Woodbastwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th March 2011 in Ranworth Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Before the meeting started, David Pooley gave a talk on his plans for his land at Sotshole. He bought the 60 acres in 2005 and he hopes to restore the old bird sanctuary, which is a "labour of love" and is not in any way a commercial venture. Mr Pooley explained that the land comprises wetland, pasture, a bluebell walk and land by the Broad. The wetlands are deep and dangerous so cannot be open to the public. The bluebell walk is opened to the public in Spring, through the Fairhaven Gardens. Drainage dykes are being cleared and re-opened and a path constructed around the site, leaving the land as a nature reserve.

A gate and new fencing has been erected, with the layout of the entrance approved by the Police. The concrete pad at the entrance was installed to deal with the mud, but has been coloured brown and covered with wood chip to try to disguise it.

After answering questions from the public, Mr Pooley was thanked for attending the meeting.

Present: Patricia Steven (Chairman)

Barbara Garrett

James Hood

Jane Wilson

George Debbage (District Councillor)
15 residents

1. Apologies:

Kit Cator Di Eliel Ruth Dobson

PCSO Bob Hall

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting dated 12th January 2011 were agreed to be correct and were signed by Patricia Steven, as Chairman of the Parish Council.

4. Matters Arising:

- 4.1 Several forms have been received from residents giving details of their use of the track from Norton Hill to Panxworth. The clerk will ask Norfolk County Council how to proceed. The landowners, Mr Simpson, Mr Cator and Mr Pooley, will be notified when the forms are ready to be submitted.
- 4.2 NCC has said that the "Bridleway No Vehicles" sign at bridleway no: 1 was not an official NCC sign and so will not be replaced.

- 4.3 There has not been a reply from NCC about the request to grit to the road between Plumstead Road and Primrose Corner.
- 4.4 The noticeboard at Ranworth staithe has been reinstalled after having the name of the Council added.
- 4.5 It was reported that discussions about the future of Panxworth Church are on hold while the legal ownership is sorted out.

5. <u>Correspondence:</u>

- 5.1 There were applications for grants from Age UK, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Victim Support and Vitalise. After some consideration it was agreed to give £50 to each (LGA 1972 s.137 donations.)
- 5.2 The Broads Authority has sent details of the Broads Festival of the Outdoors, from 7th 15th May, which will encourage walks around the area. This was noted.
- 5.3 Broadland District Council has sent its Community Involvement Protocol for significant proposals. As it is believed that there will be very little development in the area, and certainly no large-scale developments, it was not felt that this document was relevant to this Parish Council, but it will be filed for future consideration.
- 5.4 The Broads Authority has sent its Broads Plan 2011. This was noted.
- 5.5 The Broads Authority has invited councillors to attend the Parish Planning Forum on Wednesday, 6th April at 6.00 on localism. The clerk will attend.
- 5.6 The clerk reported on a training session looking at the Localism Bill; it is expected that eligible parish councils will be given a power of general competence which will enable them to provide any facilities and to take on any work in the community. Local groups will also be able to apply to take over the running of local facilities carried out by another authority. It is not clear what funding would be available for such projects, however.
- 5.7 PCSO Bob Hall sent a report of three recorded crimes since the last meeting. Local residents were invited to meet PCSO Hall on 3rd March at the Fur & Feathers.
- 5.8 HMRC has announced that all parish councils must operate PAYE for their clerks; the clerk confirmed that her salary is taxed through her coding for Acle Parish Council, as agreed by HMRC in the past. She will write to ask if this can continue.
- 5.9 NCC has sent its Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies 2010-2026 Development Plan Documents.

5.10 Election nomination forms for the Parish Council have been received from the district council. Forms must be submitted to the district council by noon on 4th April. The official notices will be put up on the boards as soon as they are received.

