

MINUTES OF EXTRA-ORDINARY OLD SOMERBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT

Monday 16 July 2018 7.15pm at the Fox and Hounds.

Councillors present: Vice-Chairman Tom Jonason and Cllrs Veronica Stephens and Tracy Heaney.

1.0 WELCOME: Cllr Tom Jonason welcomed all present to this open meeting called to enable everyone in the parish to be updated regarding the process so far of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. He indicated that the council currently had no Chairman and accordingly he would act as chair of this meeting by agreement of his fellow councillors. *(nb 28 residents present including the local SKDC and LCC Councillors)*

2.0 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK: David Holmes had offered his services as parish clerk on a pro bono basis with expenses only. The councillors were happy to so appoint him.

3.0 CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR TO FILL AN OUTSTANDING VACANCY:

The Chairman announced that the three candidates for the post would each make a statement tonight and then the councillors would announce the appointment at the parish council meeting on Wednesday 18 July 2018. Each candidate addressed the councillors. The candidates were Carl Wilson, Charles Welsh and David Holmes

4.0 UP-DATE REGARDING THE PROCESS SO FAR FOR THE NDP: Peter Burrows Steering Group member outlined the process so far and explained that the draft plan was some 95% complete. The process commenced in 2016 which led to a parish wide Questionnaire being circulated. That resulted in 76 replies (40%) all of which were professionally analysed by Community Lincs Consultancy Services. A Consultant Town Planner was appointed, Mr. Charles Welsh, who subsequently produced an Opportunity and Restraints Document. The Steering Group got to a stage where they were not happy with his proposals regarding development and green spaces and Mr. Welsh resigned. In due course a new consultant was appointed, Mr. Robert Keith, who was highly experienced Town Planner having been employed by several other parish councils in this capacity. All of those Neighbourhood Development Plans which he helped to produce had been successful following the required periods of consultant and submission to an Inspector. He fully supported the views of the Steering Group. Subsequently the Steering Group successfully obtained further funding from the Government to fund his consultancy. There has been a delay in the process because of recent Freedom of Information issues. The Steering Group are very anxious to see the process continue and keep to the time line of completion by 31 March 2019.

5.0 AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING FOR 3 MINUTES EACH:

There followed questions and comments from residents and landowners summarised as follows: **NB What follows is not verbatim.**

Vicky Lowndes – “We came here from Bucks to quiet village – no buildings is my hope”

Chris Skelton – “Have all the steering group members signed up to the Code of Conduct and the Terms of Reference” Who are the members of the steering group. Will they be consulting landowners about green spaces and views before they publish the final document”. *(He was assured all members had signed up to the TOR. The code of practice did not apply to non-parish councillors. The members were introduced: Peter Burrows, Betty North, Gordon Thompson, Nigel Ord and David Holmes.)*

Veronica Stephens- "Put the draft on the website now with various stages and the time-line for that process". *(It was explained that the draft was incomplete with gaps. The finished article would be published in the not too distant future with full details of the process of the Statutory Consultation of parishioners, landowners etc.)*

Sally Skelton – "The membership of the Steering Group should be reviewed – one member's behaviour – Nigel Ord – should come off. The Terms of Reference went round the village at the time. It says that All members must behave at all times in a manner that any reasonable person would regard as respectful and not behave in a manner that could be regarded as bullying or intimidating." *(It was noted)*

Linda Dodd – "I walk round the village – hedges obstruct the paths, grass not cut, dogs not on a lead and not pick up dog foul" *(Explained that some issues raised in the Questionnaire sent to all parishioners did not relate to development but they would appear in an appendix in the final document headed "Aspirational Issues" for the Parish Council to note and action in due course.)*

Charles Welsh – "The process has gone wrong and there is an emerging will to change things in the village".

Carl Wilson - "Does the plan contain where building should take place and can we know what is in it". *(Explained there are no such suggestions in the draft plan)*

SKDC Cllr Peter Stephens – "The SKDC produce a Local Plan which deals with development. It shows the village to be "less sustainable". There is an emerging local plan".

