

FLORDON PARISH

Draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held at St Michaels Community Centre on Monday 8 May 2017

- Hosting:** Cllr Tim Webster (Chairman of the Parish Council)
- Parish Councillors:** Pam Harvey, Jimmy Lockhart, John Dyer, Janice Holmes, David Harrison
- Others Attending:** District Councillor Phil Hardy, Mark Lothian (Saffron Housing), Tracey Dowse (Saffron Housing) and members of the public.
- Apologies:** Cllr Ann Barnes, County Cllr Colin Foulger

The Chairman opened proceedings by inviting the two guests from Saffron Housing to comment on recent problems with Saffron tenants in Flordon, and to take questions.

It was pointed out that there were two bones of contention: a) the process of vetting prospective tenants, and b) the provision of adequate and equitable parking for tenants.

On the question of vetting and housing allocation, Saffron pointed out that although there is a vetting process in place, it is very unusual for prospective tenants to be refused housing. Once in place, problem tenants can be removed only through the County Court system, which takes both a great deal of time and a great deal of money, and it still leaves the problem of having to find alternative housing for them.

As far as parking is concerned, Saffron told us that all prospective tenants have a viewing of the property before taking it up, and they can therefore see for themselves what parking provision there is. However, the Saffron representatives visited St Michael's View before the meeting, and they agree that the roads are very narrow. They noted that most of the houses have offroad parking, and informed us that there are plans to provide offroad parking for one further property. In general, there is no obligation for Saffron to provide parking within each property's curtilage. When asked about provision for an increase in demand for parking spaces (for example, when children become old enough to own their own vehicles) they responded that in the case of older council housing stock, the original planners did not make provision for multiple car ownership. Tenants can apply to install drop kerbs, but Saffron can only give permission for this after NCC have given their consent.

District Councillor Hardy highlighted three areas with which he has been involved during the past year:

- a) issues around Tas Valley Mushrooms and their planning issues, in which the progress made has been disappointing;
- b) anti-social behaviour by Saffron tenants (and one in particular) in St Michael's View: Cllr Hardy coordinated with both Saffron Housing and the Norfolk PCC, and the outcome was the removal of the tenant in question;
- c) parking in St Michael's View: Saffron have indicated to Cllr Hardy that there would be offroad parking for more than one additional vehicle.

A member of the public pointed out that the planning issues surrounding Tas Valley Mushrooms have been mishandled by South Norfolk District Council Planning Department. Although Cllr Hardy has obtained and circulated details of the complaints procedure, it would seem meaningless if the only recourse for those wishing to complain about the council is to complain to the council. As a result of this discussion, Cllr Lockhart will draft and circulate a letter to the District Council, to be discussed at the July meeting of the Parish Council.