

East Drayton Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held
at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18th September 2012 in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs N Stanley, A Stanley, I Stephens, M Goddard, R Small and Cllr J Hemsall. In attendance: the Clerk, S Pickard. Members of the public: 2.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs P Ogle and H Mackintosh, and PC Bailey.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 17th July 2012** – were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - a) Local Broadband facilities – Notts County Council is asking for Parish Councils to support the campaign for superfast broadband. Individuals can complete a short survey via www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband, phone or fill in a paper pledge form. There is also a 'pledge button' which can be posted on PC websites to take pledgers directly through to the survey. **ACTION: S Pickard** to forward information to Steve Ellis for the village website.
4. **Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations.
5. **Correspondence**
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - a) Pilot of a Lengthsman Scheme – update. In circulation folder.
 - b) Campaign for faster Broadband in Notts. In circulation folder.
 - c) Could you foster.... Poster. For village noticeboard.
 - Bassetlaw District Council
 - d) Developing the Relationship: District and Town & Parish Councils. The District Council has indicated that rural issues will be one of its key priorities. Part of the development of this agenda will be an examination of how the relationship between the district and parish councils can be improved and strengthened. This is also against the backdrop of the Localism agenda and new standards regime. A joint working group will progress the review. Nominations are invited from Parish Councils. After discussion, it was AGREED the Chairman, Cllr N Stanley's name should be put forward for consideration. **ACTION: S Pickard.**
 - e) Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan Consultation – (comments can be made on-line by 28.9.12). In circulation folder.
 - f) Bassetlaw District Council Rural Advisor – letter of introduction received from Cllr Hazel Brand. AGREED to invite Cllr Brand to the next meeting to explain about her new role. **ACTION: S Pickard.**
 - g) Link to Rural Services network – on-line information. In circulation folder.
 - h) Future of the concurrent grant – The Council noted that for the financial year 2013/14 there will be a reduction, with the likelihood that it will be completely cut the following year. Process is on-going. In circulation folder.
 - i) Note from Parish Council Liaison Group meeting held 11.7.12 regarding amendment to the Council Tax Base. In circulation folder.
 - j) Fact Book 2012-13. In circulation folder.
 - NALC
 - k) Email from Gordon Brown re NALC Northern Area committee meeting (20.8.12) previously discussed with Chairman. In circulation folder.
 - l) NALC AGM – 14.11.12 at Epperstone VH. In circulation folder.
 - m) Data Protection & Freedom of Information workshop. In circulation folder.
 - Police
 - n) Safer Neighbourhood Group minutes from PSgt Crofts. In circulation folder.
 - o) Crime report from PC Bailey – two crimes noted: 11.8.12 Low Street – theft of heating oil and 07.09.12 Church Lane – burglary at a caravan.

General

- p) National Trust volunteering information. In circulation folder.
- q) Appointment of external auditor from 2012/13 – Grant Thornton UK LLP.

6. **Planning**

- i) From the Parish Council Liaison Group meeting minutes (held 11.7.12) the Clerk noted that the District Council had agreed to cease sending paper documentation of planning matters. In future Clerks will be alerted of new proposals and information could be found on the website. Steve Brown had agreed to update the Clerk on any further developments regarding a date for the commencement of the new procedure.

7. **General Business**

- i) Village Newsletter – The next edition would be printed in early October and if anyone had any items for inclusion, they should contact Cllr Mackintosh.

8. **Meeting adjourned for Publish Discussion**

- a) Mrs Janet Goddard introduced Mrs Stephanie Ashforth, who gave a detailed report on the state of St Peter's Church:

Mrs Ashforth has been the minute secretary for the Church Council but has undertaken the mammoth task of applying for all the grants for repairs to the Church. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had pledged £1,500, asked about the VAT element. Mrs Ashforth agreed that there would be ramifications around such an amount of money, but they were still in discussions.

The main problem is the roof to the nave. There is death watch beetle present in all the roof trusses and the roof is leaking. The lead from the roof has been stolen twice and the previous architect suggested using stainless steel and this had created the ideal environment for death watch beetle. Also, the windows do not have any ventilation. Should there be a snowfall, the Church may have to be shut on the grounds of Health & Safety. After this work has been completed, the porch roof needs repairing.

Last year a mini survey was undertaken to assess the extent of the damage; it then became apparent this was a major job. Worksop architect Carl Andrews was appointed and the Church Council has been very pleased to have him working with them. He concluded there was a 'massive problem' in the roof and it could be tinkered with at a cost of £78,000 or the job could be done properly at a cost of £200,000. This would allow eradication of the beetle and repair to all trusses. English Heritage has pledged a further £146,000 for stage 2, with £38,000 to be raised from grants/fund raisers.

Carl took on the project and worked with English Heritage, who awarded a stage 1 grant of over £18,000. This is where they are at now; the scaffolding is up and the condition of the trusses is being examined. In addition, £6,000 has been raised in grants.

Mrs Ashforth said they had posted leaflets to every household asking not just for financial aid, but if anyone could offer their skills. This had met with very little response; a group of five individuals are trying to keep the Church going. Mrs Ogle had been involved for over 50 years and Mrs Goddard herself, has been on the PCC for 49 years.

All churches in Nottinghamshire are under review due to the shortage of clergy and by 2020 it will have been decided which have to close. The criteria they use includes: whether the church is in good order, has a congregation of more than 30 and is a viable entity. It may perhaps be the case that to save the Church it will have to be opened up for community use. It was also suggested the village hall could be sold and the proceeds be put towards the repairs; but what would happen if the Church closed? St Peter's Church pays £1,200 annually to the Diocese; but receives nothing in return.

Mrs Ashforth said she was confident they would be successful in securing all the funding. English Heritage is keen for them to apply next year for further money.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Goddard and Mrs Ashforth for attending and wished them luck with the project. The Chairman agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council for publication in the village newsletter regarding the situation of the Church and the money it has pledged towards its repair. **ACTION: The Chairman.**

9. Finance

a) Income – None.

b) Accounts for Payment

i) The Council AGREED payment of £31.04 to the Clerk for expenses incurred.

ii) The Council AGREED payment of £60.00 to Clement Keys for the internal audit. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

c) Balance of Accounts

The account balances as at 18th September 2012 were:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| | £ |
| Nottingham BS | 2,519.37 |
| Lloyds TSB | <u>516.14</u> |
| | 3,035.51 |

d) Transfer of Funds – not required.

e) External Audit of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2012

The Clerk confirmed Clement Keys had now completed the external audit and the Notice of Completion of Audit form was completed and will be posted on the village noticeboard for 14 days. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

10. Urgent Business

i) Adoption of Code of Conduct – After consideration at last month's meeting and circulation of the documentation, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the NALC Code of Conduct. The document will be reproduced on the website for transparency of the Council. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

ii) Register of members' interests – further notes of explanation are available and will be circulated in the correspondence folder. This will enable completion next month.

iii) The Chairman reported several reflector posts had been chopped up by the grass cutter and these required replacement. Also there is a large pothole on the corner near the 'phone kiosk on Top Street and a drain on Church Lane is blocked. Highways Department to be contacted. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

iv) Concerning the street lighting it was queried what saving had actually been made by switching off the lights at night and facts and figures should be sought. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

11. **Date and time of next meeting** – The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday, 16th October 2012 at 7.30 pm.**

Signed _____ Date _____