



**the
Venue**
@ Navenby

NAVENBY

At the Heart of
the Lincolnshire
Cliffe Villages

NAVENBY PARISH COUNCIL

Village Office & Community Access Point

The Venue, Grantham Road, Navenby, Lincoln LN5 0JJ

Navenby@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Chairman: K E Gunning

Clerk: Kim Bartram

Tel: 01522 811132

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mr K E Gunning ,Chairman; Mr C East; Mr S McDonald; Mr K Lamyman; Mr S Woollas; Mr A Watts; Mr B. O'Sullivan (BOS); and Mrs K Bartram, Parish Clerk.

Three Navenby Parish residents.

The Chairman welcomed Parish Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. Tea and coffee would be available at the end of the meeting together with cakes and biscuits baked and donated by Kirsty Elson, Assistant Parish Clerk.

1. Minutes from the previous Annual Meeting of 26 April 2016

It was **RESOLVED** the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 26 April 2016 be signed and adopted as a true and accurate record of said meeting.

2. Annual Report from the Chairman

The Chairman gave a report to the meeting summarising Navenby Parish Council activities for May 2016 to April 2017. See Appendix A.

3. Matters arising from the Annual Report and previous Minutes

There are no outstanding matters however, the Chairman asked the meeting for any questions relating to either the Annual Report or the Minutes for 2016/17.

4. Report of the parish finances

The external audit of parish finances for 2015/16 were signed off successfully in 2016. The audit for 2016/17 is currently under way and a report will be available by June 2017 when it will be submitted for scrutiny by external auditors Grant Thornton plc and their findings published on both the Parish Noticeboards and on www.navenby.net.

5. Questions from the parishioners

There were no questions from parishioners.

The Chairman thanked all present for their participation and advised that a short presentation would now be made by Aidan Neary, Meadow Officer with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust regarding a proposed Highdyke/Meadow Project. Copies of the presentation will be available on www.navenby.net and hard copies can be viewed at the Parish Office.

THE PARISH OF NAVENBY WITH SKINNAND ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

It's my pleasure to welcome you all to this year's Annual Parish Meeting. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Ken Gunning and I am currently Chairman of your Parish Council. I say 'your' Parish Council because that's exactly what it is. Either by election or by co-option, a number of your fellow villagers take upon themselves the responsibility to represent you at this, the very lowest level of the democratic process. Your parish council should have 11 councillors; however, at the moment you only have 7. That means that there are 4 seats available and 4 opportunities for individuals who might prefer to take an active part in the running of the village, rather than simply sitting back and waiting ! It is important that you are represented since it is your taxes, collected through the village precept, which fund the Council and its various activities.

The Village Precept

When you received your Council Tax bills, you may have noticed that the village precept element had increased by some 3.7%. The Parish Council had reluctantly to put this rise in place because of a reduction in the support grant from central government, because of a reduction in the monies paid to us by North Kesteven District Council to support the Local Access Point and because of the inevitable rises in such things as the cost of utilities.

Staff

Last year our previous Parish Clerk left at short notice. We have been very fortunate to secure the services of Mrs Kim Bartram as our new Parish Clerk and have also taken on Mrs Kirsty Elson as assistant clerk. We are now in a situation such that we can maintain cover of the Parish Office, and thus provide a service to you, irrespective of periods of sickness or holiday.

Christmas

The Parish Council co-ordinated the purchase of the Christmas trees which made such a lovely display in the village. The village was further enhanced by the large decorated tree mounted outside the Methodist Chapel, and by the Christmas Event on 8 December, both sponsored by the Navenby Business Network. Their efforts providing refreshments and music were greatly appreciated and it is to be hoped that this might become an annual event.

The Cemetery

We have not raised the cost of burial plots or internments for some years now and, as far as I'm concerned, we have no plans to do so for the foreseeable future. The fees currently paid are sufficient to cover the costs of running the cemetery.

Street Lights

We own some, but by no means all, of the street lights within the village. Ours can be identified by a small white sticker, with a black number, fixed to the pole. LCC's lights have a yellow sticker and the legend LCC together with a number. Should you notice problems with a street light, you can notify the Parish Office and, as long as you can identify the light number and location, we can take action on your behalf. We were ambushed within the last financial year by a 14% rise in the cost of electricity to power our street lights. Although we reviewed the costs of alternate suppliers, we were unable to find anyone interested in taking on such a relatively small concern. We are continuing with a programme to replace older sodium lights with newer and more efficient LED lights. In part this is a spend to save measure, since there is no annual maintenance charge associated with the LED lights and they use far less electricity; additionally, some of the parts for

Appendix A

the older sodium lights are no longer manufactured and thus they become very difficult to maintain.

