

MINUTES OF DOCKING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in the Ripper Hall

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Public session.** County Councillor Coke had been invited to the meeting to discuss the possible closure of the Docking Re-cycling centre. The meeting was attended by the ward County Councillor and the Borough Councillors covering the area served by the centre. Mr Coke was invited to address the meeting by the chair. Mr Coke outlined the current round of budget cuts that were having to be made by the committees of the County Council, each being asked to reduce by 25%. He said it was a bleak picture but one part of the £245 million cuts having to be made by the County Council. Mr Coke said that Docking was the most expensive centre to run in Norfolk and the obvious one to close. He said the closure would still mean residents could reach a centre within 8.5 miles except a small area near Massingham Heath.

Mr Coke was strongly challenged by visiting parish councillors and residents that this would not be the case. There was a concern about the rise in fly tipping (2 in Docking this week) but he dismissed this saying there was no evidence from previous closures to prove this. Borough Councillors pointed out that the cost of clearing fly tipping rested with the Borough Council so he was just passing the costs down. Strong arguments were put forward by those present about the appalling service that has existed for many years, the rise in population we experience in the summer with the holiday visitors, the age of residents in the area, the methods of dropping household items i.e. only one piece of a bathroom suite per week and the limits set could not be achieved on our roads especially in the summer months. Mr Coke said that nobody wanted cuts but it is a legal obligation. One resident said he was a brave man to come having voted for the closure with his casting vote in committee. Mr Coke said that there will be a consultation in November and the public needed to respond. One resident asked if there was going to be a freeze on councillor's expenses. Mr Coke said that allowances increased by 1% last year to £9,000 a year and did not comment on the future.

Mr Morrison Borough Councillor for Docking addressed the meeting on behalf of the councillors present. He had attended the committee meeting and put the case for the centre. He said that that the green party voted for closure, a big surprise and a local member abstained having read a letter of support to keep the site open causing the casting vote to be given by Mr Coke. He pointed out that Docking was one of the best recycling sites in Norfolk and it did not make sense to close it. He said it is a closure based on statistics, which the county councillor said are incorrect depending on which way you approach the centre, and we all know what they say about statistics. Mr Morrison said that the Borough Council has had to make cut backs over the years but proudly it has never had to cut services.

Further points made included traffic issues around the Heacham centre, it will cause mayhem for residents and increased stress levels for many of the older population, the population is due to rise with new housing, we should demand value for money from what is a poor service and the health and safety issue at Heacham for elderly residents.

Residents have been encouraged to call to object to the closure on 0344 800180020

Mr Coke was encouraged to go away, taking with him the strength of feeling from the meeting and re think the evidence that he has and reverse the decision for closure. He said that the decision was not likely to change. The chair thanked him for attending and he left the meeting. All the public left at this point except for one (8.15pm)

**2. Present:-** J Wroth, Mrs Edge Mr Able, Mr Meek, Mr Gillett, Mr Crompton (left the meeting at 8pm) Mr Todd, Mr Cooke, Mr Playford and Mrs Playford.

Apologies: - Mrs Hack

21 members of the public were present for the public part of the meeting. 1 member for the business element.

### **3. The 17<sup>th</sup> September minutes.**

The minutes of the September meeting were proposed for adoption by Mr Gillett, seconded Mrs Edge and carried.

### **4. Matters arising** for information only.

Docking Recycling Centre. This had been covered in the public part of the meeting. All councillors registered the fact they disagree with Mr Coke's (UKIP) decision to close the centre.

Newsletter items. The clerk had sent copy to the editor for inclusion in the next newsletter on the CITB path, the defibrillator and the request for volunteer drivers.

Site Meeting |Limagrain re parking issues. The clerk has arranged this for Tuesday 3rd November at 10am. The Highways officer and a rep from Limagrain will be attending. The clerk will contact the Spar shop.

School sign. Residents were asked to cut back trees and this work has been done.

Dreamy Hollow. The clerk raised the question of the temporary toilet block with the Planning Department. He received an email reply to say it was temporary but no conditions had been attached at the time so it can remain indefinitely.

Playing Field Agreement. The clerk had looked at the document and was not sure if it was a Parish Asset. Councillors felt that it should be included. Mr Meek will try and get further information from Fields in Trust.

