**HOVERINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2015 in the Village Hall**

**Present**: Chairman of the Parish Council, Mark Clifford (MAC), Vice-Chair Eric Allwood (EA), Parish Councillors, Margaret Armitage(WMA), Pauline Bulpitt (PB), Helen Nall(HN), Philip Turton(PT) and village residents Sir Edward Nall, David Parker, Debbie Knox, Kirsten Bolsher, Margaret and Chris Lambert, Peter Wilkinson, Jo Bradley, Phil Newton, Peter Watson, Richard Bates, Joanna Briggs and Allison Turton.

**1.Apologies -** Alexander Nall and Councillor Jackson

Chairman, Mark Clifford opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and remarking this was one of the best attendances at a village meeting since he joined the Parish Council many years ago.

**5.** He had decided to go straight to item 5 as so many people had attended to air their views on Planning Application 15/00506/FULM – ‘Change of Use of Railway Lake to Watersport and Scouting Use’. Phil Newton was keen to attend Thurgarton Parish Council AGM when the same issue was being discussed and wished to put his views before the meeting and to know the views of Hoveringham residents before he left.

The Chairman began by giving a brief history of the planning proposal for the Railway Lake. This had arisen in 2013/2014 because of the uncertainty caused by whether Trinity College were going to renew the lease on the existing sailing club land and the necessity to find another site. Discussions held last year between Notts County Sailing Club and Hoveringham Parish Council, when representatives had attended a meeting to give an outline of what they were proposing, which were amicable and reasonable in the view of the Parish Council and there was an undertaking to keep the PC updated and informed of all developments. That application was never submitted.

It came as a surprise and shock therefore to receive the planning application currently under consideration. There is no limit on the number of motorboats, no mention of ecology reports. The application mentions 12 or 20 car parking spaces which will not be enough. The permissive footpath is not mentioned – it would be significantly compromised by the proposal.

Phil Newton then gave his views and a short history of the Notts Sailing Club – they had received a substantial amount of public money to develop their site which is a first class facility which in his view is under-used. He mentioned Mill Lake on Gonalston Lane which has now been sold to a fishing concern and an unsightly fence has been erected without any consultation and which is potentially a danger to horse-riders. This could happen on the site in question. The community has endured the quarrying which has been restored to a quiet facility. He thought if the Parish Councils involved and many individuals object then it will go to committee. Notts Wlidlife have lodged an objection.

MAC thanked Mr Newton and opened the meeting for further questions

Chris Lambert asked what was the cost to the Scouting Association as the proposal seems involves a club house etc – all seems a bit vague. He was PC Chairman when the original application for quarrying on the Railway Lake was given and part of that consent was that it should be restored to ‘quiet water use’.

Debbie Knox asked how many people will be camping. The numbers of scouts from 4 counties could amount to a lot so where will they all go.

Helen Nall said it was all a bit vague and could expand if we took our eye off the ball. She saw the potential for noise nuisance from two sites.

Joanna Briggs agreed it was vague and that answers needed about access through Hoveringham, times restrictions and parking facilities. There needs to be some sort of traffic assessment. She thought that the Scouts will want to work with the local community. She also said that MPs and County Councillors should be lobbied and that the more letters from individuals the stronger the case for objection would be.

Margaret Armitage reminded the meeting that a template letter of objection was available she would email everyone and also put it on HovWatch.

Phil Turton asked people to use it as a starting point and make it their own before sending it.

Mark Clifford said that Highways issues had been noted in the PC response to N&SDC. He said that Hansons is likely to increase its operations which will result in more HGV traffic and that Creagh Concrete had recently won a new contract. There was also traffic from the Coneygre Farm reclamation operation.

Peter Wilkinson enquired about the extent of the enclosure - not another gulag type fence? MAC said the Internal Drainage Board needed access and the agent for Trinity had said it would be a post and rail fence. Steve Day from Scouting Association said it would need to be fenced because of the danger to small children.

Kirsten Bolsher said there was nothing to stop abuse once consent had been given – there should be conditions and restrictive covenants. MAC said the lease stipulates no jet skis but rescue boats are fine but are they? They are noisy and polluting.

