

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 13 July 2011

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

Also present: 4 villagers

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) There was a remark about the amount of weeds growing up through the surface of village footpaths. The clerk confirmed that Highways Division had been made aware of this. *Further discussion on this matter occurred later on in the meeting – see minutes 7.1.*
- b) A resident asked whether anyone paid the Parish Council for public notices on village notice boards. It was confirmed that no payments were made for notices, other than the shop notice board which is managed by the shop keeper. It was felt that as long as the notices were reputable and up to date then it was an effective form of communication.

2. Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs McKinlay, Hubbard and Cant. Cllrs McKinlay and Hubbard had other commitments and Cllr Cant was working.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2011

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

5 Correspondence received since the meeting held on 11 May 2011

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

- a) VHMC car park improvement quotes and letter
- b) Email correspondence re: a community store in the village
- c) Letters thanking Parish Council for grants and donations from:
 - Village Hall Management Committee

- Lincs Playing field Assoc
 - History Society
 - Air Ambulance
- d) Letter school council: road safety
- e) Letter & leaflet: Melton Building Society savings acct info
- f) Email from Mr Swann in Spain re: PoW camp in village
- g) Letter to and response from Ben Wills re: paddock fencing
- h) Letter to and response from PCC: St James' churchyard
- i) Letter British Gas: renewal of contract

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

- 5.2 Re: point (f), the History Society would respond to Mr Swann.
- 5.3 Re: point (i), the clerk shall notify British Gas of the intention to cancel the present contract and seek an alternative provider. **(Action point: clerk)**

6 Email contact and confidentiality

- 6.1 The Chairman spoke about confidentiality of Parish Council business when emailing. He felt that any email correspondence forwarded to Parish Councillors should ideally go to an email account in the name of that Councillor. Parish Councillors who haven't their own name in their email account were asked to consider this request. **(Action point: cllrs)**

7 Village kerbs

- 7.1 The clerk confirmed that she had informed Highways that weeds were growing up through the surface of a number of footpaths around the village. Highways have a rolling programme to weed kill paths and this would be done in due course. In the meantime it was suggested that Hempsteads be asked for a quote to undertake this work to tidy up the village. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 7.2 On another matter it was noted that a lorry had tried to turn outside the shop and dislodged a kerbstone around the small green. Cllr Bosworth said he would take a look at it. **(Action point: AB)**

8 Hedge cutting

- 8.1 Visibility for drivers turning out of Peach Lane is poor as the hedge on the left hand side is obscuring the road. Cllr Cragg said that he'd recently seen the landowner and he had said that he was happy for it to be cut back. Cllr Cragg kindly agreed to undertake this work. Whilst cutting the hedge back Cllr Cragg said he'd also clear the weeds from the bus stop slabs on the other side of the road. **(Action point: DC)**
- 8.2 Cllr Jackson confirmed that Gilders would cut the playing field hedge shortly.
- 8.3 Cllr Taylor reported that she'd received another complaint about the size of the hedge bordering the field along Lambert Road. The clerk would write to the landowner again but it was thought that he may be unable to help due to a hedgerow cutting restriction. **(Action point: clerk)**

9 Best Kept Village

- 9.1** The clerk confirmed that the village would be judged for the Best Kept Village competition in August. Being a previous winner there would be no earlier judging rounds.
- 9.2** Cllr Bosworth thanked villagers who had been making an effort to keep the village clean and for the lovely floral displays around the community shelter and the village name sign in Foston Lane. Cllr Taylor said that she'd put some planters at the other two 'Allington' signs on Sedgebrook Road and Gonerby Lane. **(Action point: HT)**

10 St James' churchyard

- 10.1** The clerk reported that she had received a response from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) about the old gated entrance to the churchyard. The PCC had no objection to the proposal of installing a gate so long as it was funded by the Parish Council. After a short discussion about whether a gate was desirable it was decided to put the item on the agenda for the next meeting when more Parish Councillors would hopefully be present. **(Action point: clerk)**

11 Public transport

- 11.1** Cllr Taylor raised the lack of public transport to the village. Since the last cut in April there is now only one bus into Grantham and that is at 7.55am – far too early for the majority of residents. There were 3 options returning to the village ie. 12.20, 4.30 and 5.30pm. The Call Connect service is still available but this is not always available or suitable for individuals' needs.
- 11.2** One thought was for a car sharing scheme to be introduced. The clerk would make enquiries with other Parish Clerks to see whether similar successful schemes were running in other parts of Lincolnshire. It was suggested that the village website may be able to be utilised for such a scheme. **(Action point: clerk)**

12 Village social event feedback

- 12.1** Everyone agreed that the recent village social event organised by Cllr Taylor and Theresa Tanner had been very successful. Newark Brass Band was excellent as were Allington Morris and the school's performance of Bollywood dancing. Cllr Taylor stated that although it had not set out to be a fundraising event £124.20 had been raised.
- 12.2** It was agreed that a similar event should be organised to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2012 and that the £124.20 should be kept by the Parish Council for that event.

