

NORTHLEACH WITH EASTINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH February 2013 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllr N Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr Wellman, Cllr N Blades, Cllr Carol Davies, Cllr B Hulcup, Cllr Mrs P Rigby, Cllr G Stock, Cllr Mrs Roberts, Cllr Fisher (arrived at 8.45)
Mrs C Crompton (Clerk), 30 members of the public.

17/13		<p>Public Question Time (2) - Standing Order 22 refers</p> <p>The Chairman shall have discretion to limit to twenty minutes the time set aside to receive statements from the public, and to limit to three minutes the time available for any one member of the public to deliver their statement.</p>	
	17.1/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neil Sprotson, a resident of the Green spoke. My question is regards the proposed relocation of the market to the Green. I am speaking on behalf of the residents there. It is a three-fold question. There has been lots of debate about moving it to the Green and a rumour that there was a failure to follow the correct protocol. My first question is: Should the matter resurface in the future will the residents be granted the ability to speak? Secondly who put forward the original proposal and lastly what was the rationale for moving it and what was this based on? 	
	17.2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Fletcher replied that the decision is on hold as it was not on the Agenda and therefore was not a legal matter. The Town Council had no reason to believe that the actual disruption of traffic in the Green would be any different. Gloucestershire Highways have been asked for their opinion. The Green is there for occasional parking. There have been problems in the Market Place. 	
	17.3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident stated that has been no consultation and no prior discussions. 	
	17.4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neil Sprotson asked so is this not reversed but only on hold as the correct protocol was not followed? 	
	17.5/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk explained that the decisions and votes taken at the January meeting were invalid. The 2 issues of taking over the Market and moving it to the Green were not detailed on the Agenda and no decisions should have been made at that point. The item will be discussed later on in this meeting and if necessary more discussion and actions will take place at the PPMC meeting next week. 	
	17.6/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neil Sprotson asked for clarification on who raised the proposal. The fact that it may have been in the Green many years ago is not a reason to move it there now. Who proposed it and what was the rationale? 	
	17.7/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Wellman explained that it was a joint proposal and there was members of the public at the meeting as well. 	
	17.8/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident said there are 16 cars parked there at night and only 8 in the Market Place. How are commercial vehicles going to get in there? Londis delivery vehicles have trouble getting it round and the market traders have had a look and do not believe they could fit in. 	
	17.9/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Wellman explained that the Green was previously used by commercial vehicles and that right has not been rescinded. 	
	17.10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Hulcup said there is a big strength of feeling about this. 	
	17.11/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colin Graham, a resident spoke. You mentioned Gloucestershire Highways who have statutory responsibility for safety but Bob Skillern had not been consulted as a statutory body. He suggests 4 reasons why moving the Market to the Green should not be considered. 	
	17.12/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louise Chandler Mullins, a resident spoke. I would like to talk you all through some of the health and safety issues that have been 	

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		<p>identified. The Green would become extremely congested, every parking space would be taken up in the Green and residents would be parking elsewhere and using up other spaces. There would be increased parking on the road and encroaching onto the pavement which happens occasionally now. This is a massive danger to residents when leaving their houses. It would be dangerous to children passing through on their way to school. There would be a danger to residents as they move around the market and there would be increase of cars driving on the pavement which happens occasionally now. Front doors open straight onto the pavement which goes straight onto the road. There is a concern now with traffic entering the Green by the bins as there is no safe pedestrian crossing and there is also confusion from traffic coming from the Market Place. The market would decrease visibility and access and we are concerned that should we need an ambulance or fire engine they would not get through. In addition what would happen with oil deliveries, access for unloading shopping and building work? These are all serious considerations.</p>	
	17.13/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Hughes, a resident spoke. She would like to thank everyone on the Town Council for all their hard work. She has a concern for access for delivery and emergency services. Some of the residents need direct access from their cars to their properties. One resident needs to be able to park near her house. Three people have been knocked over recently and if it is moved to the Green there will not be guaranteed direct access to all houses in the Green and the Peep. 	
	17.14/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Graham, a resident spoke. I don't live in the Green but I value the Wednesday Market. I would like to see the council's assurance that they will not push the market away? 	
	17.15/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another resident spoke. I am a new comer to Northleach and have seen an increase in traffic due to the Farmington Trust development. If the Market goes to the Green they will lose passing trade. 	
	17.16/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fletcher explained that the market was reintroduced as so many shops had been lost in previous years due to the impact of supermarkets. The shops that have stayed pay a lot of rates and it is unfair that these shops should see their business eroded by a market that causes issues with parking and access in the Market Place. It was hoped that if the Town Council took it over that these issues could be resolved 	
	17.17/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Blades spoke. I am a supporter of the market and was when it was first suggested as believed it would bring variety to the town and provide some of the services that do not currently exist. Both Leigh at Londis and I support a market and it brings people into the town. However Geoff has not always been particularly helpful when parking due to parked cars. I would rather have the Market there. The most important point is that the Town Council are struggling to understand why he collects the money and therefore I think it better that the local council provides the stalls for the stall holders and part of that would ensure that the police should be moving the cars out of a designated area. 	
	17.18/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Wellman spoke. If it is kept in the Market Place but run properly then the Market would work better. It needs a sign up from Tuesday afternoon, needs someone to run it and collect the fees. Malcolm did the job previously and he started the market and put the cones out. Now Geoff has taken over but we really need someone in Northleach who can do that and then as a body, the Town Council can distribute any funds collected. What do people want to see as part of this Market? 	
	17.19/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Blades suggested that in Cirencester, the stall holders set up and then move their vehicles to create more space and less traffic. 	
	17.20/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil Sprotson. I have a non-commercial interest but I speak on behalf 	

