

Minutes of North Cotes Parish Council APM Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2019 at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Present: Mr A Hicks, Mrs W van der Horst, Mrs A Marsh, Mrs L Canfield, Mr P Gautrey, Mr F Brearley, Mr I Johnson and several members of the public

Apologies: District Councillor S McMillan

Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Due to only six persons applying for nomination as parish councillors for North Cotes no election had been needed on the 2nd May as the numbers were less than the nine vacant seats. Therefore all six nominees were elected as councillors for the uncontested seats for the period until May 2023. Prior to the commencement of the meeting the following persons signed and had witnessed their Acceptance of Office forms. They were also reminded to complete and return to the monitoring officer at East Lindsey their Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms.

Mr A Hicks, Mrs W van der Horst, Mr F Brearley, Mr P Gautrey, Mr I Johnson and Mrs A Marsh

Mrs L Canfield Newens has given a letter of resignation from the council as she will soon be leaving the village and she was thanked for all her work in the past years.

Election of Chair:

Mrs W van der Horst proposed that Mr A Hicks be once again elected as Chair and this was seconded by Mrs A Marsh and unanimously agreed

Mr A Hicks then signed and the clerk witnessed his Acceptance of Office for this position.

Election of Vice Chair:

Mr P Gautrey proposed that Mrs W van der Horst continue in this role for the next year and this was seconded by Mr I Johnson and unanimously agreed.

District Councillor – It was stated at this point that on the 2nd May Mr Steve McMillan had been elected as District Councillor for the ward of Tetney and North Cotes. A letter has been received from him apologising that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a prior engagement but stating that he hoped to attend the next meeting in July to be able to discuss ways in which he may be able to help the community. Councillor van der Horst stated that she had already spoken to him and ascertained that there may still be small grant funds available for qualifying groups within the village. This information was passed to the new Village Hall Trustees in the hope that they would be able to take advantage of it.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were read, signed and approved.

Matters Arising:

1. **Speed Watch Update** – Councillor Hicks had brought along to the meeting all the new equipment needed for joining the scheme. The council now has in place the required speed gun, high vis vests and signage. However Mr Hicks stated that they were short of the necessary 3 volunteers required before training can commence. He stated that although this was the minimum required more would be better so that the same three persons were not continually called upon. All members of the council then agreed that they would attend the training once a time had been fixed (this takes only approx one hour) they would also pass the word around in the hope of obtaining further volunteers.
2. **Village Hall Update** – It was reported that the AGM had been very well attended by several residents whom had all expressed a desire to see the Village Hall stay open and continue to host events and classes. To this end they pledged to help in any way possible in fund raising activities etc. Two of the existing Trustees then tendered their resignation and this left just one remaining Trustee. However two new Trustees had agreed to sign up to make a total of three with T Dalziel and hopefully a few more will be recruited in the near future. Going forward they hope to work along with the Parish Council and the Church to create a central hub for the village and look forward to new ideas being proposed for events etc to take place to ensure a well funded Village Hall.

Correspondence:

1. LCC Street Lighting Policy – This was a resume of the Street Lighting policy going forward for LCC. This was noted and will be filed although it is not applicable to the village as all North Cotes lights are owned by ELDC.
2. Meals on Wheels – A letter outlining the scheme and to whom it would be available has been received. It was agreed that the clerk contacts the organisation and ask for a poster of some description, which could be displayed within the village and also put onto the web site.
3. LALC – Service Level Agreement for the provision of services to local councils.
4. Children’s Links – a letter giving brief details of this scheme which had received a grant from the National Lottery which had enabled the purchase of a mobile campervan which would visit local communities at set times and places. The idea being to bring to rural areas a facility, which would encourage the young to socialise more and volunteer in different ways. They have a facebook page, which Councillor Hicks connected to and expressed North Cotes Council’s wish to be involved.

Chairman's Report:

Councillor Hicks stated that he would like to start by thanking Mrs Kath Allen for her thirty-eight years of service as the Parish Clerk whom had expressed a wish to resign from the post. She was then presented with a bouquet of flowers and thanked by all present. Whilst expressing thanks he also stated that Councillor van der Horst should be thanked for her support as vice chair over the last year and attendance of the Police Liaison Meetings which keeps everyone updated on local crime figures and police news for the area. The police had been able to assist with a few issues in the village over the past year and would hopefully continue to attend as many of our meetings as their manning levels allowed.

He hoped that with word of mouth we may be able to co-opt willing parishioners onto the Council to fill the three vacant seats.