Peter Wilkinson – asked about water skiers.

Helen Nall asked if there could be a show of hands – this was unanimously against.

Edward Nall asked when the lease expires how much notice does NSDC have? MAC said 6 years. He went on to say the existing NSDC site had a lot of unused potential. He thought that the training of young people in water sports was a valuable activity and good training, which should be encouraged, but there is a balance to be struck.

Phil Newton asked why put planning application in for use of water and not the surrounding land?

MAC agreed and mentioned that as part of the ongoing restoration process the land area had recently been sprayed and top soiled.

Edward Nall mentioned the HALT fund of approximately £3400 held in the Parish Council current account is there if needed.

David Parker – before the lease expires there needs to be discussions with the Scouts about times of use, days of use, no petrol motors and hoped there could be amicable negotiations.

MAC thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting and for their contributions which will all be taken on board before the Parish Council submits its response.

After most village residents had left the chairman continued the meeting at item 2.

**2.** Minutes – these were agreed and signed as a true record.

**3.**Chairman’s report – The Chairman reported and uneventful year for the Parish Council, apart from the election on May 7th when Richard Leman and Richard Torr retired and Norman Potter was not re-elected. He congratulated councillors on being re-elected and welcomed new councillors Alexander Nall, Helen Nall and Philip Turton and said it would be good for the Parish Council to have fresh input. He also thanked retiring members for all their work for the community over many years especially Norman Potter who had worked tirelessly as PC liaison officer withTarmac and had ensured the restoration of the excavated areas had been in the main part successfully restored to plan. He had also improved the local environment by planting many trees.

The Chairman went on to say that the Chapel Field had been neglected recently but hopefully this will be remedied as new Parish Councillor Helen Nall had agreed to take over as PC representative. The Chairman had received offers of help from Claire Lumley and several others in the village who are interested in joining a committee and he will put Helen in touch with them and give any other assistance he can. The Chairman also sent thanks to the management committee of the Village Hall, which is thriving.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking the Clerk for her assistance during the year, as well as Sandra Stachura for conducting the Internal Audit and to Councillor Jackson for all his attendances at PC meetings and help with difficult matters.

**4.The Responsible Finance Officer’s Report**

2014/15 was a fairly unexceptional year financially for the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the precept for year ending 31st March 2015 was set at £11300.

A set of accounts was circulated to everyone – these have not yet been audited by our internal auditor Sandra Stachura but this was planned in the next week or so.

The Hoveringham Wildlife Conservation Group had been inactive for some years. It has its own bank account where there is a balance of £495 – the same as last year.

The Village Hall management committee is now an independent entity, with its own constitution, accounts and audit procedure. However, The Parish Council continues to have responsibility for the Village Hall insurance, lease and for re-paying the loan to the Public Works Loan Board which at 31/03/15 stood at £23250.

The bank balance for the Parish Council at 31/03/05 was £16683.62. This included £3356 from the HALT account as this was closed and the funds transferred to the current account. This sum is reserved as a fighting fund should the need arise. Total interest accrued to 31/03/15 was virtually nil at current rates. The current bank interest is 0.01%.

The Chapel Field I & E account shows an excess of expenditure over income as £1762. There were no fund raising activities during the year. Interest on the CCLA charity account was £108 and the VAT refund was £104. The balance on the NatWest current account was £428 and on the CCLA account £24520. The interest rate on that account is currently £0.500%. The low interest rates resulted in a low return which did not cover the maintenance costs. Some of the maintenance costs are now being funded by the Parish Council. Since the change in legislation in 2009, the Chapel Field accounts are now reported direct to the Charity Commission by means of an annual return. AN raised the issue of interest on the Charity Funds and wondered if there was a way of getting a better rate. **This will be researched.**

The external auditors approved the accounts for 2013/14 without comment in September 2014. The cost of the audit was £100 ex VAT. The 2014/15 accounts are ready to be advertised for inspection by the public and fulfil the criteria set out by the Audit Commission. These will be advertised after the internal audit is completed. The Parish Council continues to be very grateful to Sandra Stachura for all her expert advice and who generously carries out the internal audit for no charge.

**5. See above**

As there was no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.