

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
Wednesday 9 March 2016

Present: Councillor Jackson Councillor Bosworth
 Councillor Ashby Councillor Plummer
 Councillor Sharp Councillor Carter
 Councillor Cant Sharon Milne (clerk)

Also present:

County Councillor Paul Wood
Garry Pollard – Chairman, Allington Gardens' Residents' Association
Sue Marvin – Secretary, Allington Gardens' Residents' Association
Cathy Green – Chairman, VHMC
2 villagers

1. **Chairman's remarks**

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

1.2 Garry Pollard, Chairman of Allington Gardens' Residents' Association spoke about his concern that the approach to the Peach Lane turning has a speed limit of 60mph. He explained that there is only 60 yards from Peach Lane to the first bend on Sedgebrook Road. A vehicle travelling at 60 mph poses a danger to anyone pulling out of Peach Lane as the vehicle travelling towards the village only comes into view at the last moment. He asked whether the Parish Council would support the Residents' Association's approach to Highways to ask for the 30 mph limit to be extended.

1.3 The Parish Councillors explained that a similar request had been made some years ago but regulations at the time prevented the extension of the limit. Nevertheless the Parish Council fully supports the Residents' Association to make enquiries with the Highways again.

1.4 County Councillor Wood spoke about the Lincolnshire boundary changes. The changes are likely to happen by the time of the May 2017 local elections. Allington village would then lose Cllr Wood to another ward and get another County Council representative.

1.5 Regarding the County's budget Cllr Wood confirmed that cuts will be made in discretionary services and also in personnel. From next year, £20m will be used from its reserves for services. The cuts, however, will not come out of the Highways gritting schedule, children's services or subsidising buses as these are currently protected.

1.6 Alan Hubbard spoke about the state of Gonerby Lane. He said that he had reported the road to Highways last July and some potholes still remained. He spoke of one pothole which is 18" deep. Villagers were encouraged to report poor roads to Highways.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Cllr Hannah Westropp sent her apologies; she had other work commitments.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the annual meeting held on 13 January 2016**

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

5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 13 January 2016**

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

- a) Precept requirement returned to SKDC
- b) Letter from SKDC re: grant to top up precept will cease from 2019/20
- c) Pension Regulator information re: Automatic enrollment
- d) Email from County Councilor Paul Wood following up a letter from Highways to resident and the response
- e) Correspondence from Doctor's Surgery informing closure of Village Hall surgery.
- f) Letter from Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd, if chose to opt-out
- g) Sewstern Lane and Level Crossing correspondence
- h) BKV competition papers for 2016
- i) Email from Lincs Independent Living organisation re: wish to attend any disability forums and groups
- j) Response re: verge at 1 Bottom Street – stating that as it is private land the Highway's Division cannot help
- k) Message informing the Parish Council of the sad death of former Parish Clerk, Ken Buckley

5.2 Regarding point (f) the Parish Council will not opt out from the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment Ltd.

5.3 Regarding point (h) the Parish Council will enter the Best Kept Village competition for 2016. **(Action point: clerk)**

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 Councillors were reminded of the three new objectives for the forthcoming year:

- To repair/renovate the footpath along from South Lodge to the church. The path is in a poor state and the slabs are uneven. Councillors are keen to ensure that the path retains its heritage and is not simply dug up and replaced with tarmac.
- To consider the pavilion at the playing field.
- To continue to look at the village's road safety, specifically speed initiative measures.

8 Doctor's surgery at the Village Hall

- 8.1 The Long Bennington Medical Centre has proposed to close the service it currently provides at the village hall. A public meeting had been held at the village hall when views were exchanged. There will be another meeting soon, at which one of the doctors will attend. There will be a fuller picture of the developments then. In the meantime the surgery continues as usual.

9 Community Shelter

- 9.1 Some enquiries have been made to ascertain the cost of hiring adequate trestles and/or scaffolding to be able to refurbish the roof of the community shelter. A couple more options are still to be sought. This item will be placed on the May agenda. **(Action point: AB, MS & clerk)**

10 Sewstern Lane Level Crossing

- 10.1 Cllr Cant informed the Parish Council that she and Cllrs Jackson and Plummer had met one of the local farmers who will be affected by Network Rail's intention to downgrade the lane. It is Network Rail's intention to install lockable gates at the level crossing, with the adjacent farmers being asked to be key holders. LCC, however, have stated that the legal process agreeing this is still not complete despite the land owners believing that it is. Parish Councillors' concerns are regarding what measures will be put in place to ensure that that lane can't be used by motorised vehicles. The fear is that no measures will be put in place and, although it will not be legal for motorised vehicles to utilise that part of the lane, they will inevitably continue to use it until they reach the crossing and to find that they can't get across and then they will turn around and further churn the lane up again.
- 10.2 It was agreed that once the timescale for the legal process is known a letter will be sent to ask LCC what measures are going to be put in place at the top of Sewstern Lane to ensure that motorised vehicles don't use it. It is hoped that it will be something more robust than signs and hope that it is installed as soon as the order is granted. **(Action point: MC & clerk)**

11 Marston Lane Restricted Byway

- 11.1 Marston Lane is a restricted byway which allows a right of way on foot, on horseback, or leading a horse, cycling and for any vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles. Unfortunately Marston Lane is being churned up with frequent use from motor bikes and 4x4 vehicles using the lane illegally. The PCSO has been informed about the matter.

12 Elderly residents in the village

- 12.1 This matter was requested to be put on the agenda by Cllr Ashby as a resident was concerned to find out that an elderly lady in the village was ill in bed for quite a long time before she was found and taken to hospital. The villager wondered whether some kind of scheme could be started where people check, or take turns in checking, on residents who are frail if they know they don't have any family or people visiting to check on them.
- 12.2 Councillors agreed that it was a commendable thought but it was something that the Parish Council could not organise. However, if a group of villagers wished to arrange

such a group, as long as participants were willing and agreeable it may be of benefit. There is a scheme with similar intentions called 'Lifeline'; it may be that something like this could be raised in the Allington News.

13 Annual Parish Meeting

13.1 The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for 13 April. After discussion it was agreed LIVES would be invited to give a talk at this year's meeting to inform villagers about the new Fixed Point Defibrillator installed at the village hall. Other subjects for discussion would be the Twinning Association and the Doctor's Surgery in the village. Village groups would be invited to speak about their group in a similar format to previous years.

13.2 Refreshments would be provided as usual. **(Action point: AB)**

14 Village Hall matters

14.1 Cathy Green, Chairman of the VHMC, spoke about the refurbishment underway at the village hall. The sheds were now dry, secure and clear. The utility room had been completed revamped and looked excellent thanks to a lot of hard work from volunteers and generous donations by Will and Lottie from the village store. The servery had been refurbished thanks to a legacy in memory of the late Brian Steptoe. Just some electrical and plumbing work is still to be undertaken along with the new kitchen being installed during the Easter time.

14.2 Cathy also spoke about the plans for Queen Elizabeth II, 90th birthday celebrations over the weekend of 23 April. There would be Punch and Judy, dancing, a Spring Fayre, an Art and Crafts exhibition and contributions for the primary school - to name but a few events.

14.3 Councillors thanked Cathy and her committee for the organising such a full event.

15 Highways matters

15.1 Cllr Bosworth reported back on the Neighbourhood Watch signs. The matter was still ongoing and he would report back at a future meeting. **(Action point: AB)**

15.2 The sign for Lambert Road which has been reported as missing is still not in place. Cllr Bosworth would chase the matter up. **(Action point: AB)**

15.3 The Best Kept Village 2015 sign being offered by LCC comprises of patches to make the current legend read 'Best Kept Village 2009 & 2015'. LCC are under no obligation to provide stickers for the 3rd sign as this was brought by the Parish Council. It was agreed to ask for the patches to be installed on two of the three signs. After then the Parish Council would look at amending the 3rd sign.

