

A meeting of Canwick Parish Council was held on Monday 21st December 2009, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Montagu Road, Canwick. District Cllr Mrs Brighton was present.

Present:- Councillor L.J. Pennell - Chairman
Councillor I.D. Carrington - Vice-Chairman and also Ward District Cllr
Councillor Mrs C.M. Griffin
Councillor M.T. Hales
Councillor R.C. Narborough
Councillor L. O'Melia

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest: An apology from County/District Cllr Oxby was noted. Cllr Carrington and Cllr Mrs Griffin declared a prejudicial interest in item 9b when a Public Works Loan for work at the Village Hall would be discussed, as they were both Trustees of the Village Hall.

2. Clerk's Notes from the Monthly Meeting held on 16th November 2009: The notes from this meeting had been distributed to each member and were taken as read. The Chairman proposed that the notes be accepted and approved as minutes for signing and this was unanimously agreed.

3. Matters Arising:

3a. Information Packs for New Residents: No packs had been issued over the previous month.

3b. Web Site: Cllr Carrington updated by noting that the site was showing scenic pictures of winter at Canwick. The coffee morning details had been uploaded and additional features had been covered with information about the work by the Trustees at the Village Hall and a new section covering the activities of Canwick Playing Field Association. A bumper month for users during November was also reported with visitors downloading the Parish Plan. Annual technical adjustments were due by the end of December and Cllr Carrington sought permission to regulate the documents and this was approved by Members. The Chairman thanked Cllr Carrington for the update.

4. Planning:

4a Decision Notice - Change of Use of Garage to Additional Nursery Facilities, Erection of Sun room, Extension and External Alterations, at Glebe Farm Nursery, Heighington Road, Canwick: The Chairman noted that planning permission had been granted for this development on 9th December 2009. Normal conditions were observed in the decision notice.

5. Environment:

5a. Highways Issues: Cllr Hales reported that the area at the end of School Lane near the junction of Canwick Hill had been marked out for the new illuminated signs and work was planned for 17 January 2010, subject to the weather conditions. Cllr Narborough intervened by noting that he had spoken with the operative and had asked for the signs to be set-back so that large vehicles turning in to the road don't knock them. He also noted that the closure notice had been published in October 2009. Cllr Hales also reported that the fly tipping (green waste) on the unofficial lay by along Heighington Road had been removed within the last two weeks. Cllr O'Melia observed that the two grit bins along Hall Drive needed refilling. The Clerk was asked to report this to the County Council Customer Services. A requirement for a grit bin at the junction of Hall Drive and Canwick Hill was raised and the Clerk was asked to forward an official request to the County Council Highways Officer. A query regarding the efficiency of the drainage facilities that had been installed at the bottom of a new concrete drive on Hall Drive was raised. It was reported as being satisfactory to date. However, drainage on the highway in the area was considered abysmal as the gullies were only soakaways.

5b NKDC Tree Officer Visit to the Village on 19th November 2009: Cllr Hales updated on the recent visit by the NKDC Tree Officer when he had toured the village with a group of Councillors. An inspection of the Holly Tree at Beau Vista was unsuccessful in an attempt to have the tree removed as opposed to it being trimmed.

The application to have the tree trimmed and reduced by 20% had been approved by Members on-site.

Tree Preservation Orders on Private Land were also unsuccessful unless the trees were under threat. The condition of the large Beech tree (on the open area at the eastern end of the coach road fronting Hall Drive) was observed. Cllr Narborough expressed disappointment at the intransigence of the Tree Officer when compared with his predecessors who had been very interactive and supportive. He queried what the Tree Officer's brief was, but this was unknown. This view was shared by other

Members who had toured the village and they were equally disappointed that the mission to be proactive and sympathetic to the introduction of tree preservation orders was under scrutiny. We were given the impression that there would be an effort to reduce the number of tree preservation orders in the District.

6. Correspondence:

6a. 2009/10 Register of Electors: A copy of the new register had been given to each Member. The Chairman confirmed the regulated use of the information.

6b. NKDC - Consultation on the Draft Rural Affordable Housing Plan: A copy of the draft had been given to each Member and comments were invited no later than 12 noon on 9th February 2010. Members were advised that most of the county had received a red flag by the Audit Commission but NK had not been included. Cllr Carrington outlined the importance of the document to parishes and expressed concerns regarding 2nd and 3rd tier villages that those who had grown up in a village could not afford to live there as adults and encouraged feed back. It was suggested that the document be reviewed at the next meeting on 18th January 2010 and Members agreed.

