

**MINUTES OF TIMBERLAND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2008 AT 7.30PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, TIMBERLAND**

Present:

Cllr	J Speirs	Chairman
Cllr	A Tolley	Vice- Chairman
Cllr	H Clarke	
Cllr	D Holmes	
Cllr	K Elvidge	
Cllr	L Lerpiniere	
Cllr	F Ambridge	District Councillor
Mrs	S Bedford	Clerk

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. No questions were asked

APOLOGIES

4. Apologies – Received from Cllr P Bradwell

DECLARATIONS

5. No declarations were received.

REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN

Cllr Speirs, newly elected Chairman, opened the Meeting by thanking all Cllr's for their vote of confidence in electing him Chairman for the forthcoming year. He also wished to note the valuable contribution provided by Cllr Holmes and thanked him for all his hard work whilst Chairman. The Chairman concluded by stating that he looked forward to the continuing support from all members of the Parish Council over the next 12 months.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

6. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 18 February 2008, were taken as read, approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr L Lerpiniere

Seconded: Cllr A Tolley

MATTERS ARISING

1. Dyke Clearance. There is still no resolution. The Clerk informed the Meeting that all residents along the dyke had received letters from Environmental Services, NKDC, reminding them of their responsibilities for maintenance of the dyke. Unfortunately there are still areas of the dyke which are causing concern due to overgrown vegetation, etc. The Chairman also informed the meeting that he had been approached by a resident with riparian responsibilities requesting he, the Chairman, act as a mediator with all riparians by obtaining specialist advice from the Environmental Services within NKDC in order to bring this long standing matter to some form of resolution. Cllr Ambridge again restated that NKDC had no statutory ability to force land clearance. Cllr Holmes informed the Meeting that Richard South, owner of the land where dyke clearance is required, was now endeavouring to find a way forward.

Decision: The Chairman would contact Environmental Services at NKDC to provide advice on dyke clearance for all residents.

2. Static mobile homes. The Clerk informed the Meeting that she had received an email from Martin Hinchliffe, Planning Enforcement Officer for NKDC stating that the owners had confirmed that the unit is being occupied as incidental accommodation for a family member for an approx period of 9 months and it is not independent of the main dwelling and therefore does not require planning permission. **Item Closed**

3. Parish Council Noticeboard. Now erected and fully utilised. **Item Closed**

4. Facilities for the Disabled. Clerk still awaiting further information for NKDC requested audit of public facilities within the Parish. **Item Ongoing**

5. NKDC community Service Awards. A nomination was submitted but was not successful in this round. **Item Closed**

6. Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Lincs. Parish Council consolidated submission missed the deadline of 07 Mar 08 but all residents had individual returns. **Item Closed**

7. LALC Notification of Replacement of Area Committees with Open Forums. Cllrs Tolley and Lerpiniere both attended the Open Forum and found it to be dominated by the increase in tax precept for the Lincolnshire Police. Notes from this forum are still awaited. **Item Closed**

8. Neighbourhood Watch (NW). Cllr Tolley informed the Meeting that although signage had been paid for, they were still to be placed around the village by the Probation Service and that he will provide a written statement of costs incurred and submit to the next Meeting. **Item Ongoing**

9. Cluster Meeting. The latest Cluster Meeting was held in Timberland Village Hall on Wednesday 2 April and the next Cluster Mtg will take place on 02 Jul in Martin Village Hall. For those Cllrs who were unable to attend, a short brief was given about the content of the Cluster Meeting and the Notes from the last meeting would be provided by the Clerk to those who required a copy. There was still some concern about whether Parish Cllrs attending were doing so as proper representatives of Parish Councils and also unnecessary duplication of effort with items being brought to Cluster Mtgs when they should be brought before Parish Council Mtg in the first instance so that representatives from each Parish attended Cluster Meetings with the full backing and views of their own Parish Council. Cllr Ambridge stated that the Cluster Meetings were about empowering Parish Councils and the Clerk further stated that this was fully explained in the Notes from the last Cluster Meeting. Cllr Clarke proposed that a Cllr should be nominated to attend Cluster Meetings.