Communication to the local council for the reporting of issues such as potholes and fly tipping had improved greatly over the last year with the introduction of improved on line reporting of such matters. This has led to a far quicker and effective response time to these problems.

The re opening of the Footpath to Tetney Lock was still an ongoing issue but he was hopeful now the correct departments at both local and county council level had become involved and noted an error that had occurred many years ago, at Council level, in the registering of a new route for the end of the path at Tetney Lock an effective solution could soon be reached.

He was optimistic that with the new Trustees in place for the village hall and the pledge of help from villagers going forward the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee would be able to build up a good rapport and work together to build a good relationship that will ensure the profitable and effective running of the village hall as a community hub.

He also stated that the village was now looking good with the newly planted flower bulbs around the area all blooming and the Churchyard has been tidied up and looks refreshed.

Trust Report:

It was reported that the Trust continues to have good tenants and that they have managed to carry out many improvement works to No 4, which had had to be repossessed. This has now been let to a new tenant. New fencing is to be installed between No 1 and the church and hopefully once the bank balance has reached good level porches will be put onto the front of the remaining two properties.

Finance:

1. The clerk had distributed the Annual Governance Statement prior to the previous meeting for the councils perusal and it was unanimously agreed that it be signed and approved for this financial year.
2. The clerk also circulated the annual financial statement and it was unanimously agreed that this was a true and accurate account of all financial transactions during the past year and would now be inserted into the web site. Income for the year was **£ 6500** Expenditure for the year was **£5077.47** leaving a balance in the Current Account at year end of **£6815.37** The Business Reserve Account had a balance of **£898.03**. T Davey of T Davey Accountants had once again carried out the internal audit and no

problems were reported and all criteria and transparency guidelines had been adhered to.

3. The Certificate of Exemption (stating an income/expenditure of less than £25,000) was signed and dated and would be returned to the PFK Little-John LLP as the external auditors.
4. All will display the Notice of Dates of the Period for Exercise of Public Rights on the web site and notice board whereby the accounts will be viewable.
5. All signed and passed financial documents will be displayed on the web site as per the Transparency Code.
6. A cheque was passed and signed for **£418.01** to Zurich Municipal for the annual insurance premium.
7. A cheque for **£110** was agreed, passed and signed for North Cotes Village Hall for hire of the village hall as a donation to cover three meetings to be held this next year. This is an increase of £10 as unanimously agreed to cover inflation.
8. A cheque was agreed and passed for **£110** for The New Tribes Mission as a donation to cover the three meetings to be held in their refectory. This is an increase of £10 as unanimously agreed to cover inflation.
9. War Memorial Caretaker Fee – It was agreed that this annual payment to Mr P Pridgeon is raised by £10 to **£285** and a cheque was passed and signed for that amount.
10. Clerks Annual Fee – It was unanimously agreed that this be raised by £100. Therefore a cheque for **£3,000** was raised, signed and passed.
11. The Clerk stated that the internal auditor, Mr Trevor Davey, had again requested that North Cotes Council should make a donation to the NSPCC on his behalf in lieu of payment for his services. It was agreed this be raised to **£45** because of the work and time involved a cheque was passed and raised for this amount.

A O B

1. Councillor Brearley reported that he had managed to obtain a telephone number for the relevant person to speak to re the damage caused along Sea Lane during the new wind project cable line works. Severe damage has been caused to road verges as farm vehicles and buses have had to drive over them to avoid works vehicles. He will report any progress he is able to achieve to the council in due course.
2. Councillor Van der Horst had attended the latest Police Liaison Meeting and reported that PCSO Ian Porter will be retiring from his post and will not be replaced leaving just two officers for the area. There are also suggestions that they may lose their base at Holton le Clay and have to work from either Louth or even Lincoln. The Crime Prevention Officer had also been made redundant after only a short period in the position. Crime in the area was slightly down, however break-ins to empty residences was still a problem and everyone should be aware of their own security measures.

3. There had been four CVs submitted expressing an interest in the position of Clerk to the Council. After perusal of all it had been agreed to invite Elizabeth Hawthorn of North Somercotes along to the meeting so she could meet the councillors and see how the meetings were conducted. At the end of the meeting she stated that she would like to take up the position and would liase with out going clerk as to her responsibilities and duties. She was duly welcomed as the new clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

**The date for the next meeting was fixed as Monday 8th July at 7.30 pm. in
The New Tribes Mission Refectory**