

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 8 November 2006

Present: Councillor Taylor Councillor Sewell
 Councillor Hubbard Councillor Cutting
 Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: District Councillor Kaberry-Brown
 County Councillor Farrar
 5 parishioners

1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for their attendance.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Councillors North, McKinlay and Jackson sent their apologies. Councillors McKinlay and Jackson are away, Councillor North had a pre-arranged engagement.

2.2 Theresa Tanner, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee also sent her apologies.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 September 2006**

4.1 The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5 **Matters Arising**

5.1 A letter had been received from Highways saying that they would ask their contractors to look at the growth of weeds through the newly laid surface in Park Road, (minute 5.3 refers).

- 5.2 The seat on the corner of Bottom Street and Main Road has been repaired thanks to Cllr Hubbard for his work on this, (minute 5.4 refers).
- 5.3 Cllr Cutting reported that footpath 3 which was meant to be cleared by 15/9/06 had not been, (minute 5.6 refers). It seems that the footpath had been marked out but then lost again during the harvest. LCC Highways are aware of this. Cllr Cutting then pointed out that footpath 4, which runs from Back Lane to Peach Lane, had also been lost in the harvest as it crosses a field of crops. It was decided that the Council should apply for a diversion to footpath 4 to go around the edges of the field instead. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 5.4 It was decided that it would be a good idea to create a new map for villagers outlining all the footpaths. It was suggested that it would be nice if it could be sponsored by an organisation within the village.
- 5.5 Thanks to Cllr Cutting for finishing off painting the play equipment at the Playing Field, (minute 13.4 refers).
- 5.6 Thanks to Cllr Sewell for providing the padlock to secure the Park Road public area. A key has been given to the Hempsteads to give them access for grass cutting etc (minute 14.1 refers).
- 5.7 The clerk reported that she had contacted LCC Cultural Services about the reduced library van service but they were unsure of the new timetable as the website still indicated that it would be fortnightly. County Cllr Farrar was unable to throw any more light on the matter, (minute 14.2 refers).

6. Correspondence received since the meeting held on 13 September 2006

- 6.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:
- a) Letter of resignation from the village caretaker (see minute 8)
 - b) Letter 3/10/06, clerk to LCC Highways and response regarding various matters (see minute 11)
 - c) Letters 13/10/06, clerk to Severn Trent and Oran Group (formerly Snowies) re: treated waste deliveries, and response from Severn Trent
 - d) Marking sheet from Best Kept Village competition
 - e) Letter advising of competition to win £2500 of Christmas lights and decorations from Central Networks, and completed application
 - f) Letter, 16/10/06, from Charlie Elgar re: bus shelter (see minute 7)
 - g) Quote from Hempsteads re: work in public area off Park Road
 - h) Letter from Village Hall Management Committee regarding estimates on forthcoming village hall expenditure (see minute 13c)
 - i) Letter, SKDC Housing solutions re: energy efficiency promotion (see minute 9)
 - j) Letter re: Play Forum – PFC to note
 - k) Notification of Parish and Town Councils conference 7/12/06

This and all other correspondence will be circulated to Councillors in the box as usual.

- 6.2** Regarding the correspondence 6.1(c) it was agreed that the clerk should reply to Severn Trent thanking them for their letter and asking that the Parish Council is involved in any discussions regarding the route lorries take in future. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 6.3** Cllrs Taylor and Cutting agreed to attend the Parish and Town Council's conference on 7/12/06.

7 Bus Shelter on The Green

- 7.1** The brick bus shelter on The Green had been demolished on 8 October when a car drove into it. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the shelter should be replaced. The clerk reported that she was in the process claiming for the village's loss from the driver's insurance and was awaiting builders' quotes. It was agreed that the clerk seek advice from SKDC's Planning Department to ascertain whether planning permission is needed for rebuilding. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 7.2** The Parish Council had received a letter, via Cllr Taylor, from the driver apologising for his actions. Although Cllr Taylor had replied to his letter personally it was agreed that the clerk also responds on behalf of the whole Council. **(Action point: clerk)**

8 Village Caretaker

- 8.1** The village caretaker, Brian Durant, has resigned; he intends to finish on 31 December. An advert for this vacancy has been put in the Allington News, the clerk will also put posters on the village notice boards. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 8.2** Brians said in his letter that he has enjoyed giving his time to the village but now needs the time to do other things. Everyone commented that Brian has done a tremendous job keeping the village clean and tidy and agreed that he will be sorely missed.

9 Energy Efficiency Promotion

- 9.1** A letter has been received from SKDC Housing solutions regarding an energy efficiency promotion. SKDC suggest that one of their officers attend a meeting to promote energy efficiency among rural communities. The talk would last about 30 minutes and cover:
- how to save energy at home
 - take advantage of existing financial assistance schemes
 - Warm Front £300 Heating rebate scheme

- 9.2 It was agreed that it would be a good idea to invite him to give his talk at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. **(Action point: clerk)**

10 Feedback on village clean up

- 10.1 Due to his absence, Cllr Jackson was unable to comment on the village clean up personally. However, it appears to have been received well by villagers and a huge amount of burnable rubbish was collected for the bonfire. The clerk confirmed that, for this service, £50 had been transferred into the Playing Field's ringfenced account as agreed.