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	<p>17.21/13</p> <p>17.22/13</p> <p>17.23/13</p> <p>17.24/13</p>	<p>of the residents. We want the best of the town but the rationale is that we want the best for the management of the Market within the town. Any move to the Green needs to be based on sound business rational as it is a more congested area with greater risk to children and residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerald Green, a resident spoke. There are old parking byelaws which have not been rescinded. There is a schedule for parking in the Green which is for commercial vehicles from 7am – 10pm. This states commercial vehicles only and it only needs to be exhibited and then those laws are legal. I would suggest a new set of byelaws are drawn up. Sally Hughes asked why not advertise visitor car parking behind the fire station. Clerk explained that the Fire station is happy for this space to be used for large weddings and church services. However they do not want cars to be left there indefinitely as they need the area for training and cleaning the fire engine after use. Cllr Hancock spoke. He has had a number of comments about this and he could not support it. There is a problem of jurisdiction. If the Town Council wanted to improve this and there might be an income then it may be worth exploring. How is any of this going to be enforced? When the market was first introduced into Northleach, the only issue was from GCC and this was about movement around the Market Place. However there is little control and people can still turn up and use the market Place. 	
18/13		<p>Apologies and Reasons for Absence Cllr Mrs V Hewer, Cllr McKenzie and Cllr Rigby are all sick and Cllr Turner has resigned</p>	Verbal
19/13	Resolution	<p>Acceptance and signing of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th January 2013 The minutes were resolved to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting</p>	Attached
20/13	20.1/13	<p>Declaration of Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Roberts declared an interest in Agenda point 12.3 regarding school use of the playing field 	Verbal
21/13	<p>21.1/13</p> <p>21.2/13</p> <p>21.3/13</p> <p>21.4/13</p> <p>21.5/13</p> <p>Action</p> <p>21.613</p>	<p>To Discuss any Matters Arising from the above Minutes not included on the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action List update was discussed In regards the rubbish at the back of Londis, Cllr Fletcher stated that it was a lot better and no further action was needed. Neil Sprotson, a resident disagreed saying it looks awful and should not be on the Highway. It needs to be off the Highway. Cllr Blades explained that Londis, Fruitcakes and others are lock up shops with no outside space and it's a legal requirement for them to have waste bins. Neil Sprotson stated that it should be as important to protect the safety of people on the highway and there had been a lot of issues with rodents around the bins. Clerk to discuss the issue with Highways and then visit Londis and see about the side area as a potential solution Issue with salting and gritting during icy weather highlighted the issue that CDC have reduced the precept at their end and yet we have increasing bills to pay for the items that they are passing down to us. 	Attached Verbal
22/13	<p>22.1/13</p> <p>22.2/13</p>	<p>County and District Councillors' Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Chris Hancock. Firstly in regards the Old Prison, negotiations are now complete and Friends of the Cotswold will be owners hopefully by Easter In regards the Flood relief and the £3k contribution from the town, they 	Verbal