15.4 There was further discussion to the comments made at the beginning of the meeting regarding speed initiatives to slow the traffic travelling through the village. A number of villages have installed 'delimiters' at the boundaries of their villages as a visual reminder that the village begins in, order to slow traffic. These delimiters are noted in villages outside of Lincolnshire. The clerk would try and find out whether any other clerks within Lincolnshire had installed similar structures **(Action point: clerk)**

15.5 The clerk informed Councillors about the response from Highways to say that Sedgebrook Road is the 80th road on the list to be considered for gritting in bad weather. The Parish Council were surprised that the road be so far down the list and wishes to know what criteria they were using to establish this. A letter would be sent to Highways in response. **(Action point: MC & clerk)**

16 Playing field matters

16.1 Cllr Carter reported back from the recent Playing Field Advisory Group meeting.

16.2 New goals for the MUGA have been received; they will be put up when the better weather arrives. The existing goals will be repaired and may be used elsewhere on the field.

16.3 The MUGA carpet would be hosed down with a low pressure and gently scraped to remove excess mud. **(Action point: PFAG)**

16.4 The PFAG will organise a small digger to level the ground near to the bonfire site, as well as areas of the car park to increase space available for parking.

16.5 The hedge around the outside of the playing field has been cut. The inside hedge still needs cutting but this will now have to wait until the autumn.

16.6 Cllr Sharp has been further researching the various options for CCTV. He will report back with a fuller report on this at a future meeting. **(Action point: MS)**

16.7 The progress of the installation of the QEII plaque was discussed. The local builder who had originally given the quote would be contacted soon.

16.8 Cllr Plummer spoke about getting picnic tables at the playing field as requested by residents and noted in the village plan. Prices varied depending upon their construction. The PFAG would consider this further and report back in time for the May meeting. **(Action point: PFAG)**

16.9 Cllr Bosworth reported back on the quotes he had obtained for pest control in the three cabins at the field. Various prices and treatments were considered by councillors and it was decided, unanimously, that the quote from Rentokil would be pursued. Cllr Bosworth would contact the firm and make arrangements. **(Action point: AB)**

16.10 The decision to not place any netting over the MUGA, as discussed at a previous meeting, was reiterated. The cost for this was prohibitive.

16 Planning matters

16.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 13 January 2015:

- Approval – Berberene, Main Road – erection of a chimney stack.
- Approval - Arena UK – change of use of land, erection of 5 log cabins, 1 ablution building and 11 caravans / camping plots.
- Application - Retention of alterations to and conversion of two storey garage to ancillary accommodation
- Application – The Granary, 3 Dalestorth Court, single storey extension

- Application – Fishpond House, 41 Park Road - Removal of existing garage, erection of two storey side, single storey side and single storey front extensions including removal of two sycamore trees and one cherry tree

17 Financial matters

17.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 13 January 2015:

Income

Bank interest – £2.09

Total £2.09

Opus energy – £26.04

P E Hempstead - £186

E-on (Christmas Tree electricity) - £7.58

Stage hire (Party in the Park 2015) - £200

LALC - £274.55

Blackfox Metal Work - £500

Lauren Carter (deposit for Party in the Park 2016) - £20

Village Hall (Defib expenses) - £25

Total £1,239.17

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

17.2 The clerk informed the Parish Council that the new National Living Wage was being introduced on 1 April 2016 at £7.20 p/hour, this would affect the payments made to the village caretakers. A new rate of pay was decided for the caretakers' hourly rate. **(Action point: clerk)**

18 Any other business for future meetings

18.1 The following would be on the agenda at the Annual Parish Meeting meeting:

- Fixed point defibrillator
- Doctor's Surgery in Allington.
- Twinning Association

18.2 The following would be on the agenda at the May Parish Council meeting:

- Community Shelter
- Village Cross
- Future funding for the development of the playing field

19 Date of next meeting

19.1 The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday, 13 April 2016 at 7.30pm.

19.2 The Annual Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 11 May 2016 at 7.30pm.

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