



Lassington Oak

# Highnam Parish Council

Highnam ~ Linton ~ Over ~ Lassington

## Minutes of a Meeting of Highnam Parish Council

held in The Old School on Tuesday 14 February 2017

Present: Cllrs: M Welch, D Davies, M Moir, C Coats, S Adcock, Y Watkins and T Talbot

In Attendance: R Hicks (Clerk), Cllr P Awford, Messrs. Ridge and Train (HCCT) and 4 members of the public  
Public Forum:

Information was provided that there are 27 allotment plots, all taken, and a waiting list; Allotment Association have collaborated with Highnam Academy with visits/involvement in 2016, and there are plans for this to continue; pupils have been able to harvest produce and take it back to school, prepare and cook it. There is interest in similar involvement with the wildlife pond currently under discussion. Concern was expressed that trees were being examined in the Mary Grove open space; why?

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs V Tustin Smith

2. To approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 January 2017

The minutes were received by the Chair and signed as an accurate record.

3. Members of the Council are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business set out below

Cllrs Watkins and Adcock with reference to Agenda Item 10, Allotment Lease Renewal

4.. To allow dispensations

Dispensation was granted to enable both Councillors to vote on the matter of Agenda Item 10

5.. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr Awford reported that there was a budget meeting tomorrow; Highways local money is secure. A local meeting had been held to look at the problems with Lassington Lane, and some commitment had been made to fill potholes. Money has been approved to carry out Over Roundabout improvement work in 2018; there will be temporary disruption. Q was asked about blocked drains in Lassington Lane; response was that location of blockages is known

6. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr Davies reported that good reports to TBC Planning Committee had led to a successful deferment of Oakridge application for housing; this had been supported by a very poor report produced by TBC officers. All effort must be made now to obtain a refusal of planning

7.1 To receive Clerks Report -

Clerk reported that a letter had been received from TBC ref. Local Govt Boundary Commission – this had been circulated to Councillors

7.2 To consider vote for nomination to GAPTC Executive Committee

After discussion, there was no clear preference for either candidate, and the decision was made to abstain from the vote

7.3 To report on NDP, and decide on proposed new front cover

Clerk reported that the Highnam NDP had been adopted by TBC on 24 January 2017, but TBC had proposed a new front cover, which had been previously delayed. Proposal was made (Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Moir) that the existing front cover be retained for continuity; all in favour

7.4 To discuss appointment of Internal Auditor

An application has to be submitted to appoint an Internal Auditor; Clerk suggested that this should be made to GAPTC requesting Mrs M Higham; all agreed

8. To discuss HCCT Legal Issues

Before debating this item, proposal was made Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Moir that standing orders be suspended to enable HCCT Trustees to speak from the floor; all agreed. It was reported that HCCT constitution is no longer fit for purpose-Trustees are financially liable. PC need to decide way forward. HCCT structure must be changed or Trustees will resign. Trust operates very successfully and generates an income in excess of expenditure through rentals. Thanks were offered to the Trustees for their efforts. Proposal was made, Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Moir that HCCT report is accepted and actioned as soon as possible, in order to obtain an urgent resolution to the problem, all in favour

9.1 To discuss Capital Projects – Recreation Park

9.2 and to consider Highnam Parish Plan

Sub group has been having regular meetings, involving A Goode from TBC, and a drop-in meeting has been organised for Saturday 8 April 2017; this will be publicised to ensure best turn out

10. To consider Allotment Association Lease Renewal

Proposed by Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Moir, all in favour of lease renewal on similar terms – **Clerk to draw up lease**

11. To discuss Communications

A report had been circulated to all Councillors for consideration and debate; there had been a considerable amount of work undertaken to arrive at this point with recommendations on the way forward. Q was asked about costs, in particular whether some costs were ongoing. Assurances were given on capital costs, but there would be an annual cost. It was proposed Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Moir that report was accepted and progressed; all in favour

12. To discuss Footpaths

It is felt that some footpaths may need some long term attention; Cllr Talbot is trying to initiate a scheme of 'footpath champions' to report on areas; to date there are 2 volunteers. Cllr Davies felt this was a 1<sup>st</sup> class idea, and that pride in the village is important

