

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF SCOULTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Mark Brown, Trevor Kennedy, Colin Spinks, Roy Potton, Zena Rowland and Nigel Webster

**In attendance:** The Clerk, DC Carter, CC Jordan and 30 members of the public

In the absence of the Chair, Colin Spinks chaired the meeting.

### **OPEN FORUM**

CC Jordan reported that Adult Education have been subject to an Ofsted inspection. The standard has fallen to the degree that the Council are considering withdrawing their funding. Children's Services are also not performing to target. NCC have set their budget but CC Jordan is not confident that it can be delivered.

DC Carter introduced himself and explained that he has been selected to stand as the district council representative for the forthcoming election alongside John Rogers. He explained his rural country background and support for rural issues. He has a deep interest in planning, a degree in land management and is very interested in planning issues that rural parishes have to face.

A resident wished the minutes of the last meeting to be updated to include a reference to 104 parking spaces within the grounds of the potential crematorium.

A member of the public was concerned that the Council's response to Breckland about the planned crematorium did not represent the views of the parish and had been made privately. Cllr Spinks explained the purpose of the open forum was to allow people to express their views. He reminded the meeting that the comments on the planning application were in the public domain and if people chose to leave the January meeting after the open forum that was their prerogative, and they would not have heard the Councillor's response.

A member of the public said that he thought tenants who rent properties from the Shingfield family were frightened of losing their tenancy if they speak against the application.

Mr Graham Shingfield addressed the meeting in support of the application. He also explained that the family are landlords for three properties in the village and would hate to think that they were feeling threatened.

A member of the public felt that many residents had no knowledge of the plans which is why there were not more objectors. The meeting was reminded that the agenda was displayed on the noticeboards in the parish, on the parish website and in Scoulton News which was delivered to every household in the Parish. Breckland Council had also advertised the plans in the local press.

A member of the public thought that the Parish Councillors should have been more open to discussion outside the meeting and there was discussion as to whether a coffee morning is the right forum for a discussion.

The Council were asked how long they were aware of the plans before they informed the public. The Clerk explained that as statutory consultees the Council received a copy of the application once it had been validated by Breckland. At this point it was circulated to the Councillors and added to Scoulton News and the agenda.

There was dissatisfaction that there are no financial benefits to the village if the crematorium is built.

A resident complained that a tree with a preservation order is being removed. Mr Thornalley explained that this is due to the requirement to change the access to the site. He added that he has received support for his plans from residents of Scoulton.

Mr Shingfield explained that his family has planted six acres of trees and 5km of hedgerows which will give lots of habitat to bats and birds so the removal of any tree had already been mitigated.

Open forum was closed with the reminder that objections are being raised about the planning application are not personal to the Shingfield family.

### 1. To accept apologies

Andrew Shingfield

### 2. To declare any interests on items appearing on the agenda

None

### 3. To Approve Minutes of meeting held in November 2014 and January 2015

The minutes had been previously circulated and were agreed with the addition of a sentence to the January minutes to reference 104 parking spaces at the proposed crematorium.

### 4. Matters arising on minutes, for information only

The Clerk with assistance from Julia Grover has submitted a bid for funding towards restoration of the War Memorial.

Andrew Shingfield has arranged for the Village Sign to be shot blasted. He has received a quote for £50 to paint the sign. It was agreed to proceed - Proposed: MB, Seconded: ZR

8 members of the public left the meeting

### 5. Planning:

- 3PL/2014/1204/F: Land Off Norwich Road – Revised plans to erect new crematorium, car park, access roads, ancillary buildings & gardens of remembrance.  
The Clerk read the response from David Law regarding collisions along the B1108. She also reported back from her conversation with David Higgins, Highways.

Meeting suspended at 8.58pm

CC Jordan explained that he had been led to believe that Highways are not happy with the revised access and that there is still work to be done.

Meeting reopened at 8.59pm

ZR expressed her concerns about traffic and the likelihood of dangerous overtaking whilst cars are turning right and in the hatching marks.

Comment to be made to Breckland: Scoulton Parish Council reiterate their comments that they have serious concerns about traffic management and whilst the ghost lane would seem to improve the junction the impact on road safety for the whole stretch of road is still of major concern.

Proposed: NW, seconded: TK

### 6. Correspondence

- Breckland Big Spring Clean – It was agreed not to submit a bid at the moment. If the Council arrange an independent litter pick the CC Jordan agreed to remove the rubbish.
- Norfolk Constabulary – match funded PCSO. The Council decided not to proceed with this.
- Letter from Ian Whettingsteel regarding the conduct of the Councillors. The Councillors discussed in depth the issues raised and agreed the content of their response. The Clerk to draft a letter and circulate for Councillors approval before sending.

20 members of the public left the meeting

### 7. Finance:

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|-----------|-------------------|--------|
| • Chq 626 | Clerks Expenses   | £33.31 |
| • Chq 627 | Village Hall Hire | £60.00 |

Proposed: NW, seconded: CS

The Clerk distributed a precept update and accounts spreadsheet.

**10. Future Business**

None

**11. Dates of future meetings:**

13<sup>th</sup> May (AGM & APM), 8<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November at 8.10pm Scoulton Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.40pm