

FLORDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St Michaels Community Centre on Monday 12 September 2016

Present: Cllrs Tim Webster, Ann Barnes, Pam Harvey, Jimmy Lockhart, John Dyer, David Harrison

Attending: Gareth Roderick-Jones, Parish Clerk; County Councillor Colin Foulger; District Councillor Phil Hardy; PCSO Darrin Sore; Dean Harris, Area Housing Officer, Saffron Housing

- County Councillor Foulger reported on latest developments in the devolution process, with survey results in from both Norfolk and Suffolk. In Suffolk the county authority and all six district councils have voted in favour, but in Norfolk only the county council and two district councils (South Norfolk and Broadland) have voted for devolution. The sticking point elsewhere remains the issue of Mayor. The final verdict will be announced at the end of October.
- District Councillor Phil Hardy repeated his appeal for members of the community who are involved in community projects to contact him to see if their projects might be eligible for assistance from the ward fund, which still has some money available.
- PCSO D Sore updated the PC on crime statistics for the parish as follows:
 - THEFT : (17 – 21/07) Cycle and ladder stolen from front garden of an address on St Michael's View
 - THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE : (22/07) Off road quad bike stolen from a local farm
 - COMMON ASSAULT : (evening of 26/07) Male assaulted a 16 yr old boy on St Michael's View
 - CRIMINAL DAMAGE : (30/07) CCTV camera damaged on St Michael's Way
 - CRIMINAL DAMAGE : (31/07) Fencing and CCTV camera damaged on St Michael's View
 - COMMON ASSAULT : (04/08) Affray between several adults on St Michael's View
 - THRETS TO KILL : (Afternoon of 19/08) Unknown male entered a property and made threats to kill and damage property on St Michael's View
 - VERBAL ABUSE/PUBLIC ORDER : (04/08) Racially aggravated affray with threats of violence on St Michael's View
 - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE : (Morning of 03/09) Garden power tools stolen from back of an unlocked vehicle on St Michael's View
 - CRIMINAL DAMAGE : (07/09) Fence and shed damaged on St Michael's View
 - CRIMINAL DAMAGE : (04-08/09) CCTV cameras and leads damaged/cut on St Michael's View.

PCSO Sore pointed out that 10 of the above 11 incidents took place in St Michael's View.

Public Comment:

Members of the public expressed extensive concerns over recent incidents in and around St Michael's Way. Their concerns and responses to their comments are summarised below:

Public comments:

- Saffron are failing to enforce tenancy terms and therefore have to be held responsible for the current problems;
- approximately 50% of the properties on St Michael's View are privately owned, and the market value of these properties has dropped dramatically;

- two Saffron houses have no off-road parking, and this is one issue which has sparked argument and confrontation, and is surely easily solvable;
- residents have been promised changes but have been given no indication of timescales, or what the changes will be and how they be of benefit;
- damaged caused by the problem tenants has not been repaired, and reassurance is needed that this will be put right;
- Saffron senior managers have not been to visit and talk to residents;
- residents need to know if tenants who have been removed are allowed to return to St Michael's View, as there has been nighttime activity at the houses in question;
- vehicles have been accessing private land via church land adjacent to St Michael's View and using the land as an off-road track; there has also been a great increase in fly-tipping on this private land, and this is believed to be associated with Saffron tenants;
- Saffron Housing appear to be unaware of the number and nature of incidents reported back to us by the police, so despite claims to the contrary, liaison between Saffron and the police is poor.

