

## NETHER POPPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE POPPLETON CENTRE, UPPER POPPLETON, AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 11 AUGUST 2008

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. D M Tomlinson (Chairman)

Cllr. G A Bradley

One member of the public

Cllr. F A Brown

Cllr. P H F Powell

Cllr. C Robinson

Mr B J W Mackman (Clerk)

Cllr. J Shannon

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The member of the public asked if the Parish Council could afford to buy the land. It was explained that the answer to this question was what the meeting would seek to determine.

#### **08/159 - DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ANY MATTERS OF BUSINESS**

None.

#### **08/160 - TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor J L Craven.

#### **08/161 - TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT THE PARISH COUNCIL SHOULD MAKE AN OFFER TO PURCHASE THE FIELD ON MILLFIELD LANE**

The Chairman summarised the history of the sale of the field in Millfield Lane.

- The impending sale of the field by Stephenson & Son came to the Parish Council's notice at the Parish Council meeting held on 21 July 2008. At that meeting it was agreed that details of the field should be obtained with a view to the Parish Council purchasing the field in order to prevent houses being built on it and to use it as a buffer. The Clerk obtained the details which were circulated to the Councillors. The 3.89 acres (1.57 hectares) field was being offered as arable/amenity land on the village edge with the possibility of long term development potential. The guide price was given as offers in excess of £25,000. The Councillors agreed that a public meeting should be held to enable them to gain the opinions of residents on the subject.
- The public meeting was held on 6 August when a total of 27 people attended. The unanimous vote at the end of the meeting was that the Parish Council should seek to acquire the field for allotments.
- Recent enquiries of Stephenson & Son had revealed that two offers in excess of £30,000 had been received.
- Two local residents had jointly made an offer to buy the field on condition that, if successful, the Parish Council subsequently bought the field from them by September 2010. The Parish Council would pay all the legal costs incurred but no interest on the loan.
- The Chairman then outlined the advantages and disadvantages of the Parish Council acquiring the field.

**Advantages**

- The field would protect a small part of the village from development
- The field could satisfy the current need for allotments given that there are some 17 people on the allotment waiting lists in both the Poppleton Parishes.

**Disadvantages**

- There is a very short time to make a decision. A letter from Stephenson & Son had said that offers had to be in by 12 noon tomorrow.
- The Parish Council has no strategy in place to deal with the land
- There is no finance in place to buy the land, the total cost of which is not known, and no financial analysis as to how the purchase would be financed
- Because of the short time scale there has been no dialogue with Upper Poppleton Parish Council
- An estimate of the costs of setting up the field for allotments show that they could be in the region of £20,000

Councillor Bradley asked why the Parish Council was considering acquiring the field. The idea started as protection for the village envelope and had moved to being a means of providing allotments. There were other ways to provide allotments. We should find out what the actual demand for allotments is. He would put his faith in the City Council’s Development Control Officers to fight to preserve the Green Belt.

There followed a long discussion when all the above advantages and disadvantages were looked at in detail.

After a full debate the following unanimous resolution was reached. **That the Parish Council would not purchase the land that is for sale in Millfield Lane.**

**08/162 - TO AGREE THE DATE OF NEXT MEETING AS MONDAY 18 AUGUST**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 7.00pm at the Poppleton Centre on Monday 18 August 2008.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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