

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT MEETING OF JANUARY 18 2010

Minutes of a meeting of Scarning Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 14 December 2009.

Present All councillors except Mr Spillman
In attendance Mr N Hartley
 Two members of the public

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Mr Steward opened the meeting in the temporary absence of Mr Glister. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted apologies had been received from Mr Spillman, who was working and from Mrs E Gould. On his arrival, Mr Glister took over as Chairman.

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Glister declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda.
Mrs Brown declared a personal interest in the payment to T Brown. He is her husband.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2009 were confirmed and signed with amendments to pages 874 and 875.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

It was noted that the works on site near Budgens are near completion, apart from a small issue with foul sewage chamber ownership. Norfolk County Council will be seeking tenders to carry out works to the entrance to the site.

Norfolk County Council had advised the clerk there are currently no plans to extend the cycle path to Blackhorse Close. It was agreed to lobby the County Council.

The chairman had spoken to a representative of Norfolk County Council about the Drayton Hall Lane junction. A letter regarding traffic incidents at the junction had been sent to the clerk, which was read at the meeting. It was agreed to continue to lobby for improvements to the junction.

5. Public Participation Period In Standing Orders

It was agreed to formally include a Public Participation Period in the Parish Council's Standing Orders. The agreed wording was as follows:- At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman, with the permission of the Council, may at his discretion and at a convenient time

in the transaction of business adjourn the meeting so as to allow any member of the public to address the meeting.

6. Public Participation Period

The meeting was formally closed for public participation.

7. Finance

Payments made and approved in accordance with budget

Cq 100997 Land Registry, search fee re land next to Hye Vue, Dereham Road, £5
100998 Mr R Allan, payment for running village website, £200
100999 L F Everett & Son, newsletter printing, £79
101000 T Brown, newsletter delivery, £40
101001 Norfolk Games & Frames, sign for Water Meadows, £86.25
101002 Land Registry, search fee re registered land at Rushmeadow Road, £8

8 & 9. Budget and Chairman's Allowance

It was suggested that the council might wish to precept for two shelters on Dereham Road, one in the village sign lay by, the other near the post box lay by.

It was suggested that the council might wish to purchase a chain of office for the chairman. It was agreed to obtain a quote. It was also agreed that the clerk will write to NALC to see how many other parish council chairmen have chains of office.

The chairman declared a prejudicial interest in the Chairman's Allowance, Scarning PCC as he is a churchwarden and the Village Hall, as chairman of the Village Hall Trust. He left the room.

The clerk noted there were three matters to resolve in order to complete the budget and set the precept.

- The application for funds from Scarning PCC.
- The Village Hall Trust/the works outside the Village Hall.
- The Chairman's Allowance.

Chairman's Allowance

The clerk had sought advice from NALC following the November meeting and confirmed that the allowance did not include expenses or any element of remuneration. It was agreed to set the Chairman's Allowance at £150 and for the chairman to claim expenses as appropriate.

Village Hall

It was questioned at the last meeting whether or not the Village Hall Trust had already received a grant in respect of the proposed works to the front of the Village Hall. The clerk had written to the Secretary of the Village Hall Trust, who confirmed that the payment of £5,000 made in 2008 was being held to pay for the works.

Scarning PCC

It was noted that the PCC had not produced quotes for the proposed works. The clerk noted that most of the proposed works to the church would have to be considered as a Section 137 payment. He had sought advice from NALC, which had been forwarded to all councillors.

It was agreed to consider the request for funds for the interment of ashes area on receipt of a quote from the PCC using any funds carried forward from the current financial year.

The clerk suggested introducing a Grants Policy, to be formally considered at the Parish Council meeting in January 2010.

It was agreed to allocate the £5,000 apportioned to the works to the Village Hall frontage in the budget discussions in November toward Section 137 payments and to formally consider the introduction of a Grants Policy at the meeting in January.

The chairman rejoined the meeting.

It was agreed to earmark £1,825 toward the Wensum Valley Trust's works on the Water Meadows.

It was agreed to set the precept at £30,000.

10. Planning

a. Breckland Council Decisions

Miss J Magrath, Scarning Dale, Dale Road
Proposed residential conversion of former function room

Approved

b. Planning Application Considered

Scarning Parish Council, Scarning Village Hall, Dereham Road
Lower the kerb outside hall, add safety barriers outside hall, tarmac car park & move bus stop

Mr Glister declared an interest as Chairman of the Village Hall Trust and took no part in the discussions. All councillors declared an interest in the application as members of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that there were no objections to the application.

11. Any other Business

The clerk noted that the Community Police Support Officer had suggested holding 'surgeries' in the Village Hall. It was agreed to support.

The clerk read a letter from the Boundary Committee regarding the Committee's proposal for Norfolk to be a county unitary authority. It was agreed to write to the Committee on the same basis as the council had responded in May 2009.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm.