

Marston St Lawrence Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's Richard Gale (Chairman), Daniela Carletti, Stephen Goodwin, Chris Skermer, Matthew Tims, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

16/81. Apologies

Cllr Scott

16/82. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests to declare.

16/83. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2016

The minutes were approved and signed.

16/84. Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

16/85. Open Forum

There were no matters to discuss.

16/86. Planning

An update was given on older applications:

- *S/2016/3064/FUL, Front porch, two storey side extension, lantern light and stove flue on rear elevation at 9 Merestone, The Green.* No objections. Approved by SNC.
- *S/2016/2686/FUL, Install metal gate at Littlefield Bungalow, The Green.* Approved by SNC.

16/87. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

- £339.01 to Zurich Insurance
- £49.14 to EON (quarterly maintenance)
- £187.20 to Marcus Young Landscapes (dog bin emptying)
- £197.57 to EON (electricity)
- £94.50 to Greatworth Newsletter Fund (The Glimpse). The last payment was made in August but the fund is under financial pressure as they have lost a grant. The donation may have to increase next year.
- £140.00 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £14.70 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

The payments were approved by Cllr Skermer and seconded by Cllr Goodwin.

16/88. To receive an update on The Marston Inn

Hook Norton Brewery (HNB) have appointed a new consultant to look at the project. There are plans to develop at the back of the site as this is where the value is. A more superior plan is being offered. Four houses are proposed, two 2 bedroom houses and two 4 bedroom houses which is a good mix of properties. The proposal is to split the pub in two and create a two bedroom cottage with a flat over the pub. HNB are open to suggestions on use, perhaps a holiday let or bed and breakfast. The rental accommodation could help local people and help to subsidise the pub. Another option is for the person running the pub to live in the cottage and rent the flat out.

The idea of access off the road to the Cricket Club is supported. The Parish Council envisage the pub being run as a community pub and are supportive of the whole idea in principle. HNB are meeting another developer who has more ideas. The Chair has spoken to other villagers who run Bed and Breakfast establishments and they are doing well. The Chair has sent details to HNB about tidying the area up. Cllr Tims reported a section of wall which has come down.

Action: The Chair to report the collapsed wall to HNB.

16/89. Correspondence

From

- Northants Highways, Grass mowing
- Northants CALC, No capping for 2017/18
- Northants Highways, Community Enhancement Gang
- Northants CALC, New external auditor for Northants
- Northants ACRE, Best Village Competition, Judges wanted. On notice-board.
- Citizens Advice, Help the Community
- CPRE, Northants Countryside Design Code

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:

- Northants Highways, Grass mowing. The Parish Council were asked if they would agree to taking over the grass cutting that NCC currently do. The Parish Council would receive a small annual grant in return for taking on the work. It was agreed to leave the mowing arrangement as it is.
- Northants Highways, Community Enhancement Gang (CEG). Cllr Skermer and the Parish Clerk have walked around the village looking at jobs that can be done by the CEG. The team will visit each village for a day. A full list of jobs has now been submitted to Northants Highways.
- Northants CALC, New external auditor for Northants. BDO the current external auditor will complete the audit for the year ending 31st March 2017. PKF Littlejohn will carry out the external audit (for those that will still have one) for the year ending 31st March 2018 in the summer of 2018.

The Chair spoke on behalf of the Village Hall Committee who have received three quotes to put a picket fence in front of the village hall. The best quote is £734.50. The committee have debated whether a single or double gate with a spring is needed. There is currently £407.00 in a Parish Council account specifically to be used for the play area. The question was asked if this was a good use of that money. It was agreed that this matter should be taken to the Annual Parish Meeting for discussion then.

16/90. Date, time and place of next meeting, Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 18th April 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Meeting finished at 8.05pm