

MESSINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2014

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th May 2014 commencing at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Chairman of the Parish Council – N Poole; Clerk to the Parish Council – Mrs J Walker; and 9 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from J McKellar-Main, Mrs J Briggs, M Caley and W Elsome

2. MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes were circulated to those present and time was allowed for reading. The minutes passed as a true record – proposed by Mrs B Todd and seconded by Mrs G Sherwood – carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Min 3b Old School, Northfield Road

The Chairman advised that there has been renewed interest from a prospective purchaser who wishes to develop four bungalows on the land to the rear and convert the school building to three dwellings thereby retaining the frontage. It was noted that the protection of the frontage inhibits interest in the property.

b) Min 4e Pedestrian Crossing

The Chairman advised that the crossing is to be updated to a pelican crossing in July 2014. A suggestion was made by Mr Radford that speed retarders on the High Street should be considered to alleviate speeding but this was noted to be a potential noise issue for the residents on the High Street. It was also noted that the Traffic Management Team at North Lincolnshire Council are qualified professionals and that the scheme is designed in the best interests of public safety as well as traffic flow. It was also suggested that the fencing arrangement at the crossing should be modified. It was reported that a recent enquiry into speeding on Northfield Road concluded that the average speed is 27.2mph.

4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

a) M.U.G.A.

The £85,000 project is in the final stages before installation, having successfully gained grant aid of £50,000 from North Lincolnshire Council. The planning application is waiting for approval; an application for a Public Works Loan of £35,000 is waiting for approval; the mains electrical supply for the floodlights is applied for; and pedestrian access and playing field opening times are to be negotiated with the playing field committee. The Clerk advised that the annual precept for the Parish would not need to be increased to cover the cost of the loan repayments.

b) MESSINGHAM IN BLOOM

Messingham was awarded a Silver Gilt award in the 2013 East Midlands in Bloom competition with the Nature Reserve given a Judges Award. It was noted that Messingham in Bloom are to be the Messingham Co-op Community Champions for June to August 2014. The Chairman commented that consideration will need to be given for the employment of a gardener to assist the In Bloom group in the future, particularly with preparation of the flowerbeds.

c) VILLAGE COMPLAINTS

Regular complaints included flytipping, particularly on Twigmoor Side Road and Black Bank; dog fouling in various areas; pot holes; school time parking; and speeding, particularly on Brigg Road.

d) ANNUAL PRECEPT

Remained the same as last year at £47000 to qualify for the parish relief from NLC. Donations to local organisations included the Village Hall, Playing Field, Bowls Club, Methodist Church, Rainbows, Brownies, Scouts, Beavers, Guides and the Voluntary Car Service. The Parish Council continues to support Holy Trinity Church by paying for the maintenance of the churchyard and also the waste collection. The final phase of the churchyard drainage project was completed this year.

e) **NEW COUNCILLOR**

Due to the resignation of Gary Day, a casual vacancy was declared in 2013. From the four candidates to be considered Andy Clark was co-opted. The Chairman commented that Messingham Parish Council continues to be well attended by councillors.

f) **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

- Neighbourhood Policing - PCSO Rob Straker left the police and has not been replaced to date but the Chairman advised that funding has been approved by NLC for a replacement PCSO in the Ridge Policing Team.
- Broadband Upgrade – the Chairman reported that currently three quarters of Messingham can now access the faster broadband facility and that the final areas are merely waiting for connection by the utility company.
- Parish Council Noticeboard – due to the deterioration of the noticeboard outside the clinic, a new noticeboard has been ordered. A grant of £600 has been approved by North Lincolnshire Council towards the cost. Mr Radford suggested that a new noticeboard was a waste of money and that repairs would have been adequate but it was noted that as the grant from NLC had been available the actual cost to the Parish Council was likely to be the same for a new noticeboard as the repairs necessary to the old one. It was suggested that the legs for the noticeboard should be set in concrete for long term stability but it was noted that this would have to be approved by the clinic first.

5. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR 2013/14

A financial statement was circulated to all those present. It was agreed to accept these accounts subject to annual audit. Proposed Mrs B Todd; seconded Mrs G Sherwood. There were no questions.

6. SUNDAY BUS SERVICE

Following a request from a resident for consideration of a regular bus service on Sundays, North Lincolnshire Council has advised that lack of demand would not be viable without financial aid from the council and current budget constraints will not permit additional services.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further items for the agenda received by the closing date, the Chairman offered to receive comments from the floor:

- Mr Radford commented on the poor attendance and suggested that the meeting should be advertised more widely i.e. leaflets printed and delivered to every household. It was noted that the meeting was advertised in the village magazine in April and May, plus the noticeboards for at least a month. The Chairman advised that as the delivery of leaflets to every household is carried out by councillors it is only undertaken for important issues that affect the whole village. He also commented that all parishes appeared to have similar attendance to their Annual Parish Meetings.
- Mrs Grundy, representing Messingham Village Hall committee, thanked the Parish Council for their continued financial support which helps to fund the many repairs plus the installation of a CCTV security system
- Mrs Levitt complained that a quantity of roof felt is still littering the clinic/library car park despite having been reported a number of times.
- Questions were asked regarding the MUGA project
 - a) Opening Times – Subject to negotiation with the playing field committee, it is expected that the MUGA will be available to use until 8.00pm all year. Floodlights are incorporated which will be available on demand up to the designated time to allow children to play after school in winter months.
 - b) Surfacing – will be porous tarmac suitable for the sports included within the MUGA. It was noted that as the facility is for informal play rather than organised sport, the specification of the surfacing does not have to meet Sport England requirements.
- Mr Proctor commented that the blocked drain issues on Northfield Road have been resolved thanks to North Lincolnshire Council.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm