

# Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall  
Wednesday 14 September 2011

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

Also present: Nina Lightfoot - LCC  
                  1 villager

## 1. **Chairman's remarks**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Prior to the formal Parish Council meeting there was a public session for villagers to raise issues. The following points were raised:

- a) It was general knowledge that the village shop was on the market and there was concern whether it would continue as a village amenity. The Chairman said that the Parish Council knew nothing formally and therefore was unable to comment on rumours.

## 2. **Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Hubbard. He was on holiday.

2.2 District Councillor Kaberry-Brown also sent her apologies. She had another commitment.

## 3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 Cllr Taylor declared an interest in the planning application for 1 Bottom Street as she resides in the neighbouring property.

## 4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2011**

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

## 5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 13 July 2011**

- 5.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:
- a. Letter re: Centrebus service 6 – Grantham to Bottesford
  - b Letter from British Gas – new smart meter installed
  - c Email 'make it cheaper.com' with new electricity provider prices

- d Letter and reply, Mark Williets re: non material amendments
- e BKV 2011 results and comments
- f Letter from RHS re: Britain in Bloom
- g Audit closure letter and notice

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

- 5.2 Re: point (c), EDF could offer a 3 year contract with a standing charge of 24p p/day (British Gas were offering 57.12p) with a cost of 10.5p p/unit of electricity (Bt Gas unit was 14.59p). Councillors agreed unanimously to take up the EDF contract. **(Action point: clerk)**

## 6 Voluntary car sharing scheme – Nina Lightfoot (LCC)

- 6.1 Nina Lightfoot, Senior Accessibility Officer from LCC spoke about the various transport services available to Lincolnshire residents.
- 6.2 The Call Connect service has been running for a while and is an award winning 'phone and book' bus service which can take people to and from Allington to Grantham, Newark and various villages in between. A booking can be made up between 2 hours and 7 days in advance. Bus passes are eligible for use with Call Connect. Some villagers from Allington already use this service.
- 6.3 The Voluntary Car Scheme is run by local people for local people. Car owners with time to spare provide transport to help people in their community. Passengers pay a set mileage rate which covers the out of pocket expenses of the car owner. The transport is booked through a central co-ordinator. Presently there are 450 drivers in the scheme. There is a co-ordinator in Grantham, the office which covers Allington village.
- 6.4 The Wheels 2 Work is a scheme to help Lincolnshire residents get to their employment, further education or training provider by loaning a brand new scooter.
- 6.5 There will also be a Minibus Brokerage scheme due to be launched by LCC later on in the year. This scheme is designed for organisations that own mini-buses to be able to loan them out eg. Secondary schools with minibuses that are not utilised at weekends, they could under the scheme loan them out to other sports clubs at the weekends that have transport difficulties.
- 6.6 Further details of all these schemes would be forwarded to the clerk. It was also suggested that details of these schemes are put on the village website. **(Action point: clerk)**

## 7 Public transport

- 7.1 The clerk confirmed that with effect from 5 September 11 Centrebus cancelled their diversions on Service 6 which travels from Bottesford to Grantham and diverts into Allington. The route is no longer commercially viable.

## **8 Best Kept Village**

- 8.1** The village was judged in August, because it had won the competition in the last four years it was judged only once, rather than the usual two rounds. Unfortunately the village was not placed this year.
- 8.2** The judges marking sheet showed that the village gained maximum marks in 5 of the 7 criteria that they considered, but only scored 10/15 for “gardens, hedges, fences” etc. The judges wrote: “Disappointing. Manor Paddock, Park Road & Side Street. Seemed neglected lacking care a great shame to spoil all the work done in the village”
- 8.3** The village dropped another mark - 14/15 on “Marks for community effort” – “Generally very good. Some weakness in the Community”.