11 Highways matters

- 11.1 The clerk stated that she had contacted LCC Highways about providing some 'horse and rider' signs around the village. Highways have asked that the Council show on a map where horses are stabled and routes taken within the village. It was agreed that 3 signs be asked for, one on each road in/out of the village ie. Gonerby Lane, Sedgebrook Road and Foston Road. **(Action point: clerk)**

- 11.2 The Chairman and the clerk had attended an exhibition showing the proposed work on the A1 improvement scheme. To summarise:

- Now to July 07 – they will build the new roundabout and the connecting bridge.
- July 07 – they will construct tie-ins, the A1 will be single lanes as northbound traffic will use southbound carriageway. Local traffic to use the new bridge.
- August to September 07 – they will modify A1, northbound traffic starting to use new road.
- September to October 07 – single lanes running in both directions.
- October 07 - using new road in both directions and tidying up.
- November 07 – the work will be completed!

- 11.3 It was mentioned that there are no 'No Works Traffic' signs displayed on the A52 at Sedgebrook. Although the Highways Agency have said that works traffic will not use local roads, if it is found that they do start to use village roads the site manager will be informed.

- 11.4 Regarding the 20 mph near school. Highways have advised that only 3-4 schemes a year are implemented and we are still on the waiting list.

- 11.5 The clerk reported that she had written to LCC Highways as Sedgebrook Road had been omitted from the salting routes for bad weather again. (Last year the Parish Council was told that Sedgebrook Road would be considered when next reviewed.) LCC Highways have replied saying that Sedgebrook Road is unsuitable for salting as it has a height restriction. However, as a gritting lorry has actually been seen driving under the bridge at Sedgebrook it was thought that this was not a valid reason for not salting this busy road and the clerk should write again stating this. **(Action point: clerk)**

11.6 The clerk reported that she had written again regarding the delay in putting more effective signs along the A52 advising of weight restrictions on village roads. LCC's Highways Division replied stating that AMScott are installing the A52 signs and it is entirely under their control.

12 Planning matters

12.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish council meeting on 13 September 06:

- a) Approval – Erection of shed and summerhouse – 10 Park Avenue (amended plans).
- b) Approval – Double garage and conservatory – 1 Redhouse Gardens
- c) Approval – Erection of dwelling and garage (revised) – Spinney Cottage, Bottesford Road
- d) Approval – Amendment to garage roof – Hawthorne Lodge, Bottom Street
- e) Application – Erection of 2 dwellings and garage, plot 10 & 11 Bert's Way
- f) Application – Change of use of dog grooming parlour to garage, Cherry Tree Cottage, Bottesford Road

12.2 There was a discussion about the encroachment of the rear garden of 10 Park Avenue, into the public area. Cllr Taylor said that she would seek advice from an enforcement officer at SKDC regarding this issue. It was also agreed that the clerk should write to the residents at 10 Park Avenue asking them to bring their garden back in line with the boundary. (**Action point: clerk**)

13 Financial matters

13.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 13 September 06.

13.2 The income since the last meeting has been:

- £6.92 - bank interest
- £5,500.00 - Precept (pt 2)
- £584.33 - VAT reclaim 05/06

Total £6091.25

The expenditure has been:

- £70.50 – RoSPA inspection
- £20.00 – Bottom St. seat repair
- £1715.50 - Grass cutting
- £500.00 - Float & fireworks
- £4.69 - Powergen

Total £2310.69

Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

- 13.3 As already stated at minute 10.1, £50 has been transferred to PFC ringfenced for bonfire collection.
- 13.4 The clerk presented the first draft of the budget for 07/08. She also read out a letter which has been received from the Village Hall Management Committee giving details of renovation work needed at the Village Hall over the next year or so, and its likely cost. Councillors said that they may consider helping the village hall out with some of the cost of renovation. This would be discussed further at the January meeting.
- 13.5 The clerk said that once she had received the base rate figure used to calculate the Community Charge she would prepare figures as to what the impact would be on householders in bands A-H. This can be discussed at the January meeting when the 07/08 precept figure is agreed. **(Action point: clerk)**

14 Report form the Playing Field Committee.

- 14.1 Cllr Sewell reported back from the last Playing Field Committee meeting.
- 14.2 Quotes were being sought, following the RoSPA inspection of the play equipment, to improve parts of some equipment. **(Action point: MS)**
- 14.3 The Bonfire Night had been successful. Although a final total is yet to be confirmed it is thought that it is around £1,000. Thanks to the fundraisers for their efforts.
- 14.4 Cllr Taylor asked that the PFC to consider providing some shade in the play area. In hot weather the users should have somewhere shady to sit. **(Action point: MS c/o PFC committee)**
- 14.5 The next fund raising event will be the lighting of the Christmas Tree on The Green.
- 14.6 The clerk reported that the supplier of electricity at the Playing field has been changed from Powergen to British Gas. This change was made for financial reasons. Powergen had revised their charges and intended to increase their quarterly charge to £44.43 and charge 11.25p per unit. British Gas has no standing charge and will only charge 8.59p per unit. The clerk has made the necessary arrangements for the change of provider.

15 Any other business

- 15.1 Cllr Taylor asked that when the correspondence box is circulated please avoid leaving it on Councillors' doorsteps unattended.

15.2 Cllr Taylor suggested that a bench be provided at the playing field for those people that don't necessarily wish to sit in the play area.

16 Date of next meeting

16.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on 10 January 07.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed: ----- (Chairman). Date: -----