

**Notes of an informal parish meeting
Held in St Vedast's church, Tathwell
Monday 8 August 2016 7.00pm**

A meeting was held as above despite the absence of sufficient councillors to form a quorum.

Present:

Cllr E Hairsine

Cllr J Howard

Apologies:

Cllr J H Stainton

Cllr C Shaw

In attendance:

R B Howard

Mrs S Fox

Mrs J Stark,

Mrs C Church

Mrs S Baker

In the absence of any other, Cllr J Howard led the meeting, explaining that the Parish Clerk had resigned and, owing to other resignations there were now only four serving councillors. As two had sent their apologies this could be only an informal meeting.

Footway Lighting

At the last meeting Mrs S Baker and Mrs S Cutter had indicated that they were willing to undertake a survey of electors to assess the support for the Parish Council taking on the responsibility and cost of the footway lighting. Cllr Howard asked Mrs S Baker to report on the findings. They had called at 61 of the 94 houses in the parish and asked residents to sign in favour of paying for the lights or having them turned off. She reported 39 households were in favour of keeping the lighting; 7 were against; 8 did not wish to sign; 7 households were not in.

A letter summarising the findings had been sent to ELDC Cllr Adam Grist, and a copy of this together with the survey sheets was handed to Cllr Howard.

Mrs Baker was thanked for the undertaking.

Cllr Howard explained that it was not presently known what ELDC's ultimate decision would be, but pointed out that more parish councillors were required in order to ensure the body can continue. Because tonight's meeting was inquorate, another meeting was being sought for next week when all four of the present members could be present, and she urged that others should consider serving. It was pointed out that potential councillors would need to know the responsibilities involved.

Auto-enrolment (of employees for a pension scheme)

The parish council are required to take some form of action, but as there is currently no Clerk, Mr Howard had (after taking advice) drafted a letter to the Pensions Regulator for Cllr Shaw to sign asking if further action is required at this stage.

Payroll

Mr Howard had contacted Dataplan, who handle the parish clerk's remuneration, as we have not paid for their services for two years. Dataplan are investigating this.

Responsibilities of the parish council

As we are now required to have a website, we need a councillor who will undertake to update and operate this. We also need a Chairman and a Responsible Financial Officer, as well as someone to undertake care of the War Memorial, Wightman Corner, the telephone box and other items that the council own.

Parish Council or Parish Meeting?

Should we wish instead to operate as a Parish Meeting we need to investigate the responsibilities and safeguards of such a body. Mr R Howard was asked to explain the possible consequences as he understood them. It was thought that, if the possibility of personal liability existed, we must have adequate insurance protection in such circumstances, and Mr Howard further commented that it would be highly desirable, if not essential, that such a body carried separate legal status, as does the parish council.

Local Plan

With the matter of footway lighting occupying so much of our time we have not formally discussed the draft ELDC Local Plan. Cllr J Howard had scanned the main document and, as Tathwell is not named for development, concludes that it is still considered an unsustainable village which will in any case continue to be protected by its situation in the AONB.

LALC AGM

We have been invited to the AGM of the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils, a body of which Tathwell PC is a member and which we consult regularly on many issues. It was suggested that we should make the effort to attend, though Cllr J Howard had an appointment on the date in question – Tues 18 Oct 2016 5pm – 9pm at Waddington Village Hall.

J Howard
08/08/2016