

Woodbastwick Parish Council

Incorporating Ranworth and Panxworth

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th November 2012 in Ranworth Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Sue Hitchcock (Chairman)
Nicola Cohen
Maggie Manton

Barbara Garrett
Mike Deveson
Roy Champion

One resident

1. Apologies:

Kit Cator
PCSO Bob Hall
James Carswell (District and County Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:

A dispensation was agreed for each councillor for discussing the budget and setting the precept, until May 2015.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting dated 12th September 2012 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Sue Hitchcock, as Chairman of the Parish Council.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 MP Keith Simpson sent a letter from Phil Kirby, Chief Executive at Broadland District Council, which states that councils will be fully involved in any consultation on changes to permitted development. BDC shares the Parish Council's concern about the proposed relaxation of planning requirements to larger extensions.

4.2 Highways

- A complaint has been received from South Walsham Parish Council about the size of the new brown tourist sign, erected on the green in South Walsham and paid for by Woodbastwick Parish Council. South Walsham Parish Council had previously confirmed that they had no objections to the proposed sign. It says "Ranworth" and shows symbols for a church and marshes. The councillors felt that the sign would be useful in directing visitors to Ranworth.
- Road markings such as "SLOW" should be painted about 50m from any hazard.
- NCC will write to the landowners about the overhanging hedge at the old toilets in Ranworth.
- NCC has stated that the speed limit in Panxworth is on the programme for the next financial year to reduce to a 30 m.p.h. and any entry treatments will be considered at the time.
- It may be too late for relining this year because of the temperature.

4.3 Mike Deveson will repair the fingerpost at Scotts Corner.

5. Correspondence:

5.1 Maggie Manton explained about the oil purchasing group scheme run by Norfolk Rural Community Council. Local residents are encouraged to join the scheme to benefit from the purchasing power of the group. After some discussion, it was agreed to pay the £15 membership fee.

5.2 Councillors are entitled to apply for a copy of the full electoral register. They must not supply a copy of the register to anyone, nor make use of the information.

5.3 PCSO Bob Hall sent a report of three recorded crimes.

5.4 It was agreed to consider giving a donation towards the fundraising for the work on the tower at Panxworth. (Mike Deveson declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the working party).

5.5 Details of the elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner have been posted on the boards. The Norfolk Police Authority has arranged a meeting to consider the budget on 18th December at Wymondham.

5.6 BDC has made available some emergency halogen heaters for residents in need. Two heaters have been given to AVA in Acle to lend to people. There is also a proposal to have jerry cans of heating oil to lend to people in need. The councillors felt that storage of the oil would be a concern.

5.7 Woodbastwick village carols will take place around the village on 18th December, meeting at 6.00 p.m. There will also be carol singing at Ranworth Staithe on 20th December at 6.30 p.m.

5.8 The Broads Authority has published its Site Specific Policies. A copy was passed to Roy Champion to review.

5.9 It was agreed to give a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion.

6. Financial Matters:

	£
Balance b/f at 12th September 2012	285.01
Transfer from Savings Account	500.00
Cheques for Payment:	
P James –clerk’s fee and exps (3 months)	326.51
HMRC – PAYE – November	25.00
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Acle PC – share of exps	41.39
Royal British Legion – donation	50.00
Nfk Rural Community Council	15.00

Ranworth Village Hall - hire of room	<u>15.00</u>
Balance c/f at 14th November 2012	287.11
Savings Account	<u>5,619.65</u>
Total Monies	<u>£5,906.76</u>

The above invoices were approved for payment.

7. Footpath from Panxworth to Ranworth:

NCC has made a report to their Head of Law recommending that the Order to add the path as a public right of way be made. There will then be a period of public consultation and, if there are objections, it will go to the Secretary of State for a decision.

8. Fairhaven Garden Trust:

It was reported that the bridleway is in a fair condition.

9. Highways Matters:

Some clearance work has been undertaken around the sluice gates at Norton Hill but no obvious otter protection can be seen.

