

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 11 March 2015

Present: Councillor Jackson Councillor McKinlay
 Councillor Hubbard Councillor Cragg
 Councillor Taylor Councillor Cant
 Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present: Theresa Tanner – Chairman, VHMC
 Jannette Mole
 5 Villagers

1. Chairman's remarks

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Attendees spoke about the following:

- a) Jannette Mole spoke briefly about documents that have been passed to the Lincoln Archive for safekeeping. The Lincoln Archive asks that items held by them have the copyright signed over so that any interested parties can photocopy them for their use. It has been agreed that the person who has the role of Clerk to the Parish Council takes on that responsibility. **(Action point: clerk)**
- b) Villagers remarked that the school safety zone was in place, however motorists were parking on the zig-zag lines. It was suggested that until the signs were installed informing motorists of the restrictions the zone was not enforceable.
- c) A villager asked for an update on the improved broadband to the village. Cllr Cant stated that she had nothing more to report at this stage other than Openreach have until 2016 to improve matters. She confirmed that the village is one of Lincolnshire's designated villages due to receive high speed broadband.
- d) The poor state of Bottesford Road was mentioned. The clerk would report this to Highways again and copy in County Councillor Wood. **(Action point: clerk)**

2. Apologies

2.1 Cllr Bosworth sent his apologies. He was away.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2015**

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

5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 14 January 2015**

5.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:

- a) Email and response to SKDC re: increase in precept
- b) Letter Bryn Gold re: planning application
- c) Letter Cilla Eisner re: community wood
- d) Election information and posters for display
- e) Enquiries from prospective Parish Councillors
- f) Letter from Community Lincs to become a member £45 p/a or £110 for 3 years
- g) Quote for the QEII Field in Trust plaque was agreed

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

5.2 With reference to point (f) Councillors agreed to join Community Lincs for 3 years.
(Action point: clerk)

5.3 The quote for the plaque holder was agreed. A decision as to where it should be built would be considered by the Playing Field Advisory Group.

6 **Representations made to the Parish Council since the agenda has been set**

6.1 There were no representations made to the Council after the agenda had been set.

7 **Objectives for the forthcoming year**

7.1 New objectives will be formally set by the new Parish Council after the election in May.

8 **Parish Council election – 7 May 2015**

8.1 The clerk reported that she had attended a briefing session on 2 March at SKDC, regarding the forthcoming election. The formal notice of election will be on 23 March. She informed Councillors of a couple of recent changes in legislation which affect the nomination procedure:

- Completed nominations must be returned by hand to SKDC
- Both nominations and withdrawals of candidates will close on Thursday 9 April at 4pm. There is no longer a period of grace between nomination closure and withdrawals of candidates.

8.2 The present Councillors formally retire on 11 May. The clerk offered nomination packs to those Councillors wishing to stand again.

8.3 Cllr Taylor stated that she would liaise with Allington News to publicise those putting themselves forward for election. Nominations would be known from 10 April.

9 Village Cross

- 9.1 This item would be carried forward to the next agenda as Cllr Bosworth was absent and unable to update the Council.

10 Village Shop

- 10.1 It was understood that the village shop and property would be placed on the market imminently. It was accepted that if the owners receive no interest of the shop being purchased with the adjoining house they would market the whole property as residential premises only and the village shop would be lost.
- 10.2 It was thought that it would be an idea for a village group to look into options of funding a community shop if the store closes. Perhaps this idea could be floated at the Annual Parish meeting.

11 Dr Caroline Lawrenson

- 11.1 Dr Lawrenson would be retiring from General Practice in May. She has served the village for many years and would be missed. The Parish Council wished her well for a long and happy retirement and it was suggested that she be invited to the village's Annual Parish meeting next month. The clerk would write and invite her. **(Action point: clerk)**

12 Annual Parish meeting – 8 April 2015

- 12.1 After discussion it was agreed that the theme of this year's Annual Parish meeting would be 'Health and the Environment'. Village groups would be invited to speak about their group in a similar format to previous years.
- 12.2 Refreshments would be provided as usual.