The Village Defibrillators

We reported last year that the installation of the 3 Public Access Defibrillators was nearly complete; all 3 are now in situ and operational. One here at the Venue, one outside the Methodist church and one on the railings outside the school. Whilst, thankfully, they have not yet been used on an individual in cardiac arrest, they have been deployed on numerous occasions – ie someone calling 999 for a suspected cardiac arrest has been sent to get the defibrillator in case it might be needed. At last year's Annual Parish Meeting, it was suggested that a training session on resuscitation and how to use a defibrillator would be of benefit to the village. We responded by setting up and running a training session; disappointingly, only some 10 people turned up !

The Venue

Obviously, the John Cutforth Field and Venue is a charity, distinct from the Parish Council, although the Council as an entity fulfils the role of sole trustee. We hope now to have concluded the transfer of responsibility for the Sports' Pavilion and Bowls Club from the PC to the Venue. However, we will retain responsibility for cutting the grass of, and the hedges surrounding the sports' field to ensure the right of villagers to use it, whilst receiving a grant from the Venue equivalent to the sum paid by NJFC for their use of the field.

The Sports Pavilion

Prior to our handover of the Pavilion we have completed a number of works, including the replacement of doors, windows and guttering externally, with the installation of better heating, water heaters at the sinks and hand dryers within the toilets. Sadly, we have experienced some vandalism, including some enlightened individual attempting to burn one of the brand new doors. The police are aware and will be monitoring the situation.

Footpath from Chapel Heath to the Venue

There is now a footpath from the entrance to the sports field at the top of the Chapel Heath estate to the Venue car park. This enables parishioners to walk on a solid, and hopefully non-slip surface to the Venue rather than braving the grass and mud that was previously the case.

Bus Shelter at Grantham Rd/Venue Southbound Bus Stop

Those of you travelling south, by bus, from the Grantham Rd/Venue bus stop will hopefully have noticed the bus shelter which we have recently had installed. We managed to get a grant for most of the cost and hope to do the same for the bus stop opposite the Doctor's Surgery in the future.

Provision of Seats at Bus Stops

We have managed to have a seat installed at the bus stop outside the old Butcher's Arms; for those of you who have only recently moved to the village, that's the stop opposite Luke's barbershop. On the same side of the road as Luke's barbershop, there is another bus stop, in which we have also installed a seat and next to which we have replaced the litter bin. The bin previously in situ was severely corroded.

North Lane Playing Field

We have replaced a large section of the play equipment at North Lane. The older wooden items appeared to have reached the end of their safe life and had been commented upon during their annual safety inspection.

Additionally, we have rebuilt the steps to the slide, again to maintain the required degree of safety.

Appendix A

Finally, we have installed 2 picnic tables in the playing field so that those of you taking your progeny to the field can at least sit down.

Parking within the Village

Within the last year, LCC Highways Dept finally got around to putting in place the yellow lines which the Council have been requesting for some years. There have been some complaints, in some cases simply reflecting a lack of knowledge of the highway code. For instance, parking right up to a junction is not allowed and is highly dangerous – the yellow lines in locations such as Chapel Lane, East Rd, Church Lane and Tenter Lane, merely reinforce that point. Sadly, there are some individuals who appear to think that parking restrictions do not apply to them. They happily leave their cars on double yellow lines or in bus stops. It has been suggested that we should have a Parking Warden visit the area. We did investigate, but have been told that it would not be regarded as cost effective by the company concerned ! We continue to mention the problem to the police and PCSOs, however, parking offences are no longer within their jurisdiction.

Dog Waste

Every parish council in the country is likely to be concerned about the problem of dog poo. I am a dog owner, as are many of you who live here. I would be horrified to think that one of my dogs had deposited its poo without me picking it up and disposing of it in a bin. Sadly, there are still a very few individuals who don't pick up – they let us all down. With regard to where you walk your dogs, we are very fortunate to have spaces within the village that are ideal – such as the open space next to the High Dyke. We also have some spaces which are less ideal – such as the sports field. If people wish to walk their dogs on the sports field, they should ideally do so on leads, but in any case, they must be fastidious in cleaning up any mess that they or their dogs leave. Children playing on the field and uncontrolled dog waste is an unacceptable combination. We have considered the use of a dog warden, however we regard the cost as being prohibitively expensive. More so now that NKDC have stopped the part-grant that they were offering; their reason being that they have found the service to be ineffective.

That concludes my report upon the Parish Council's activities for the last year.