

Minutes of Scopwick and Kirkby Green Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2017 in Scopwick Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Cllr David Nelson; Cllr Janet Flett; Cllr Philip Baumber; Cllr John Woodward and Cllr Tim Banks.

County Cllr Rob Kendrick and District Cllr Steve Clegg.

Janet Clark from Community Lincs.

Parish Clerk Jill Moran.

23 members of the public

1. Chairman.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and introduced the District and County Councillors and Janet Clark from Community Lincs.

2. Talk by Janet Clerk on Neighbourhood Plans.

Janet advised the meeting that Community Lincs have an agreement with the District Council to advise and support communities undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. She pointed out that although the parish council are expected to take the lead in facilitating the neighbourhood planning process, to be successful there needs to be strong community support. Not only do the community need to support the process in voting for the finished plan, but they need to be involved from the outset in forming a steering group to take on the tasks of consulting the whole community and drawing up the plan. Steering groups involve a number of people, generally 8 to 12 for small villages, all must be willing to be involved in a process which takes around 2 years to complete.

On the question of what is a Neighbourhood Plan she said that it is a statutory document setting out planning policies for the parish. Plans are usually written for 20 years and are designed to be read in conjunction with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and national planning policy. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted by the local authority at the end of April 2017. In that plan Scopwick and Kirkby Green are identified as small villages with a proposed growth level of 10 percent over the next 20 years.

Janet summarised the benefits of a plan as:

- having direct effect in setting out planning policies for the parish;
- encouraging community involvement in setting out a joint vision covering the character and design of development within the parish;
- money for the community, 25% of any community infrastructure levy has to be paid direct to the community where there is a Neighbourhood Plan.

Janet had brought further information to the meeting in the form of a display, handouts and a feedback form which people were encouraged to complete to indicate their interest in a Neighbourhood Plan for Scopwick and Kirkby Green.

Janet took questions as follows:

Does a Neighbourhood Plan have more ‘clout’ than the parish council in influencing planning decisions?

Answer: Yes it is a statutory document and as such has direct legal effect, the planning authority must take it into account when making a decision.

The needs of communities change over time. Is a Neighbourhood Plan once made ‘set in stone’ for the period it covers?

Answer: no, it should be subject to regular reviews and can be updated.

How much time would a community steering group need to put into the process?

Answer: To move forward a group needs to be well chaired, roles and responsibilities need to be shared and the group needs to have a project plan setting out a timetable. Most groups meet once a month with additional meetings or working parties on particular projects which may require more input.

If it takes a minimum of 18 months to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, what happens to planning applications made during this period?

Answer: draft provisions of a Neighbourhood Plan can be effective in influencing the decisions of a planning authority if the evidence base is there.

Does the process involve a lot of extra work for the parish council and an increase in expenditure?

Answer: The lead has to come from the parish council in terms of applying for funding and putting the plan forward to the District Council for examination and approval and finally to the community in a referendum. The parish council are supported in this by organisations such as Community Lincs and funding is available currently up to £9000. Plans cost a community an average of £12,000 over the period, the cost of an independent examiner and the referendum are met by the District Council.

3. Open Public Forum.

Members of the public raised several issues including the future of the Limes Care Home; the speed of vehicles on village roads particularly on Heath Road; the lack of any public transport serving Kirkby Green. Feedback forms had been provided and the Chairman of the Parish Council asked that any other matters people wished to raise for consideration by the parish council, including their answer to the question: should Scopwick and Kirkby Green have a Neighbourhood Plan?, be submitted in writing at the meeting or afterwards by sending comments to the Parish Clerk (contact details below).

4. The Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting held on the 10th May 2016 were approved as amended in red and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Minutes submitted by Jill Moran, Parish Clerk
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