6. Financial Matters:

	£
Balance b/f at 13th January 2011	1,324.98
Cheques for Payment:	
SWPC – share of exps	7.34
Acle PC – share of exps	29.38
P James –clerk's fee and exps	251.28
Anglian Health & Safety – grit bins	239.88
Vitalise s.137 donation	50.00
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service s.137	50.00
Victim Support s.137 donation	50.00
Age UK s.137 donation	50.00
Ranworth Village Hall - hire of room	_15.00
Balance c/f at 9th March 2011	582.10
Savings Account	<u>5,614.00</u>
Total Monies	£ <u>6,196.10</u>

The above invoices were approved for payment.

7. Fairhaven Garden Trust:

Photos of the new gate were reviewed and agreed to be acceptable. George Debbage reported that he inspected the first group of planting and encouraged additional planting. Further correspondence has been received from local residents. It was agreed that, in view of the continuing unease about the situation, the clerk should write to the Fairhaven Trust to request an update on their plans for the area.

George Debbage reported that he had been informed by the Trust that the land would not be used for more than 28 days, so would not require planning permission. The Trust had not leased the land to any operator and would instead be controlling "specific activities" on the land, using a contractor as a provider of services, rather than a lessee, within these 28 days.

8. Highways Matters:

- 8.1 A resident reported both roads into Norwich are in poor state. Also that the clearing out of grups has left unsightly piles of mud, and that hedges are overhanging the highway in Ranworth Road. This has all been reported to NCC Highways.
- 8.2 The clerk was asked to remind Highways that additional signs of "SLOW" were promised for the Salhouse Road in Woodbastwick.

9. Planning:

Planning results from **Broads Authority:**Sotshole, Ranworth – replacement conservatory to rear – full approval.

10. Environmental Matters:

10.1 Elaina Whittaker-Slark, Broads Authority local ranger, has reported that the Tourist Information Centre at Ranworth Staithe has been closed as a cost cutting measure. There are discussions with other organizations to reopen as a TIC.

11. Financial Policies:

The Financial Standing Orders, Financial Risk Assessment, Duties of the Responsible Financial Officer, Review of Internal Controls and Review of Internal Audit were reviewed and approved.

12. Public Forum:

- 12.1 Some Ranworth residents handed the Council a letter asking about the plans for the Fairhaven Trust land.
- 12.2 The Council was congratulated on the work done on the Ranworth noticeboard.
- 12.3 Half of the advertising sign remains on the speed restriction post on Salhouse Road in Panxworth. This has been reported to Highways on several occasions.
- 12.4 Residents reported that they are in discussion with the local police about the use of the entrance to the Fairhaven Garden land on Ranworth Road in South Walsham, which is felt to cause danger to users of the highway.
- 12.5 Potholes were reported near to Woolsey's Farm.
- 12.6 There were complaints about sugar beet lorries running on several Sundays, and that generally too many lorries use the main road through Panxworth. The clerk explained that the County Council had decided on a Route Hierarchy which directed most traffic onto a few roads, which were then prioritised for any repairs. Residents also asked that the County Council be asked again to consider reducing the speed limit in Panxworth to 30 m.p.h.
- 12.7 George Debbage gave a report on the district council budget; services are set to continue for three years, using some reserves. BDC had received an award for cleanliness in the district. The Joint Core Strategy has been passed by the Inspector as "sound", with the requirement for affordable housing reduced to 33% of any development over 5 houses. 3,500 are on housing waiting lists in the district.
- 12.8 James Carswell (County Councillor) entered the room at this point. He then gave his report he is standing as a district councillor in the area, but wished it to be recorded that he regards George Debbage as an excellent councilor. He reported on the difficult decision made to go ahead with the incinerator at Kings Lynn.

He also explained to the meeting that changes to speed limits are only done where there have been accidents. James agreed that he would continue to press for a speed reduction for Panxworth.

13. Any Other Business:

Chairman

- The councilors agreed to forward the Ranworth residents' letter to the Fairhaven Garden Trust so as to show the strength of feeling in the village. (See 12.1)
- 13.2 James Hood offered to speak to the owners of the business whose advertising sign is attached to the speed restriction sign on Salhouse Road.
- 13.3 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11th May 2011 at Woodbastwick Village Hall.

Signed	Dated: 11th May 2011

There being no further business the meeting was closed.