Village Bus Link. The clerk has received the minutes of the Meeting attended by Mrs Hack and Mrs Playford. Mrs Playford said that things were not much further forward. The group are asking for a donation of £3 per resident to meet the costs in the first year. There were mixed feelings as to the benefits to Docking.

Transparency Code briefing. The clerk attended the briefing in Kings Lynn and will inform council of the outcomes under items for council decision.

### **5. Declaration of interests on agenda items.** None

## 6. Correspondence.

Complaint from the website from Mr Tim Lock re parking next to Limagrain entrance and his property. The clerk has kept him informed but he is unable to be at the site meeting but his preference would be for double yellow lines.

Grants enquiry Air Ambulance, clerk to keep until charity meeting next year.

Mayor's Design Awards closure for applications is 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Mrs French re hedges in many areas of the village. The clerk will do a piece for the newsletter and reply to Mrs French.

Resident approved to work on the pond approved by Mr Hare- Mr Noel Lelev.

Invitation to a special day at RAF Mildenhall. Seven councillors expressed an interest to go, the clerk will go back to them and try and sort the arrangements

## 7. Agenda Items for Council decision.

**Land for Children's Charity.** The clerk has now had contact with the solicitor and they feel that they can make no further progress without the title deeds to the land proving ownership. They have sent their interim bill and will await further instruction from the council. A meeting was held with Mr Hare and documents collected together and it was agreed the clerk will try to register the land again with the documents and information he has. If the Land Registry will register the land to the Parish Council then we can proceed with an agreement. The clerk has received an email from Mrs Daisley Brown outlining what she hopes to do on the field. The chair allowed Mrs Daisley Brown to address the meeting. She said she was just about to get going with raised beds and paths and the planting of trees. The council agreed that in view of the current situation she should do a minimal amount and just graze the land. Mr Cooke asked if we want an agreement at all, this will go on a later agenda.

**Allotment Rents 2015/16.** The current rent is £10 per year. It was agreed the rent will stay at £10 proposed Mrs Edge seconded Mr Playford and carried.

**Transparency Code.** The code came into operation in April 2015. The council already complies with many aspects of the law. The clerk has taken steps to ensure the minutes and agendas are a true record of what has been discussed at meetings and that only items on the agenda can be discussed at the meeting. Plans can no longer go round for approval but have to be approved at a formal meeting so extra meetings may be required if plans do not come to meet the meeting pattern. These meetings have to have an agenda and be minuted. Minutes and agendas need to stay on the website for 6 years.

The Government have set up a grant system for the coming 3 years to enable councils to meet the requirements of the law. This is one pot of money for the 3 year period. The Parish Council can apply for funding in the following categories-

Computer up to £350, Scanner up to £100, setting up of a website, training for the clerk to use website and meet the law, cost of hours to meet the code, money spent on uploading items to the website and internet costs.

It was agreed that a computer for Docking was a good idea to keep all their matters in one place. The clerk was asked to proceed with the grant.

**8. Financial Matters.** Accounts approved for this month.

Name	Business	net	VAT	Gross	Non Reclaimable VAT
K and M	Street lights	£28.12	£5.62	£ 33.74	None
Eon	Electricity	£78.29	£ 3.99	£ 82.20	None
Hayes and Storr	Fees	£256.00	£ 55.00	£311.00	None
Norse	Grass cutting	£654.63	£ 130.93	£785.56	None
Norfolk ALC	fee	£15.00	£ 0.00	£ 15.00	None

Proposed Mrs Edge and seconded by Mr Playford and carried.

**Financial Statement** the clerk issued the statement for October prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

**9. Planning Matters**

**Plans for Approval**, Old Observatory Sandy Lane. The plans were discussed and approved

Approved Plans – Docking Hall Apartment and Pantiles, Well Street-single story sun room extension

Refused Plans – None

**10. Any other business** (for information only) and to consider any item for next month's meeting.

The chair thanked the councillors for taking out the letters re the possible closure of the Heacham Fire Station.

Mrs Playford raised the matter of the trees at 5 Harewood. The clerk will approach Freebridge Housing again.

**Close 9.25pm**

**Date of next meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November**