

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 12 November 2014

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

Also present: County Councillor Paul Wood
 Theresa Tanner – Chairman, VHMC
 1 Villager

1. **Chairman's remarks**

- 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. Attendees spoke about the following:
- a) County Councillor Wood reported that the County Council would have to make significant savings over the next few years as it is likely that it will not get all of the expected grants from central Government. The County Council would undertake a consultation exercise to consider the priority services and get views as to how the budget should be spent. It is likely that SKDC may do a similar smaller review of spending.
 - b) The pavement outside Primrose Cottage, Bottom Street is in need of repair. The clerk would report this. **(Action point: clerk)**

2. **Apologies**

- 2.1 Cllrs Cant and McKinlay sent their apologies. They had other commitments.
- 2.2 District Councillor Kaberry-Brown sent her apologies.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2014**

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

5. **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 10 September 14**

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

- a) Email advice from LALC re: VAT and village halls
- b) Email Best Kept Village competition comments from judges
- c) Information from Whirlwind Renewables re: wind farm, Sewstern Lane
- d) Lincolnshire Energy Switch scheme poster
- e) Letter from Beletric re: Solar Farm Allington
- f) Notification of Committee hearing for single turbine, Top Farm, Foston

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

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 Work is underway on the two objectives set for the forthcoming year:

- a) To renovate and improve the condition of the village cross
- b) To further develop the Community Wood,

7.2 These two projects are ongoing. Cllr Taylor said she had considered contacting the school regarding the wood. She hoped to encourage children to take an interest in the wood by perhaps asking the Year 3 and 4 children to choose a sapling and following its growth. Another idea discussed was to plant native bluebells in the wood.

8 Village Cross

8.1 Cllr Bosworth stated that there was nothing further to report regarding the restoration of the village cross. The report from Skillington Workshop Ltd was still awaited despite chasing.

9 Archive documents

9.1 Mrs Tanner stated that she had been assured that all documents which had been removed from the village archive would be returned by Friday 14 November.

9.2 On the matter of documents held by the Lincoln Archive it was agreed that the clerk would be the contact for the documents held there. It was also suggested that the village should appoint a village archivist to oversee the documents retained in the village. It was suggested that Mrs Tanner be appointed for the next 12 months and this was agreed unanimously.

10 Windfarm – Sewstern Lane

10.1 Whirlwind renewables, as part of their consultation exercise, would be presenting their proposals in the village hall on Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 November. Cllrs Hubbard and Bosworth would both attend to represent the Parish Council. At this stage this application is still pre-consultation and as such there are no decisions to be made by the Parish Council. Cllrs would consider the proposal for a Windfarm in Sewstern Lane in due course.

11 Parish Council elections – May 2015

- 11.1 All seven positions on the Parish Council are up for election in May. To encourage villagers to consider putting themselves forward for election it was thought that it would be good to have an article in Allington News explaining more about the responsibilities of becoming a Parish Councillor. The next publication of Allington News is February. Cllrs Taylor and Bosworth agreed to put an article together for then. **(Action point: HT & AB)**
- 11.2 The election process will begin around March when SKDC will send election papers to the clerk. In the meantime Cllrs would approach villagers and encourage them to stand for election.

12 Village Hall matters

- 12.1 Cllr Jackson reminded councillors of the agreement in principle, made at the last Parish Council meeting, that the Parish Council would look at ways to support the village hall financially. After discussion it was concluded that Cllrs wanted the Village Hall Management Committee to remain with the Parish Council becoming a Custodian Trustee of the hall. It was thought that the best way forward would be for the Management Committee to continue to manage the day to day running of the village hall with the Parish Council taking on some responsibility for specific capital projects to ensure that the village hall remains viable. A Parish Councillor would attend the management committee meetings quarterly and report back to the Parish Council at its next meeting.
- 12.2 To consider the finer details of this proposal it was agreed that a meeting be arranged between the VHMC Executive Committee and specific Parish Councillors. **(Action point: clerk)**

(Meeting subsequently arranged for 10 December – Attendees for Parish Council: Cllrs GJ, AH and clerk)

13 Village Shop

- 13.1 It had been reported that the village shop would be put up for sale in March 2015 and there was concern that the village may use this amenity.
- 13.2 The sale of the shop is a private matter for its owners and not for discussion at the Parish Council.

14 Highway matters

- 14.1 A number of reports had been made about potholes on village roads by villagers and councillors using 'Fix My Street' online service.
- 14.2 Cllrs were pleased to note that Marston Lane had been resurfaced with pleasing results.

15 Playing field matters

- 15.1 Cllr Cragg had received quotes for materials and labour for a boundary fence to the rear of the community wood. He would report the details of this quote at a future meeting. **(Action point: DC)**
- 15.2 There is increasing use of the field and access to the toilet block is deemed necessary. The arrangements for how the public are able to access the toilets is a question for discussion at the next the Playing field committee. **(Action point: MMc)**
- 15.3 The recent Quiz Night organised by the fundraisers made a profit of £453. It was agreed that £200 of this profit be given to the Village Hall. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 15.4 Bonfire Night had been very successful again this year. The clerk would report on funds raised at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 15.5 It was noted that the road and verges at the back of the portacabins at the playing field are in a bad state. It would be reported to Highways as this is an area of their responsibility. Cllr Bosworth agreed to report this. **(Action point: AB)**

16 Planning matters

- 16.2 Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 10 September 2014:
- Refusal – Top Farm, Back Lane, Foston – single turbine with a hub height of 60m
 - Approved – Copley Farm, Doddington Lane, Claypole – Solar photovoltaic farm and associated works
 - Approved – 1 Bottom Street – Erection and replacement of dwelling and outbuildings
 - Application – Corner House, The Green – Fell two Yew trees

17 Financial matters

- 17.2 The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 10 September 2014:

Income

- Bank interest – £2.13
- Quiz night - £453.00
- Caretaker's grant – 338.00
- Allington Manor - £25.00

Total £818.13

Outgoings

- Opus energy – £36.46
- P E Hempstead - £2601.98
- Skip hire - £85.60
- Generator - £345.87
- Eazy Print – 85.50
- RoSPA – 103.20
- Bonfire float - £500.00

○ **Total £3730.61**

Plus Clerk and Caretaker's salaries

17.3 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

17.4 Considering the precept requirement for 2015/16 it was agreed that an increase in the precept was necessary to assist the village hall financially. The clerk reminded councillors that the precept has not been increased since 2008/09. An estimated increase of around £5k would only increase annual payments to villagers by a small amount. Effectively supporting the Village Hall with £5,000 would cost each household a monthly community charge increase of 82p for a Band A property or £2.46 for a Band H property. Final agreement on the precept figure would be considered at the January meeting for submission to SKDC mid-January. **(Action point: clerk)**

18 Any other business for future meetings

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

- a) Village Cross
- b) Village Hall matters
- c) Final precept requirement for submitting to SKDC mid-January

19 Date of next meeting

19.2 The next meeting will be:

- Wednesday 14 January 2015 at 7.30pm

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