13.1 To receive and comment on Planning Applications

1. 16/00432/FUL	Mr N Leney	4 The Green, GL2 8DQ	Amendment to alterations to existing conservatory and single storey extension
2. 17/00006/FUL	Mr E Keene	Highnam Farm, GL2 8DN	Equine use of land as pony paddock, and erection of 2 stables, store and tack room
3. 17/00069/FUL	Mr M Spiers	21 The Range, GL2 8NL	Conservatory to rear, and utility to side
4. 17/00037/FUL	Mr/Mrs P Compton	Rodway Lodge, GL2 8DR	Demolition of existing link structure and construction of new, with internal alterations. Alterations to fenestration, new rainwater pipes and increase height of chimney
5. 17/00038/LBC	Mr/Mrs P Compton	Rodway Lodge, GL2 8DR	Demolition of existing link structure and construction of new, with internal alterations. Alterations to fenestration, new rainwater pipes and increase height of chimney
6. 16/01384/FUL	Mr G Dixon	10 Canal Way, GL2 8BY	Removal of old balcony and replace with glass fronted balcony

1. – has been permitted by TBC

2,3,4,5,6 – No objection

13.2. To discuss forward action on application for development on land south of Oakridge

A proposal for suspension of standing orders to enable Mr Nick Cook to speak was made by Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Moir, all agreed. Following the deferment obtained today, Council now have an opportunity to comment in detail. TBC have now confirmed that they have a 5 year housing supply, which could change this application, and support the argument for refusal; good grounds need to be put forward to support this view. Q was asked whether TBC are likely to change their recommendation in light of this, but it was felt that the report may only be more balanced. TBC have offered to meet to discuss prior to next planning meeting. Cllr Welch proposed that that a sub committee be formed to move this matter forward, with standing orders being modified to include GAPTC section 4 as appendix to Highnam PC standing orders, seconded Cllr Coats, all in favour, with Nick Cook requested to help.

14. Finance 1. to approve invoices for payment

RBS a/c			Power	Amount
16 January 2017	Mainstream Digital	DD	12	£ 0.56
28 January 2017	Admin Costs	S/o	13	£ 376.23
14 February 2017	Petty Cash	000247	12	£ 200.00
14 February 2017	SLCC - Clerks Membership	000248	23	£ 93.00
14 February 2017	HCCT	000249	12	£ 15.00
14 February 2017	GPFA	000251	23	£ 50.00
14 February 2017	Mainstream Digital	DD	12	£ 1.15

Approved

15. Bank Reconciliation

**Bank reconciliation January 2017**

<b>RBS Account</b>			
Bank Balance at 30 December 2016	£51,327.		£1,784.3
	02	Payments January 2017	9
		Outstanding Cheques	£0.00
			£18,954.
Receipts January 2017	£375.89	Restricted funds	12
			£30,973.
		<b>Available Balance</b>	24
		<b>Bank Balance 1 February 2017</b>	£49,918.
		<b>Petty Cash on hand</b>	52
			£8.84
		<b>Total Balance</b>	£49,927
			.36

**Restricted funds in RBS a/c**

	£8,269.2
<b>Project Reserves</b>	5
	£10,000.
<b>Council Reserves</b>	00
<b>NDP Reserves</b>	£393.81
<b>Fun Day Proceeds</b>	£300.06
	£18,954.
	12

16. To discuss speeding

Clerk reported on up to date costs, D of T report suggests that this may not be a valid solution here; significant studies would need to be carried out. Further investigation is needed, and suggestion was made that Clerk contact Roger Blowey – Minsterworth for information

17. To discuss Over Farm activities

Report was made that the animal roundhouse is going to be used on 20 May 2017 for a performance by Carducci Quartet; TBC will not pursue this issue unless dates can be provided to show OFM are exceeding 28 days of non agricultural use annually; a diary must be kept, all to contribute, Clerk to maintain

18. Residual Items

1. Q was asked whether all Councillors should be administrators on Facebook account; it was felt that this might be confusing and dilute the message making effect

Meeting closed at 9.08pm

Next meeting : 14 March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Old School Room

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