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		<p>have done an examination of the culvert and a lot of it is in poor shape. 30% is salted up and a lot of the remaining £80k (from CDC and the EA) will go into renovating the culvert. They are going to have to squeeze the rest out. The remaining money may not stretch to do the Wellings etc as planned as the culvert needs a lot of work on it. Laurence King (Drainage Officer) wants to see a further bidding round to get the Mill End work done which may involve the Town Council being asked to contribute more funds. Work will be done on the culvert in the Spring. It was also highlighted that they need to clear out the O ring which backs onto the field. The bit to Eastington also needs to be cleared out. They have not done anything on that recently.</p>	
23/13	23.1/13	<p>Police Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No police present and no report has been sent in 	Verbal
24/13		<p>Finance</p>	
	24.1/13	<p>To Receive a Report from the Chairman of the Finance, Funding and Grants Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair was not present so Clerk explained that main discussion in January was regarding the Precept figures, the reason for the increase and how much this actually equates to per banding 	Verbal
	24.2/13 Resolution 24.3/13	<p>To Approve Bills for Payment for February 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk presented the bills for payment It was resolved to pay the bills presented, Clerk to action Clerk presented payments and receipts breakdown for the last quarter and budget status 	To follow
25/13		<p>Planning and Tree Works</p>	
	25.1/13	<p>To Receive a Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new applications one for Tudor House and the other for QLM which are both commercial properties in the Green wanting to change use to residential. The current roof on latter is an asbestos, this will need to be dealt with in the refurbishment. The QLM application is to turn it into 2 residential homes and remove building by the double gates. Need to check if this is a listed building or not. 	Verbal
	25.2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two applications at Hampnet and Fallows Road regarding trees 	
	25.3/13	<p>Plus any other urgent items received since publication of the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received 	
26/13		<p>Property and Premises Maintenance Committee</p>	
	26.1/13	<p>To Note the Draft Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 3rd December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Council has requested 5 companies to quote on either the Wellingtonia work or the Churchyard work or both 	Attached
	26.2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider quotes for Wellingtonia. The Council discussed the 3 unnamed quotes for the Wellingtonia which vary remarkably. 	Attached
	26.3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Wellman proposed that the Town Council accept quote 4, this was unanimously agreed. 	
	Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to engage Richard Handy to do the work at the lower price of £290 plus vat with the wood to be left at the compost tip in the Churchyard. 	
	26.4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider quotes for Churchyard trees. The Council discussed the 3 unnamed quotes. Cllr Fletcher proposed quote 5 and this was unanimously agreed 	Attached
	Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to engage the services of Jason Sutton to complete the work and leave the wood for residents 	
27/13	27.1/13	<p>To Receive a Report from the Chairman of the Property and Premises Maintenance Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church wall. Have been asked by Glebe House management to contribute to maintenance of the boundary wall. Chairman has been 	Verbal

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		looking into the possibility of grants but none are available. We are awaiting another quote and have also been speaking to PCC about a 3 way share.	
28/13		Westwoods Committee	
	28.1/13	<p>To Note the Draft Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 4th December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman Cllr Blades. We have held off doing all but the most urgent work. The VAT issue is almost done and we are waiting to hear how much we owe them and then we will know what is outstanding and what we have left. Ahead of budget on lettings and the figures show this. We are making efforts to promote the Westwoods for weddings and now marketing this online. The marquee lining is all sorted with a new one man operating system. Experienced a bit of a lull with the gamers who use the high speed broadband. They bring masses of computers and use the showers and we expect them 2 – 3 times this year which is a good income for us. 	Attached
29/13		Working Groups, Projects and Reports	
	29.1/13	<p>Charter Market update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Fletcher. It looks like people do not want to have the Market move to the Green. The resident's views have been soundly expressed regarding the move. However no-one has said that we should not take over the Market and wherever it is the market needs to be controlled by ourselves and receipts done. Council involvement is a good thing and it needs tidying up. 	Verbal
	29.2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Fletcher stated that all seemed to agree that taking over the Market was a good idea and that moving it to the Green was not. This was positively acknowledged by the people gathered. Cllr Fletcher said it would be good to get some different stall holders in to complement those already attending and try to make it a real focus. 	
30/13	30.1/13	<p>Youth provision update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Hulcup explained that Young Gloucestershire supplies a van with youth support workers paid for by a grant from CDC and the Town council wish to provide this on-going. The Town Council have applied via Cllr Hancock for further funding and we met with David Hackney who is drawing up a contract to deliver what we want for the youths. There has been a positive response back from the youths who value this service. On average there are 10 people attending and this is expected to rise in the warmer months. 	Verbal
	30.2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bourton Youth Club was discussed - could we join up with them? The Moore Hospital is advertising that they are doing youth services and it looks like they are going to share the hall. 	
	30.3/13	<p>School use of the Playing Field – decision needed on future charges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Council are stopping the annual £250 that they currently pay the Town Council for the school's use of the playing field. 	Attached
	30.4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Stock has asked Cllr Hancock for historical information as he was involved previously; please note that he is now a school governor. Is it better to treat them as a user and charge them accordingly as we do the sport clubs though the school only require the use of the field and not the Pavilion. 	
	30.5/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an example the Cricket club pay £600 a year for a season's use (April – September) of the field and Pavilion. The KGV Trust was due to review all charges at the end of this financial year when they had a year's worth of information regarding costs of grass cutting and maintenance etc. In reality the whole community has access to the playing field. 	
	30.6/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Blades stated that it is only £5 a week and the Trust has the cost of 	

