parish Clerk