## **9 St James’ churchyard**

- 9.1** This agenda item had been carried forward from the last Parish Council meeting as Councillors thought that there were insufficient present at the July meeting to make a decision.
- 9.2** The clerk recapped. The Parochial Church Council had no objection to the proposal of installing a gate at the old gated entrance (off Side Street) so long as the Parish Council paid for it.
- 9.3** After discussion it was decided that in order to conserve and preserve this historic area of the village, and to improve the security of the churchyard, a gate would be installed on the approach to the churchyard. The new gate would be sited further back than the old gate post that had been unearthed in the ground clearance. The new gate would allow a gap for pedestrians to pass through. Councillors voted 5:1 for this proposal. Cllr Cragg would arrange this installation with the Hempsteads. **(Action point: DC)**

## **10 Community Led Plan**

- 10.1** Cllr Cant reported that the raw data from the village questionnaire had been received and compiled onto spreadsheets. Presently the data doesn’t reflect the location or the age groups of each comment so more analysis was necessary. She said that there were still only 3 volunteers working on the project and that it was a massive piece of work. The volunteers were working as hard and as fast as time allowed. Cllr Cant would report back again when more information was available. **(Action point: MC)**

## **11 Playing field matters**

- 11.1** Cllr McKinlay stated that the Playing Field Committee had met recently and she referred councillors to the minutes of that meeting that had been circulated. The next fundraising event would be Bonfire night.
- 11.2** The clerk stated that she had made enquiries with the Planning Department as to what planning permission is necessary with various structures to replace the portacabins. Apparently any new structure needed planning permission, even if it

was a direct like for like replacement - portacabins were still considered to be a fixed structure and needed permission.

- 11.3** The drains from the toilet block had not been looked at yet, but it had not been forgotten. **(Action point: DC & GJ)**
- 11.4** The clerk confirmed that the toilet block was not insured by Aviva and the Parish Council's self-insurance fund would have to be used to repair the toilet door that had been damaged at the Fab4 event. It was agreed that the Playing field caretaker would repair it and forward his expenses. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 11.5** Cllr McKinlay reported that a large area of turf had been removed from the left hand avenue of trees. A few enquiries had been made and it remains a mystery as to who had taken the grass. Cllr Cragg kindly agreed to fill the patch with soil and seed it when the time was right. **(Action point: DC)**
- 11.6** Cllrs discussed whether the Parish Council would consider again creating a nature / wildlife area in the copse at the far end of the field. The clerk recalled that she had written to the land owner a while ago and that he was not adverse to the idea. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the landowner again to resurrect the discussion. **(Action point: clerk)**

## **12 Planning matters**

- 12.1** Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 13 July 2011:
- Recommended approval – G W Padley, 3 x poultry units, feed bins and a general purpose building, Gonerby Lane
  - Application – 1 Bottom Street, demolition of property and construction of 5 dwellings.
- 12.2** District Councillor Kaberry-Brown has confirmed to the clerk that she has arranged for the application for the development at 1 Bottom Street to be heard by SKDC's Planning and Development Committee.

## **13 Financial matters**

- 13.1** The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 13 July 2011:

### **Income**

- Interest - £3.46
- Donation for Fab4 event - £1000
- Fab4 event income – 2692.30
- LIVES fundraising cheque (ringfenced acct) - £240.00
- Playing field car park hire - £25.00

**Total £ 3960.76**

## **Expenditure**

- Fab4 outgoings (marquee hire, generator, band) - £1399.96
- Hempstead (MUGA maintenance & footpath weedkilling) - £301.20
- British Gas (electricity) - £37.97
- Clement Keys audit fees - £162.00
- Village Hall car park grant - £2500.00
- HT – wine for internal auditor - £10.00

**Total £ 3808.73**

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

**13.2** Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

## **14 Any other business for future meetings**

**14.1** The agenda for the next Parish Council meeting will include:

- a) The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- b) Budget considerations for 2012/13
- c) The frequency of Parish Council meetings

## **15 Date of next meeting**

**15.1** The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 9 November at 7.30pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman). Date: \_\_\_\_\_