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	<p>30.7/13</p> <p>30.8/13</p> <p>30.9/13</p> <p>30.10/13</p> <p>30.11/13</p> <p>30.12/13</p>	<p>maintaining it. It is professionally maintained on a regular basis and it makes sense that all the main regular users pay to use it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was recognised that they can no longer have exclusive use of the field, as initial trust documents show as it was bought by public subscription and there are other paying users. There is a user agreement but it encompasses both field and Pavilion so would need adapting. What do the school want access to and for how long? How many hours do they use the field every day and is there any bit that they want exclusive use of? The Clerk has met with the school already and they require the field during term time, on school days between 8am and 6pm. Cllr Blades suggested that we ask them for no more than the current fee but no less. Clerk said that the school believe that as the "exclusive" use of the field is being taken away, that any fee charged should be less as their use will be less. Cllr Stock explained that the "exclusive" clause should never have been used and was never valid for the reasons given above. The management group and KGV Trust were due to renew the charges in March 2013 and the school's use will be included. There is an annual budget to cover grass cutting and this needs to be covered. Clerk and or Cllr Stock to update school before the next meeting. 	
	<p>30.13/13</p> <p>30.14/13</p> <p>30.15/13</p>	<p>West End parking update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Hulcup explained that there is an opinion that if there are spaces to pass then that would alleviate the problem. He has contacted GCC and there are 2 issue. Firstly creating these spaces and secondly enforcing this. It is administered by GCC and bays would need to be created. Bob Skillern from Gloucestershire Highways will come and meet us and walk down West End. Cllr Blades agreed to meet Cllr Hulcup and Clerk to do this with Highways on 14th March. It was suggested that there is enough space for cars to pass but the most pressing issue is for drivers to watch what is approaching. 	Verbal
31/13	<p>31.1/13</p> <p>31.2/13</p> <p>31.3/13</p> <p>31.4/13</p> <p>31.5/13</p> <p>Action</p> <p>31.6/13</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has had an application for a Steam Vintage show on the 7th and 8th September to be in Slatters Field. Town Council discussed this in November and had no objections as it is on private land There has been comments about the Lock up but unable to spend public money on a listed private building Cllr Fletcher has been in contact with Bobby Fowler regarding Andover House Trees at the top of Guggle Lane have been cut but not sure by whom and there has been a lot of mess left. Who sweeps the streets for rubbish? Clerk to check how often the sweeper comes Cllr Duncan Turner has resigned and we are sorry to see him go as he was a good contributor and a big help 	Verbal
32/13		Correspondence	
	<p>32.1/13</p> <p>32.2/13</p> <p>32.3/13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence relating to The Green and Charter Market Correspondence from Geoff Green about the Charter Market Correspondence from Phil Moore regarding parking 	Circulated Circulated Circulated
		Plus Any Other Urgent items received since publication of the Agenda	
33/13	<p>33.1/13</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Any other matters that any Councillor wishes to bring to the attention of the Council or agenda items for future meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Fisher highlighted that Paul Hodgkinson has put in the local leaflet about Fortey House. Cllr Fisher has been involved in discussions with Farmington Trust and an approach to Bromford and would be very 	

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	<p>33.2/13</p> <p>33.3/13</p> <p>33.4.13</p> <p>Action</p> <p>33.5/13</p> <p>Action</p> <p>33.6/13</p> <p>33.7/13</p> <p>33.8/13</p>	<p>upset if this affects our efforts to get the two parties together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fisher asked if we can invite the developers at Checkers to talk to us and how this fits in with expectations of the entrance to the Town. Ian Barratt is willing to come and talk to us about his plans and I think we should listen to them. • The Northleach Society was mentioned in the Parish Magazine and as members of the public we can attend. • There are issues with parking in front of the Post Office. Cars park too close to the window and wheelchairs unable to pass. • Clerk to discuss with Bob Skillern on 14th March • Cllr Blades highlighted the issue of rubbish on the Playing Field which is left by organisers of sports activities, • Clerk to check that user agreement reflects this. • Cllr Hulcup to check the sports fields on a Monday • Cllr Stock to email the sports users to reinforce message • In regards safety, there should be some street marking at Londis so people can cross safely and another light at back of Londis • <i>Please note that no Discussions or Decisions can be taken under this Item.</i> 	
34/13	Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 28th March 2013 at 7pm		

Further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm