*Brampton and Oxnead Parish Council*

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Village Hall, The Street, Brampton

on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7.30 pm

**Present**

Councillors:

Stuart Wilson (Chairman), Mark Little

Margaret Whiley, Gary Bean, Trevor Whiteman, Laura Humphrey

Also in attendance:

Barbara Rix: District Councillor

David Harrison: County Councillor

Mr and Mrs David Aspinall, Eleanor Potter

Margaret Claridge: Clerk to the Council

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**2015/60 Apologies**

None were received

**2015/61 Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

**2015/62 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on November 11th 2015 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**2015/63 Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr Rix asked for her report from November 11th to include that in order to cut costs further, central government want not only Norfolk and Suffolk to work together but to include Peterborough and Cambridge as well.

**2015/64 Planning**

**Planning Application No 20152068 Oxnead Hall:**

**Change of use from residential to events venue (weddings, corporate, arts and charity events) residential and short term holiday lets including alterations and improvements to existing listed buildings**

The applicants answered questions on several issues that were of concern to Councillors. Together with their Planning Consultants, the applicants have made a number of changes to the original application in order to ensure that the noise from taxis and small mini-buses dropping off guests to weddings and events at Oxnead Hall is kept to a minimum. This includes the introduction of a drop off area closer to the main entrance. It is anticipated that there will be a maximum of 60 cars at functions in addition to caterers etc who tend to come together in the same vehicles. The prospective brides will be provided with a pack when booking which will include transport details which will help to spread the routes of guests approaching the village of Oxnead.

Signage to the venue is an issue as roads into Brampton and Oxnead are very narrow and it was recommended that low level removable finger posts are put in place prior to events to direct events traffic to take the road into Oxnead from the Buxton end of the Aylsham to Buxton Rd.

The issue of securing a 30mph speed limit on the roads leading into and through the villages of Brampton and Oxnead was discussed and the applicants are happy to press for this for the safety of local residents. Noise of traffic leaving the events late at night was also raised and the applicants assured the parish Council that they will do everything they can to ensure that disruption to local residents is kept to a minimum.

No large coaches will be allowed to deliver guests to the venue as the roads are unsuitable for such large vehicles.

The Parish Council supports this application.

**2015/65 Reports**

Were received from the following:

1. County Councillor- Cllr David Harrison reported that the main talking point at the County at present is the Budget that has to be delivered by the end of February. Whilst there has always been a resistance to an increase in Council Tax it has been said that Council Tax can be increased by 1.9-2%.
2. District Council – Cllr Barbara Rix reported that she thinks people should respect and honour the planning legislation as she has seen several cases in the District recently where people have had to have property pulled down after being refused retrospective planning permission for non adherence to the planning rules.

Cllr Rix informed the Parish Council that50 Syrian refugees were being brought in to Gorleston and Gt Yarmouth. She also reported empty homes and holiday homes would now have to pay full Council tax and this will bring in an extra £54,000 to Broadland. There will be a new website for Broadland DC. This has been produced in association with Kings Lynn District Counciland will be up and running in June.

1. Police Report – The Clerk read out a report from PC Greig Shepherd which stated that there had been no incidents in Brampton. However we were informed by Cllr Little that night hawks had been active in the run up to Christmas with their metal detectors on the ancient monument sites. They park at the station car park in Buxton and walk up to Brampton and Oxnead via the railway line. He suggested that it was up to everyone to keep their eyes open and to report any sightings to the police.

**Cllr Humphrey arrived 8pm**

**2015/66 Public participation**

**It was agreed** to adjourn the meeting to take comments from members of the public and Councillors. There were no comments.

**2015/67 Financial Matters**

1. The bank reconciliation was approved.
2. It was agreed to approve the following payments:

£359.34 to M.Claridge wages and expenses (Ch No 100382)

£37.58 to Cllr Wilson re travel expenses to Hillington Mtg (Ch No 100383)

£20.00 to Norfolk RCC Thinking Fuel Annual Membership(Ch No 100384)

£610.75.00 to Aysham Computers re Lap top/scanner etc(Ch No 100385)

**2015/68 Correspondence**

* **C494 Aylsham to Buxton road (formerly the B1145**) The Clerk read out the response from Tom McCabe at NCC in reply to the e mail regarding the re Classification of the C494 Aylsham to Buxton road (formerly the B1145) Whilst his response did not contain any positive way forward **it was agreed** that we keep plugging away at this.
* **Parish Field** **Fence Posts** The Chairman had been informed by David Humphrey that 5 of the fence posts surrounding the Parish field have rotted away at the base and that the fence is in need of repair. **It was agreed** that the Clerk is to obtain a quote from NORSE who cut the grass, and for two other quotes.
* **Age UK** had sent the Parish Council a letter asking for a donation and whilst it was agreed that they do excellent work, a donation would not be given.
* **Recycling Credits** The Clerk had been asked by Cllr Little to look into the recycling credits to be received from NCC. Over the course of last year we had collected just under 1.6 tonnes of glass in the bottle banks which should generate an income for the village of approx £50 after expenses. **It was agreed** that a campaign should be launched to encourage as many people as possible to use the bottle banks rather than put their waste glass in the black household recycling wheelie bins. Mr and Mrs Aspinall commented that their new wedding venue and holiday lets at Oxnead Hall are generating lots of glass for recycling and that they will use the Parish recycling bins in future.

**2015/69 Parish Precept**

It was proposed that we do not increase the Parish Precept this year and it will remain the same as last year which is £3,925.00. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will send in the Parish Precept letter with this figure.

**2015/70 Highway and Footpath Matters**

**Oxnead Bridge Railings**-The Clerk had contacted Chris Mayes regarding the white railings and he informed her that the work to the railings would be completed before the end of March. It was reported that some of the broken railings had been replaced recently but that many of the concrete posts were still knocked over and nothing had yet been repainted.

**Oxnead Lock**- Mr and Mrs Crane have now erected a small barrier near to the lock making it much safer.

**Planting adjacent to Buxton to Oxnead Footpath beside the Rive Bure**- The Chairman copied the Clerk in on an email he sent to the Norfolk Rivers Trust in his capacity as Chairman of the BNCT regarding the planting of several hundred small whips along the edge of the River Bure from Buxton Mill to Oxnead Mill which, in the opinion of some walkers and BNCT members when grown, would change the landscape character of the open river valley. He had received a response from the Norfolk Rivers Trust suggesting that he meet up with them to discuss the reasoning and objectives behind the planting. In response Cllr Bean, acting on behalf of the landowner, explained that he had been approached by a representative from the Norfolk Rivers Trust to ask permission for planting to be put in at the river’s edge. Cllr Bean had agreed to the planting, the purpose being to provide shade to the water to improve fish stock, as well as to help alleviate flood risk, but had asked that views from overlooking properties be respected. He suggested that if anyone was unhappy with planting that was obstructing their views it could be removed.

The Chairman was concerned that the Parish Councils had not been informed before any planting took place. An e mail from Jonah Tosney at Norfolk Rivers Trust was received apologising for not informing BNCT of the planting because they were unaware of their existence. Equally he apologised for not informing the Parish Councils involved and said in future they would be happy to consult during the planning stages if further planting is to go in along the lower River Bure.

**Bure Valley Railway**- Repairs are needed to the stairs leading down from the Bure Valley railway at several points along the railway line. In addition the stile at the bottom of the stairs from the railway line to the Mermaid is a problem for walkers to climb over as are the stiles along the river path from Oxnead to Buxton and ideally need to be replaced with gates.

Cllr Little advised us that Tesco’s have a grant scheme in place that is focussing on funding local projects related to rural activities and this could be a good source of funding to help local schemes such as this. **It was agreed** that the Clerk is to look into the Tesco Grant Scheme.

**Buxton Black Lion Road**- has deteriorated over the last few years and **it was agreed** that the Clerk is to write to Laura Apps-Green, the Clerk for Buxton to ask again if any action has been taken to re paint the white dashed lines on the road junction in the area near the triangle on the outskirts of Buxton and Brampton. This is a well known accident hot-spot and the white lines encourage drivers to stop before proceeding over the crossroads and need to be repainted as they are badly worn and not very obvious.

**Passing- places on the Road in to Brampton from Buxton - It was agreed** that the Clerk is to contact Chris Mayes (copying in Cllr D Harrison) asking what we can do to improve the passing places. These are unmade up areas of road often against higher field embankments. Where the soil meets the tarmac roads erosion takes place causing massive potholes which are dangerous for drivers particularly in the dark winter months when the unlit roads are wet and muddy. Cllr Little suggested that a load of hardcore would help to fill the potholes and consolidate the passing places in the short term.

**FP 12 It was agreed** that the clerk is to remindChris Mayes(copying in Cllr D Harrison) of the ongoing issue ofFP 12 that still needs to be resolved

**2015/71 Phone Box**

The Clerk has made contact with the British Heart Foundation in order to obtain a grant aided defibrillator to be fitted into the former telephone box. Cllr Bean who is a trained electrician has looked at the phone box with a view to reinstating the power supply to the telephone box. **It was agreed** that the Clerk is to contact the Federation of Young farmers to thank them for their offer of assistance in the painting of the telephone Box and that we will be in touch again to inform them when they can make a start

The Clerk is to outline on paper the requirements necessary for the entire job and who can aid or assist in the work required.

**2015/72** **Broadband Speed**

Karen O’Kane who is in charge of Better Broadband at NCC has been in touch with the Chairman and the Clerk detailing when faster Broadband will be arriving in Brampton and Oxnead. In her e mail Karen O’Kane said that Brampton and Oxnead would receive a fibre upgrade from Buxton cabinet 3 and the ‘go live’ date would be in Autumn 2017. There is still some discrepancy over the 11 properties at the Red House as these have not been scheduled to receive an upgrade as part of Better Broadband for Norfolk within this tranch of funding.

A question from the floor was raised over the availability of further phone lines in Oxnead. Cllr Bean said that he has had a new phone line. **It was agreed** that the Clerk is to keep putting the pressure on for faster Broadband.

**2015/73 Transparency Code**

The Clerks application for funding was successful and the Parish Council had received £925.81 towards the cost of a new lap top and wireless scanner, as well as funding to cover the cost of extra work required to fulfil the requirements of the transparency Code. The Clerk had obtained quotes from three different suppliers and **it was agreed** that the Clerk should purchase the products from Aylsham Computers as they are local and can support the items with a maintenance scheme and ‘cloud’ back -up.

**2015/74 Late Correspondence and receive reports from Councillors**

The Clerk had received a message from Norfolk ALC asking whether the Parish Council wanted to opt out of the sector led arrangements for external auditing of accounts, when the Mazars auditing contract ends in 2017. It was agreed that we should not opt out.

‘Meet the Neighbours’ event is now to take place at the end of February.

**2015/75 Closure of the meeting**

The next meeting is to take place on Wednesday March 9th 2016. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Approved Date