10 It was decided to leave it open to all Cllrs so that there would be guaranteed representation at Cluster Mtgs and if topics on Cluster Agendas needing discussion before by this Parish Council then there would be scope to call a Parish Council Meeting beforehand. **Item Ongoing**

11. Flood Warden Nomination. Due to Cllr Moor declining to act as Flood Warden a new volunteer is required.

Decision: It was unanimously agreed that the Cllr Tolley, a willing volunteer, would act as Flood warden. **Item Closed**

12. Quality of Road Surface Church Lane. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received an email from Karl Smith, Highways officer, Lincolnshire County Council, stating that he will be looking at a solution to remedy this problem however given the large backlog of other works he cannot at this time say when this will be. **Item Ongoing**

13. Parish Council Meetings. The Clerk informed the Meeting that she had investigated the number of Meetings held – minimum of 3 are required each year but other Parishes in Cluster hold between 6 and 7 meetings a year. Proposed dates are as follows:

Early Jan
Mid Mar
Mid May (AGM and Elections)
Early Jul
Early Sep
Late Oct
Early Dec (Setting of Precept)

Decision: It was decided that this would be acceptable and definite dates for the Meetings from Sep would be set in Jul. **Item Closed**

FINANCIAL MATTERS

14. The Clerk informed the Meeting that the Audit of Accounts had been advertised and would take place on 08 August 2008 by S Atkins, Clement Keys, from Edgbaston, Birmingham. The Accounts would be available for public viewing between 14 Jul and 08 August from 6pm to 8pm Mondays to Fridays in compliance with Audit Commission Act 1988

15. Cheques to be signed:

a.	Clerk's wages from 01 Apr – 31 May 08	£219.80
b.	LALC annual subscription	£136.30
c.	Allianz Insurance	£258.19
d.	Litter picking 31 Mar – 30 Jun 08	£70.00
e.	Allenby's – Noticeboard	£698.47

PLANNING

16. A copy of Important Changes of Government Handling of certain Planning Casework circulated to all Cllr from 02 Apr 08. **Item Closed**

Applications received:

17. Following applications received and approved since last Meeting:

- a. First Floor extension over existing ground floor extension and erection of porch, 1 Hallams Lane
- b. Resubmission of Erection of dwelling and garage Plots 1 and 2, The Old Vicarage, Fen Road, Timberland. *See attached copy of notes from Planning Meeting*

18. Applications Refused.

- a. Single storey side extension, 3 Martin's Road Timberland
- b. Two storey rear extension and single storey garden room extension to front of dwelling, Thorpe Tilney Farm, Torpe Tilney Drive.
- c. Planning Appeal by Mr G Williams re site at land at Hallam's Lane, Timberland received by the Clerk on 12 May and would be circulated to Cllrs after the Meeting

BILLINGHAY LAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL

19. As reported in the Target Newspaper dated 07 May 08, the Lincolnshire County Council agreed to publish a statutory notice of Intention to close the Lafford School and Cllr Ambridge informed the Mtg that the Director of Education emphasised that places would be made available at other local schools for all children affected. **Item Ongoing**

VILLAGE HALL

20. The Chairman informed the Meeting that there had been a recent problem with rats at the Village Hall and that the Clerk had been contacted directly by NKDC in order for the Village Hall Committee to take action to resolve the situation as a local resident had complained. He further informed the Mtg that the Village Hall Committee had dealt with the problem. There was discussion about a Parish Councillor acting as a liaison between the Village Hall and the Parish Council as historically there had been such a link and if there was no Cllr able to attend Village Hall Committee Meetings then the Clerk would investigate whether the Parish Council should have sight of Village Hall Committee Meeting Minutes, in order to keep current with relevant Village Hall business.