10. Planning:

Between meetings an application was received for the creation of private moorings at the **riverbank opposite to New Inn, Horning**. The councillors had no objections to the plans.

Planning results from Broadland District Council:

- i) **Mr Chase, Hillbrook Lodge, School Hill, Ranworth** – single storey front and side extensions – full approval
- ii) **Ruined Church of All Saints, Panxworth** – works to stabilize and repair ruined church tower – listed building approval.

11. Environmental Matters:

Ranworth Staithe:

Lucy Burchnall, Deputy Head of Ranger Services, reported that the volunteer warden will be fully supported by the Ranger Team once his training is complete, and will have a uniform. She confirmed that the Rangers visited the staithe twice every weekend in August and at least once during the week; they found no particular problems although they had to move on a few boaters who had overstayed.

MP Keith Simpson raised the Council's concerns with the Broads Authority and forwarded the reply from John Packman; Mr Packman reported that the Visitor Centre at Ranworth was closed as a result of a reduction in funding. He stated that the arrangement was put in place with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and he said that this has been successful.

MP Norman Lamb said that he is unable to get involved as the issue is not in his constituency and he was not aware of any other parishes having similar issues. He advised approaching the Broads Authority to take on the running of the staithe.

The clerk also contacted Brian Barker, the NALC member of the Broads Forum. He has commented to the Broads Authority that the money spent on consultants looking at climate change could have been spent on funding for places like Ranworth Staithe. He also suggested taking over the ownership of the staithe and invited councillors to attend a meeting of the Somerton Boat Dyke Charity to see how that is run.

The councillors discussed the option of asking the Broads Authority if they would sell or lease the staithe to the parish in some form. There were concerns about the cost of maintenance, especially the piling.

There was also a complaint that a fish and chip van parked on the staithe and served food to people on the Southern Comfort Mississippi Paddle Boat from Horning. The van owner said he had written permission from the Broads Authority but this has been disputed by the Authority. It was agreed to write to the Authority to ask that they contact the boat company to explain that this is not permitted as it does not benefit the parish in any way.

12. New Parish Clerk:

Pauline James has resigned as clerk and finishes on 19th December. The job has been advertised and a shortlist will be drawn up and interviews held shortly. Pauline was thanked for the six years that she has worked as clerk.

13. Standing Orders:

The clerk explained that the Localism Act 2011 had changed some of the requirements to disclose interests at meetings. It was agreed that the following are adopted:

- **Councillors who have a disclosable pecuniary interest are to declare it and are to withdraw from the room during the discussion and voting on that issue.** (Old style prejudicial interests)
- **Councillors who have an interest because of close family members or close friends should declare it and are to withdraw from the room during the discussion and voting on the issue if they consider their continued presence is incompatible with the Council's code of conduct or the Seven Principles of Public Life.** (Old style prejudicial interests)
- **Councillors with an interest that is not a disclosable pecuniary interest which they do not consider to be incompatible with the Council's code of conduct or the Seven Principles of Public Life are to declare it. They may then continue to participate in the item.** (Old style personal interests)

14. Public Forum:

14.1 James Carswell sent a report; Norfolk County Council will be looking to make savings of £125million so there are difficult decisions ahead. After a stressful meeting at Broadland

District Council, the decision about the community engagement staff has been deferred until January.

- 14.2 A resident reported that any issues at the staithe are very rare and that he is against the idea of charging for moorings or for parking.
- 14.3 It was reported that neighbours did not receive any notification from Broadland District Council of the recent planning application at School Hill.

15. Any Other Business:

- 15.1 The clerk was asked to contact planning enforcement about the large number of cars for sale at Broadland Service Centre.
- 15.2 It was agreed that the Parish Council website should be advertised again in the parishes to increase the use of the site. <http://woodbastwickpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>
- 15.3 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9th January 2013 at Woodbastwick Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 9th January 2013