

NORTH & WEST 1 – NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

(Northborough, Barnack, Glinton & Wittering, Newborough, and Eye & Thorney Wards)

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2009

Present:

Cllr P Nash (Chairman)
Northborough: Cllr P Hiller
Barnack: Cllr D Over
Newborough: Cllr D Harrington

Also present:

Steve Boast, Chairman of Standards Committee
Paul Phillipson, Executive Director of Operations
Alison Ivatt, Neighbourhood Manager – North & West
Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager - Citywide
Lisa Emmanuel, Neighbourhood Manager - South
Julie Rivett, Neighbourhoods and Community Engagement Strategic Manager
Kim Sawyer, Head of Legal Services
Sally Crawford, Community Governance Manager

Cherry Lester, Children's Services
Rachael Thornton, Communications

21 members of the public attended including representatives from Glinton, Castor, Wansford, Ailsworth, Helpston, Peakirk and Thorney Parish Councils, and the Police.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Sanders, J Holdich, D Lamb and R Dobbs.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record. It was noted that a query had been made regarding Peterborough City Council's policy on Parish Councils for action.

4. You Said, We Did

The Neighbourhood Manager gave an update on issues raised at the last meeting including railways, North Footpath Forum, youth work, renewable and saving energy and dog fouling. It was reported that although it was early days, progress was being made in relation to improving traffic in rural villages, a representative from Glinton Parish Council requested professional involvement from youth services for the youth club and there had been an increase in enforcement and additional signs erected to help prevent dog fouling in the area.

5. Area Specific Issues

There were no area specific issues to report.

6. Council Budget 2010 - 2011

Members of the neighbourhood council and the public were informed that the budget was still in preparation and had yet to be agreed by Cabinet. Anyone wanting to take part in the debate on the budget was invited to attend the neighbourhood council meetings to be held on 14 December at the Voyager School or on 15 December at Ravensthorpe Primary School.

7. Standards Briefing

The chairman of the Standards Committee gave a presentation on the code of conduct that councillors work within and highlighted points including accountability, misconduct, the ten principles, complaints investigated, hearings, membership of the committee, how to complain, councillors' right to private life, the officer code of conduct and the member – officer protocol.

In response to questions from members of the public, the chairman confirmed that parish councillors were also governed by the code of conduct and that the Standards Committee would review the information available on the council's website.

8. Community Action Planning

The Neighbourhood management team introduced an interactive session for members of the public and elected members who split into groups to discuss topics such as environmental issues, creating opportunities and safer, stronger communities. Those present were informed that:

- ❖ This exercise formed part of a larger consultation process and all communities would be engaged
- ❖ A survey form had been prepared
- ❖ Focus groups would be set up
- ❖ There would be a community planning event in each neighbourhood council area in February
- ❖ Anyone who wanted to know the result of the exercise should leave their contact details
- ❖ An update of the action plan would be given to each neighbourhood council in March.

9. Open Session

The Chairman invited members of the public and elected members to raise any matters affecting their communities. The following matters were raised in summary:

- ❖ It was noted that a suggestion had been made to name this neighbourhood council 'Soke' or 'Soke and Isle' Neighbourhood Council'. Concern was expressed that the community would not relate to the name or be aware of the origin although communications may be able to develop a marketing strategy. It was AGREED to bring this item back to the next meeting.
- ❖ A number of concerns were raised regarding the impact of neighbourhood councils on the role of parish councils

- ❖ Neighbourhood councils and parish councils should run side by side with a joined up approach to empower local communities
- ❖ Parish councils should contact the neighbourhood management team directly if they had concerns that issues were being blocked
- ❖ A flood risk management group had been set up by PCC with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and Drainage Boards and was looking to resolve issues in Thorney.
- ❖ Parish plans would be taken into consideration in community action plans
- ❖ Neighbourhood councils would give non parished areas a voice

10. Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 4 March at Arthur Mellows Village College.

CHAIRMAN
7.00pm – 8.55pm