Charles Welsh – "The meeting should resolve to put the NDP on hold and hold a review and take time. The Freedom of Information requests I made regarding formulation of how the NDP process changed and how the Parish Council withheld information which should still be available. There are indications to falsify the Parish Council records relating to the NDP – no one can comment meaningfully. The NDP has gone wrong. The community should be consulted on public Open Space. The Well Field was used by the community so an approach should be made to the landowners as to what land could be made available. Consider the Commons Act. How would it be paid for. The Quarry Site – David Holmes as previous chairman said consideration had been given to buying it. David Holmes misrepresented me – that is very serious." *(interjection by David Gray objecting to that statement and asking for it to be withdrawn).*

Peter Burrows – "The new Consultant is a very experienced Town Planner - involved in several such NDPs all of which were successful".

Paul Sullivan – "I am looking forward to seeing the finished copy of the draft when published. Incidentally I agreed with the Quarry development planning application".

SKDC Cllr Nick Craft – "Development is perhaps the wrong word it should include other important issues. Grass cutting – if everyone cut their own it would save the SKDC money – we should look after own patch."

Sally Skelton – "David Holmes' note re Quarry attached to 8 January 2018 minutes not the 10 November 2017."

Carl Wilson – "Must move process on now"

Charles Welsh – "What about all the issues I am providing?"

Tony Pearson – "The decision was to hold this meeting – been a thorough review tonight".

Anita Thompson – "I have no on-going issues."

Sally Skelton – "You should look at why tapes were destroyed for minutes of meetings 8 Nov 2017 and 10 Jan 2018."

Cllr Tracy Heaney – "We were not there then so cannot comment".

Charles Welsh –“The minutes were recorded – next meeting to be considered?”

The Parish Clerk then explained the accepted procedure regarding minutes – the clerk produced a draft for approval by the Chairman and his colleagues. The minutes then go to the next parish council meeting for approval and signing and then publication on the website.

6.0 COMPLAINT REGARDING PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 8 NOV 2017 AND 10 JAN 2018.

6.1 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMPLAINT.

The chairman of the meeting read out to the meeting the letter which had been sent to the Freedom of Information Commissioner following the meeting with Charles Welsh on 11 June 2018 when they fully heard his FOI complaint. The letter had been acknowledged. Present also at the meeting on 11 June 2018 was Katrina Evans CEO Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils who gave advice. The Chairman said that there had been at tonight’s meeting a fully open opportunity for all residents present to make a statement or ask questions concerning the process so far of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Many residents had taken part.

It was then proposed by Councillor V. Stephens and seconded by Councillor T. Heaney that:

“The Parish Council considered that it could not approve as a correct record, alter or add to the parish council minutes of 8 November 2017 and 10 January 2018 as requested by Charles Welsh in his Freedom of Information Complaint (reference number FS50717914) because the present Councillors were not elected until after the parish by-election on 17 May 2018. All previous Councillors having resigned. As a consequence the Chairman was unable to sign off the minutes” **AGREED: Unanimously.** The Parish Clerk was then instructed to write to the Freedom of Information Commissioner forwarding a copy of the above resolution and inform him that as far as the parish council was concerned the above mentioned complaint has now been dealt with to finality. It was suggested that the conclusion drawn and a copy of the letter to the Freedom of Information Commissioner would be lodged with the SKDC legal department.

7.0 TO CONSIDER A REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF NDP STEERING GROUP:

It was agreed unanimously that the amended version of the Terms of Reference on the table today be approved with the added proviso that parish councillors would be informed of all meetings and could attend and participate.

8.0 This had been dealt with under 7.0 above.

9.0 COMPLETION OF GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS FOR AUDIT 2017/2018: All relevant documents duly completed and signed. The parish clerk was instructed to publish them on the website and notice boards. The dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights were 19 July 2018 and ending on 29 August 2018 inclusive.

The meeting closed at approximately 10.25pm