13 Bus Shelter (Gonerby Lane) refurbishment / replacement

- 13.1** There is nothing further to report on this matter. It will be listed again on a future agenda. **(Action point: clerk)**

14 Update on the Community Led Plan

- 14.1 Unfortunately Cllr Cant was not able to report back on this matter being absent from the meeting. However, it was understood that the steering group was still working to provide the analysis of villager's views. Some analysis had been completed, for example, the playing field group had received a report which they were looking at. Hopefully a full analysis will be available soon and decisions can be made to priorities issues. Councillors recognised that the analysis process is very time consuming especially for those volunteers that work full-time. It was hoped that an up to date report will be available at the next Parish Council meeting. **(Action point: MC)**

15 Playing field matters

- 15.1 Cllr Jackson reported back on the Fab4 event at the field. It was well attended and was an excellent evening of entertainment. Hiring a marquee for the event proved to be very worthwhile. Profit was around £560, thanks to the event being part sponsored by a villager.
- 15.2 Looking ahead to next year the Playing field fundraising group would like to put on a similar event for the extended Diamond Jubilee celebration weekend. As with the recent Fab4 event a marquee will be necessary. It was proposed that the Parish Council underwrite the cost of the marquee for the weekend. This would allow the various groups and societies within the village to plan for their Diamond Jubilee celebration events at the field without incurring this cost. It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council would pay the cost of the marquee and it should be booked now to ensure availability.
- 15.3 It was agreed that the portacabin accommodation at the field is in a very poor state and probably past refurbishment. Various ideas were considered to replace these units, with either non-permanent or permanent structures. The clerk would make enquiries with SKDC planning department about what planning permission is necessary with various structures. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 15.4 The toilet block needs some attention as the sewers block after heavy use. Cllrs Cragg and Jackson would try and ascertain where the blockage is occurring. An internal toilet door also needs attention as it was damaged during the Fab4 event. The Playing field caretaker is looking at what is needed to make a repair. He will advise the clerk in due course. **(Action point: DC, GJ and P/field caretaker)**

16 Planning matters

- 16.1 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 11 May 2011:
- Recommended approval – G W Padley, 3 x poultry units, feed bins and a general purpose building, Gonerby Lane
 - Application & approval – Eastleigh, The Green, Traditional underpinning of front right corner
 - Application & approval - Chestnut Farm, Bottom Street, Single storey rear extension & alterations to windows and roof over rear wing
 - Application – Yew Tree Cottage, Side Street, Reduce walnut tree by a third, reduce and shape cherry tree and reshape yew tree.

- 14.2 The Poultry units have been recommended for approval by SKDC's Development Control Committee subject to the developers and LCC Highways division coming to a legal agreement to help with the cost of the road improvements in Gonerby Lane. The parties have until 9 August to come to an agreement otherwise the approval decision is revoked.

17 Financial matters

- 17.1 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 11 May 2011:

Income

- Interest - £3.41

Total £ 3.41

Expenditure

- Hempstead (muga) - £126.00
- Insurance - £722.15
- Donations:
 - History Society - £100
 - VHMC - £850
 - Shop noticeboard - £25
 - Lincs Playing field Assoc - £25
 - Mums & Toddlers - £50
 - Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance - £50
- British Gas (electricity) - £165.65
- PFC marquee - £849.73
- HMRC - £126.60
- Playing field Caretaker expenses - £30.28

Total £ 3122.41

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

- 17.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.
- 17.3 Councillors considered the request for a grant from the Village Hall Management Committee for their car park improvement cost. After discussion, it was proposed and agreed unanimously that a grant of £2,500 be given to the Village Hall to help with costs for this project. It was further agreed that an additional sum of £1000 be kept by the Parish Council as a contingency for the project in case unforeseen expense becomes payable once the work has started. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 17.4 The clerk reported that she'd just received notice of the successful completion of the 2010/11 financial audit. Thanks to go to Jan Fox as the Parish Council's new internal auditor. The clerk would post the closure notice on the notice board. **(Action point: clerk)**

18 Any other business for future meetings

18.1 The agenda for the next Parish Council meeting will include:

- a) St James Churchyard
- b) The Community Led plan update
- c) Best Kept Village update

19 Date of next meeting

19.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14 September at 7.30pm.

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