Decision: The Clerk would write to the Village Hall Committee requesting sight of Village Hall Committee Mtg Minutes. **Item Ongoing**

MARTIN PLAYING FIELD

21. The Clerk informed the Meeting that the subject of the Martin playing field had been raised at the last Cluster Meeting and the Chairman of Martin Parish Council had provided the following brief on the situation:

22. The existing facility has had to be taken out of use on health and safety grounds some three years ago; the site is an old land-fill one and debris has worked through to the surface. Under the legislation, NKDC is obliged to resolve the problem and having accepted responsibility are minded to purchase a replacement as the cheapest option. They are minded to buy the bottom half of the field immediately outside the village on the right coming toward Timberland and negotiations are in hand. Once purchased, the field will be graded and sown thus providing a green field site. Longer term, it is hoped that it can develop a young persons play area and perhaps an all weather ball court, but to do this funds will have to be sought and it may well be that mutual cooperation between the two PCs or even the other clusters may be appropriate. **Item Ongoing**

VILLAGE WEB SITE

The Clerk informed the Mtg that there was a combined Martin and Timberland web page and asked that Minutes of Mtgs be published on the web page similar to that of other Parish Councils in the local area. Discussion took place on the availability of information on the web – in particular the details of Parish councillors.

Decision. It was decided that the Clerk would speak with LALC about the best course of action about publishing items on the world-wide web and obtain clarification of the Data Protection Act with regards to the level of detail that could be made available. The Clerk was also to provide the Chairman with an 'abridged' version of Parish Council Minutes that would also be placed on the Parish Noticeboard (due to limited space available on the board it was not considered practical to display the full minutes as these are readily available by the Clerk for any Parish resident wishing to have sight of them). **Item Ongoing**

AOB including correspondence received.

23. A thank you letter was received from Martin First Responders for the donation of 250.00. **Item Closed**

24. Letter from the CPRE Affiliation 2008 – 2009 with an invitation to join. It was unanimously agreed not to join. **Item Closed**

25. The Request for additional footpath lighting letter was circulated to all Cllrs and only one request was received and this would be forwarded by the Clerk. The Clerk would also request the Highways Department investigate the repainting of white lines on West Street, hasten the painting of yellow lines by the Penny Farthing and the adoption of the Bayfield Estate access road for proper road markings to be completed. **Item Ongoing**

26. Cllr Tolley requested tha the Sustainability Officer for NDC be contacted in order that a Energy Saving Meeting can take place in the Village for all residents to attend.

Decision. The Clerk would contact NKDC and organise for the Sustainability Officer to speak at a Energy Conservation Meeting open to all Parish Residents. **Item Ongoing**

27. The Clerk informed the Mtg that she had received correspondence from NKDC concerning the Local Plan 2007 which was now available. A paper copy had been requested and once received would be retained by the Clerk for anyone wishing to have sight. **Item Closed**

28. District Cllr Ambridge provided the Meeting with copies of NKDC and County Council Yearly Reports. The Clerk would circulate for all Cllrs to read.

29. Cllr Tolley informed the Meeting that there was inconsiderate use of the local bridle path by a person (unknown) on a motor scooter. He informed the Mtg that the Police were aware of the situation.

30. The Mtg was informed that the silver birch tree in Main Street and been broken in recent bad weather. Discussion of a replacement tree took place.

Decision. It was agreed that Cllr Tolley would purchase a flowering popular cherry and a steel stake in due course and plant at appropriate time.

31. Cllr Moor informed the Meeting that he was retiring from the Parish Council as he felt it was the right time having served the Parish since 1995 and provided a letter which the Clerk would forward to the Electoral Department of NKDC. The Chairman thanked Cllr Moor on behalf of the Committee and Parish as a whole, especially his sterling work for the Parish concerning all agricultural matters and flood area aspects outwith the Village limits. His presence as a Cllr would be greatly missed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

53. Date of next Meeting will be 09 July 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed

Position

Date