

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12TH MARCH 2012

Present

Cllr Alistair Marr - Chairman
Cllr John Nicoll
Cllr Simon West
Cllr Andy Notman
Cllr Peter Collins

Elizabeth Pendered – Clerk
D/Cllr Graham Bull
Karen Holley, Natural Woodhurst
3 members of the public

- 152. Apologies and reasons for absence** – received from C/Cllr Steve Criswell, Cllr Terry Huggins and Cllr Bob Newell
- 153. Declarations of Interest** – none received
- 154. Public Forum** – a report was received from Karen Holley, Natural Woodhurst (more information available on website)
- A report on the partial collapse of the church North wall was received from Neil Farbon. This highlighted the possible causes, the likely repair costs and subsequent fundraising plans.
- 155. Clerk's report** –
- The fallen tree was removed from Butt Lane. Simeon Carroll came out very promptly.
 - The Highways were contacted about Church Passage, St Johns Close and also outside Grange Farm. All have been actioned or are in hand. Church Passage has been `fixed` as far as possible, but the tree roots remain the main problem. Grange Farm roadside was temporarily fixed and has been re-done already. St John's Close has been put on the agenda for the new financial year.
 - The bus stop safety work has been completed. Reflective strips have been requested to make the new bollards more visible at night – the clerk will chase up.
- 156. Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2012 were read, approved and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 157. Public Footpaths** – Cllr Peter Collins said there was nothing to report. It was commented that some trees near the kissing gate along Pringleside had been severely cut back and that the branches were left at the side of the field. The clerk will contact Simeon Carroll to find out if more was known. Cllr Marr commented that the P3 maintenance funding would be given this year.
- 158. Countryside Watch** – nothing to report, other than with the rising level of rural theft, to continue to be vigilant and to keep an eye out in the neighbourhood.
- 159. Village Plan** – Cllr Andy Notman reported that he has taken control of the research and is processing all the responses himself. He should be finished by the end of this month.
- 160. Natural Woodhurst** – a report was received covering future events and meetings.

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It was confirmed that at the next event, Saturday 17th March, the team would start to refurbish the four benches situated around the village. A request for funding towards this was made and was accepted.

- 161. Quality Council** – Cllr Notman has been going through the list of eligible criteria and will produce a list of what we need to do. To fulfil one of the standards, he suggested a poster/leaflet to promote the election and this will be included in the next newsletter.
- 162. Queen’s Jubilee** – It was agreed by the Council to go ahead with the commemorative mug for the children of Woodhurst. The quotation of £166.95 + vat from Norfolk China was approved. The clerk will go ahead and order. It was hoped that a suitable event could be planned to distribute them.
- 163. Elections** – the Nomination Papers were handed out to each Council member. Cllr Bob Newell had announced that he would not be standing for re-election.
- 164. Correspondence:**
- Clerks & Councils Direct
 - The Clerk Magazine
 - Letter from PCC re donation towards the tree removal affecting the building
 - Letter from Chief Inspector Chris Mead
- All correspondence was received.
- 165. Finance**
- It was agreed that all donations would go towards the Church’s request and a cheque for £300 was issued under section 137 (cheque no 887)
 - The clerk reported that the Precept request had been accepted at £5,000
 - Cheques were approved and issued for:
 - SLCC Membership renewal £61 - Cheque no 884
 - Village Hall rent 17th January and 12th March 2012 total £40 - Cheque no 885
 - Natural Woodhurst for furniture refurbishment £150 - Cheque no 886
 - With the clerk absent at the end of the meeting, the clerk’s wages were reviewed - post qualification in September 2011. All councillors approved an increase in line with NJC guidelines on Pay & Conditions and a new contract would be drawn up. It was brought to the attention of the council that the clerk had allowed the bank account to be overdrawn in December, 2011 whilst she had been distracted by a family bereavement. An attempt at reclaiming the charges from the Bank is still ongoing.
- 166. Items for next meeting - none**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.48pm

These minutes are unadopted by the Council