13 Village hall matters

- 13.1 Cllr Jackson reported that he, Cllr Hubbard and the clerk had attended the first Village Hall Management Committee meeting, as agreed, and would attend similarly every quarter. Councillors were reminded that it had been suggested that in 2015/16 a grant of £2,000 would be forwarded to the Village Hall committee to help keep the letting fees low and an additional sum would be ringfenced for capital expenditure that the Parish Council would spend on the village hall on specific projects to ensure the hall's upkeep. **(Action point: clerk)**

14 Highway matters

- 14.1 The Parish Council was happy to see that the long awaited School Safety Zone had finally been installed. It was also pleased that the footpath and steps to the road at the bottom end of Side Street had been repaired.

14.2 The access roads to the village remain in a poor condition. The clerk will continue to periodically report specific issues on these roads as they arise. There was also concern about the amount of traffic on the village's green lanes. Sewstern Lane is particularly rutted due to motorised traffic.

15 Playing field matters

15.1 Cllr McKinlay reported back from the recent Playing Field Advisory Group meeting. John Slater had spoken to an official at SKDC and was reassured that the matter of the events' licence need not be a concern. The licence that is usually obtained for the playing field events is adequate.

15.2 The clerk had received a quote for a brick podium to display the QEII plaque. The quote of £290 was agreed but it was unclear as to where it should be installed. It was agreed that members of the Playing field advisory group would consider this. **(Action point: PFC and clerk)**

15.3 There had been comments that the MUGA's surface is needing some attention in places. Cllr Taylor said that she would mention this to the Hempsteads who look after the area. **(Action point: HT)**

15.4 There are potholes on the verge at the playing field car park. Cllrs Cragg and Jackson would consider what was necessary to fill these holes as Highways would probably not fill them as they are not on the road itself. **(Action point: GJ and DC)**

15.5 Cilla Eisner, Community Wood volunteer, spoke with concerns for the wood and asked about its management and ongoing maintenance. She was concerned that the original purpose of the community wood, which was to develop a conservation and wildlife area, was in danger of being overlooked. Councillors assured her that there would be consultation with the Village Plan and potential users when looking at its development.

15.6 Cllr Cragg agreed that the area needed to be managed but in the first instance the wood needed clearing and then its management could then be considered. It was thought that the Woodland Trust may be able to give advice on matters as well as LCC's Environmental Services. It was agreed that the development of the wood needed clear objectives.

15.7 The licence from the landowner stipulated that the new wood area should be fenced off. Cllr Cragg had obtained quotes for this fencing. Different types of fencing were discussed. After consideration it was agreed that the boundary to the wood should be post and rail. The work would be undertaken by volunteers. It was also agreed that snowdrops, bluebells and aconites should be purchased and planted. It was agreed that the cost would be borne from the ringfenced money of the fundraisers group. **(Action point: GJ)**

16 Planning matters

16.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 14 January 2015:

- Application - Eastleigh, The Green – fell 2 x Horsechestnut trees, re-pollard 5.x.Horsechestnut trees
- Application – Countryside Renewables Capital LLP – Solar Farm (11ha)
- Application – Ashes Farm – Erection of wooden Gazebo
- Application – The Small House – demolition of existing conservatory and erection of an orangery

17 Financial matters

17.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 14 January 2015:

Income

Bank interest – £2.06
 Christmas lighting profit - £138.73

Total £140.79

Outgoings

Opus energy – £36.57
 P E Hempstead - £339.98
 Village Hall event float - £600
 Skillington Workshop - £330
 E-on – £6.60
 LALC - £264.27

Total £1841.69

Plus Clerk and Caretaker’s salaries

17.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

18 Any other business for future meetings

18.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held after the May elections with the new Parish Councillors.

19 Date of next meeting

19.1 The next meetings will be:

- Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 8 April 2015 at 7.30pm
- Annual Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 7.30pm

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