6c. NKDC - Precept Requirements for 2010/2011: A letter from the NKDC Deputy Chief Executive regarding the Council's precept for the forthcoming financial year was introduced by the Chairman. The estimated tax base was noted at 148.00. The Chairman recalled that the precept had been raised last year in anticipation of a public works loan being taken up for work at the Village Hall. In the event with the drawing down of the loan in December 2009, repayments were not due to commence until June 2010. With no further projects in the pipeline he considered that a static precept of £5,000 would be sufficient. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk be authorised to submit a precept upon the charging authority of North Kesteven District Council for the sum of £5,000 (five thousand pounds only) to be paid on 1st April 2010 to meet the expenses payable by the Parish Council in the 2010/2011 financial year. This was seconded by Cllr Carrington and unanimously agreed.

6d. Green Smith Contracting: A letter of introduction had been received from the proprietor of this company and offered a free no obligation quote for grass cutting maintenance. The Clerk was asked to seek a quotation for the playing field maintenance contract in the forthcoming 2010/11 financial year.

6e. LCC Consultation Fire & Rescue Integrated Risk Management Planning Annual Action Plan 2010/11: Copies of these documents were noted by the Chairman for information.

6f. Rural Links Autumn/Winter 2009, incorporating Village Hall News: A copy of this publication was noted by the Chairman. Cllr Narborough took the magazine to read.

6g. Parish Council Clerk: The Chairman reported that the Clerk had tendered her resignation from 31 Mar 10 as her circumstances had changed in the past year and she wished to reduce her workload. This would also lead to the loss of the office facilities at Heighington. The Chairman paid tribute to the Clerk's contribution and application of her experience, which had enabled the Parish Council to move forwards significantly during the past 5½ years. This was unanimously endorsed by the Councillors.

6h: LALC News: The AGM edition of the LALC News and information about training, youth contacts etc had been received that day and copies were circulated at the meeting. It was suggested that Members might like to read and take note of the various topics in the paper and any items for review could be discussed at the next meeting on 18th January 2010 and this was agreed.

7. Four Parishes Cluster Group - Update: The Chairman noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 13th January 2010. In regard to the devolved funding project he was pleased to report that an order had been placed for the equipment to include 2 lap top computers, 1 projector and 1 set of display boards which will enable each of the 4 parishes to have a set of equipment. Canwick Parish Council's share will include a projector and screen, as we already own a lap top computer. The aim of the scheme is to facilitate electronic presentations, particularly online planning issues, and a system for the equipment to be used by local organisations and this was acknowledged by Members.

8. Parish Plan Steering Group - Update: Cllr Carrington noted that the Parish Plan was still going through its consultation period and confirmed that 45 organisations had been invited to comment. There had already been a number of individuals who had viewed the document on-line or had requested a hard copy. He had received complimentary comments as well as a frustrated comment from one of the local organisations but overall he was encouraged by the participation in the consultation to date.

9. Finance:

9a: Bank Account Update: A statement (copy on minute file) was noted and showed a balance of £7,713.93 in the Savings Account following the transfer of £300 approved at the previous meeting. A balance of £222.25 in the current account prior to the deduction of an un-presented cheque for £73.20 was also noted. The situation was accepted and approved as standing.

9b: Public Works Loan: The interests declared by Cllrs Carrington and Mrs Griffin at the start of the meeting were noted. Members were advised that the interest for the loan had been agreed at 3.82% for the 20 year duration. The loan had been drawn down on 2nd December 2009, and a cheque for £6,000 had been given to the Village Hall Trustees on 3rd December 2009. An illustration of the payments over the next ten years had been produced and was circulated for information. Cllr Carrington thanked the Parish Council for their contribution and emphasised how grateful the Trustees were for the funding, as it had unlocked the ability to install the platform lift and upgrade facilities at the Village Hall. The Trustees had also asked for the Chairman to be thanked officially for organising the resources with LALC which was very much appreciated. Cllr Narborough reiterated these thanks from the Social Club who were equally grateful for the help from the Parish Council as without the contribution the refurbishments would not have been possible. Members were informed that a formal opening ceremony would be planned in the near future, and signage to cover operational tasks and procedures had been handed over to the Social Club. Cllr Narborough had undertaken that assignment.

9c. Payments Due in December: A list of payments was reviewed by Members and permission was given to clear them. This included a payment to Heighington PC for use of the office facilities over the past six months, photocopying and reimbursement of the dog warden fees. A quarter year payment to the Clerk and Inland Revenue, and a payment to Veolia ES for cutting the boundary hedge at the Playing Field, and a fee for administration to the Public Works Loans Board, plus the payment of the loan to the Village Hall Trustees.

9d: Grants: The Chairman referred to the annual grant to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and proposed an unchanged grant of £325 towards Churchyard expenditure in the current 2009/10 financial year. This was seconded by Cllr Carrington and unanimously agreed.

9e: Transfer of Funds: A transfer of £1,500 from the savings account to meet the expenses payable was approved.

10: Urgent Items for Information: Cllr Mrs Griffin recorded an apology in advance of the January 2010 meeting as she would be unable to attend.

11. Date of next Meeting - Monthly Meeting on Monday 18th January 2010, at the Village Hall, Montagu Road, starting at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm