

Woodbastwick Parish Council

Incorporating Ranworth and Panxworth

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th September 2012 in Woodbastwick Village Hall at 7.30 pm

- 1.** **Apologies:**
Mike Deveson
Roy Champion
PCSO Bob Hall
Maggie Manton
 - 2.** **Declarations of Interest:**
None.
 - 3.** **Minutes:**
The minutes of the meeting dated 11th July 2012 were agreed to be correct and were signed by Sue Hitchcock, as Chairman of the Parish Council.
 - 4.** **Matters Arising:**
 - 4.1** Mike Deveson has refurbished the noticeboard at Panxworth. The councillors thanked Mike for his work.
 - 4.2** The Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2012 has been completed by the external auditors, Mazars, without comment. The Return has been posted on the Council's website.
 - 4.3** The Parochial Church Council has confirmed that they run the Ranworth Church Visitors' Centre. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust has confirmed that the floating building on Ranworth Broad is to be referred to as the Broads Wildlife Centre and that the building on the staithes is the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Information Centre, and is known as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Ranworth Information Centre on websites and publications.
 - 4.4** Norfolk County Council has said that the fingerpost at Scotts Corner has been superseded by the directional signs on the opposite verge, so it will not be repaired. The councillors agreed to ask that the sign should remain as long as possible. A private repair would be considered.
 - 4.5** The phone at Ranworth Staithes has been repaired.

- 4.6 Some work has been carried out on the trees at Shearwater. It was agreed to monitor the trees carefully.

5. Correspondence:

- 5.1 The Government is repealing LGA 1972 s.150(5) which requires two signatories on each payment. This will enable online banking and direct payments. The councillors supported the change, with additional control over payments.
- 5.2 NCC sent some correspondence about the maintenance of public rights of way; NCC will be responding to complaints and requests for maintenance, rather than cutting the paths routinely. Residents should report any issues on the NCC customer support phone number of 0344 800 8020.
- 5.3 The AGM of the Norfolk Association of Local Councils will take place on Thursday, 1st November.
- 5.4 Details were received of the road closures on B1140 for repairs. This was posted on the website.
- 5.5 There was some discussion about the recent announcement of the Government's plans to allow the building of larger extensions without planning permission. The councillors agreed that the clerk should write to MP Keith Simpson to express their concerns that the relaxation of planning requirements could lead to unneighbourly development.
- 5.6 The councillors have been invited to the ordination of Helen Garrard on Saturday, 29th September at 5.00 at Ranworth.

6. Financial Matters:

| | £ |
|--|------------------|
| Balance b/f at 11th July 2012 | 715.64 |
| Cheques for Payment: | |
| P James –clerk's fee and exps | 225.71 |
| Acle PC – share of exps | 36.71 |
| Mazars – external audit | 60.00 |
| Mike Deveson – repairs to noticeboard | 43.41 |
| HMRC – PAYE September | 25.00 |
| HMRC – PAYE October | 24.80 |
| Woodbastwick Village Hall - hire of room | <u>15.00</u> |
| Balance c/f at 12th September 2012 | 285.01 |
| Savings Account | <u>6,119.65</u> |
| Total Monies | <u>£6,404.66</u> |

The above invoices were approved for payment.

7. Footpath from Panxworth to Ranworth:

Norfolk County Council sent a letter to confirm that the consultations are now complete on this request. A report will be prepared and sent to the Head of Law so that she can make a decision on the application.

8. Fairhaven Garden Trust:

It was reported that the bridleway is in good condition.

9. Highways Matters:

- 9.1 The brown tourist sign for Ranworth staith has not yet been installed.
- 9.2 There was a report that the SLOW painted on the road at the top of School Hill seems to be too close to the bend.
- 9.3 The Police have been asked to carry out speed checks through Panxworth and to request the monitoring of speeds through the village to support the Council's request for a lower speed limit. The Council also requested that some markings should be painted on the road at each end of the village to remind drivers that they are entering a village.
- 9.4 It was reported that the SLOW painted on the road by the Maltsters is very faint and needs refreshing.
- 9.5 A hedge needs cutting back by the old toilets in Ranworth.

10. Planning:

- 10.1 As there appears to be little support for a conservation area for Ranworth it was agreed to leave this for now.
- 10.2 **Mr Chase, Hillbrook Lodge, School Hill, Ranworth** – single storey front and side extensions (20121267). (Sue Hitchcock declared an interest as this is her close neighbour). There were no objections to the plans.
- 10.3 Between meetings, the application from Ranworth with Panxworth PCC for repairs to **Panxworth Church tower** were received. The councillors supported the application.
- 10.4 Planning results from **Broadland District Council: Woodforde**, alterations – full approval.

11. Environmental Matters:

- 11.1 Ranworth Staith: John Packman reported that the training of the NWT staff had been completed to enable them to assist with mooring at the staith. A volunteer was also being trained for a BA/NWT role. Mr Packman reported that staff had visited the staith regularly over the summer to assist and give advice.

The councillors stated that there were reports of people mooring for longer than the permitted 24 hours, generally poor mooring and a recent collision. When staff are on

their own in the NWT centre, they are unable and unwilling to leave the office to assist on the staith. It was also reported that the vegetation needs cutting back near to the refuse skip. The councillors agreed that a new mapboard showing local facilities would be useful for the staith.

It was agreed to write to MP Keith Simpson for assistance with this, and to contact the Broads Authority tourism officer for the area.

- 11.2 It was reported that the operator was slow to empty the glass recycling bank at Ranworth Staith recently, leading to bottles being dumped around the base of the bin. The clerk informed the meeting that envelopes should not be put in the grey recycling bins, as the glue affects the paper processing, but that envelopes may be placed in the Whites paper banks such as the one at Acle Recreation Centre.

12. Public Forum:

- 12.1 There were comments about the Broads Authority's responsibility for the staith and the moorings.
- 12.2 There were concerns about the proposal for a conservation area in Ranworth.
- 12.3 James Carswell reported on the proposal for an incinerator at Kings Lynn; the Secretary of State will decide on the application. A community construction fund will help local businesses. He expressed his concerns about the amount of housing proposed for the area under the Joint Core Strategy.

13. Any Other Business:

- 13.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th November 2012 at Ranworth Village Hall.

14. Clerk's Pension:

The clerk had requested to be allowed to join the Norfolk Pension Fund, as an employee of the Parish Council. The clerk would pay 5.9% of her salary and the Council would pay 19% (2013 19.5%), which would cost £284 this year, or approximately 93 pence per elector per year.

The clerk left the meeting while this was considered. After some discussion it was agreed to defer the item until the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated: 14th November 2012