Saffron Housing (Dean Harris, Area Housing Officer):

- Saffron on receipt of a complaint visit the area to speak to both the complainant and the alleged perpetrator.
- Saffron welcomes approaches by parishioners who have concerns.
- The ultimate sanction is eviction but this is a lengthy process as complex procedures have to be followed.
- An application by a tenant for off-road parking would need to be prompted by a special need and would not be considered as a blanket request for a whole area as this would lead to a flood of similar requests from other communities.
- Saffron have expended a considerable amount of time on this situation. Little can be done unless charges are brought against an individual.
- Changes are being introduced; unable to comment on time scale but they will be in place in under a year.
- One change will be to tighten up checks on potential residents: checks will be stringent, ensuring that new tenants have no previous history of problems, and this will also apply in the case of tenants applying for house exchanges, which might currently be a loophole.
- A request will be made for senior Saffron managers to meet residents to discuss these issues.
- Tenants who damage Saffron property cannot be immediately evicted: it is a long process and is not the same as in the case of private landlords.
- Dean Harris' superior, Lee Gartside, could not attend the meeting but he will receive a report and respond to the PC. The current Acting CEO is John Whitlock.

Police (Darrin Sore, PCSO):

- Beat Manager PC Andy Read unable to attend meeting. Senior officer to contact is Inspector Lou Provert.
- Some incidents which are reported to the police do not appear on the crime statistics because certain criteria have to be met before an incident is included on the list; it will not appear, for instance, if it is not considered in the public interest to pursue it.
- Norfolk Constabulary have expended a considerable amount of time on these incidents.
- suspicious vehicles should be reported immediately to the police.
- Fly tipping should be reported to Soth Norfolk DC who will inform the police if appropriate.
- A tenant can return to his home if there is no restraining order or other restriction preventing him or her from doing so.
- The police are arranging increased reassurance calls, especially by 24/7 Response Officers.

- 1 Apologies for absence:** none
- 2 Declarations of Interest:** none
- 3 Minutes of meetings held on 11 July 2016:** agreed and signed

4 Matters arising from previous minutes:

Broadwater: a quote for dredging work totalled £6,000; Cllr Lockhart is prepared to obtain the machinery needed but will be unable to insure it; Cllr Webster will investigate insuring through his own NFU policy. We also await a response from Redwings before proceeding.

5 Finances

- a Latest bank balances were noted:
- | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| current | £6,343.70 |
| savings | £892.01 |
| TOTAL | £7,235.71 (no unpresented cheques) |
- b The donation to Flordon Flower Festival of £50 was approved and the cheque signed.
- c The NALC subscription of £99.15 was approved and the cheque signed.

6 Planning

Discharge of Conditions 14 and 15 of 2015/2748 (Tas Valley Mushrooms) - noise management plan and improved signage - was discussed. The Council decided to reject the discharge of these conditions on the grounds that the original plan in 2015 was opposed by the Council, who therefore are unable to support any subsequent applications to discharge parts of it. In addition, the noise management plan should have been submitted and signed off before the end of July, which has not happened.

7 Highways

a **Flordon Speedwatch Report**

Eight Speedwatch monitoring sessions have been held; although drivers have been observed to slow down, 16 vehicles were recorded at over 35mph. Letters will be sent to the owners of these vehicles; they will receive a second if they fail to respond, and then will be subject to targetted police intervention.

b **SAM2 Update**

Cllr Barnes has prepared the paperwork for the application to the Parish Partnership Scheme for partial funding of the SAM2 and proposes using CIL money for the remainder. This was agreed by the Council.

c **Fly Tipping**

This is happening on the privately owned land adjacent to the church land (which is being used by vehicles to access the field). The council discussed using spoil from the trod path work to block access via the church land and also via the bottom gateway.

d **Trod path update:**

Started on time and proceeding.

e **Road Closure**

Despite the signs, which are misleading, residents still have access to all parts of the village.

f **Village Sign**

This needs to be renewed after some research - will be on next agenda.

8 Correspondence

Previously circulated to all councillors and noted:

- Road closure notices
- 2026 public rights of way work
- membership of CAN
- advance notice of payphone removal

- NALC newsletter x 2
- Greater Norwich Local Plan
- NALC membership
- S Norfolk Council Boundaries
- War Memorials - Historic England
- emails re anti-social behaviour (various)

9 Items for Next Agenda/AOB

- Village sign
- Broadwater
- Budget
- Street sign for St Michael's Way
- CIL paperwork

10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14 November 2016 at 8.00pm