

Allington Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the village hall
Wednesday 11 July 2012

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

Also present: Theresa Tanner – Chairman VHMC

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 and Mrs Tanner asked whether the Parish Council would consider helping the Village Hall with funding to insulate its attic. It was suggested that SKDC be approached as grants are often available for this purpose, but if the VHMC was unsuccessful the Parish Council would consider the request.

2. **Apologies**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Bosworth.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2012**

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

5 **Correspondence received since the meeting held on 14 May 12**

- 5.1 The clerk reported on some of the correspondence received and sent:
1. Letter to Stephen Philips MP and response re: EDM planning appeals
 2. Email to Antony Aspbury Associates re: 1 Bottom St
 3. Letter and response to SKDC planners re: Wind turbine approval – Wade's farm
 4. Copy of minutes from Sedgebrook Parish Council re: gritting of Sedgebrook Rd
 5. Thank you letter – Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association
 6. Thank you letter – Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance
 7. HT note: Wildlife and Nature conservation in Allington

8. Email from Ian Ransom - Community Lincs re: Broadband Champion
9. Response from Highways re: general direction signs
10. Review of Mobile Library Stops
11. Audit Commission – consultation on appointment of new external auditors
Grant Thornton UK LLP

5.3 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 None.

7 New Code of Conduct

7.1 The Localism Act requires all councils to have a Code of Conduct in place and the NALC has provided a Code that local Councils may wish to use. This draft NALC Code was copied to all Councillors by email prior to the meeting.

7.2 The clerk reported that there are also other Codes drawn up by other bodies and SKDC would very likely have its own Code too. The clerk would make a few more enquiries with regard to which Code would be the best one to adopt.

7.3 The clerk would advise at the next meeting. **(Action point: clerk)**

8 Objectives for the forthcoming year

8.1 Councillors agreed that it would be beneficial to list some objectives for the Council for the next year. Depending upon the project not all will be achievable within 12 months but the list will serve as a prompt and something to focus upon. The following projects were agreed as objectives:

- a) The play area refurbishment
- b) Setting up a wildlife/nature area
- c) Consider the village 'wish list' which has resulted from the Village plan survey
- d) Repairing the playing field drains

9 Wind energy

9.1 SKDC's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on wind energy will be out for consultation in the Autumn, and the Parish Council have been invited to make comments on the scope of what should be in the SPD.

9.2 The clerk confirmed that she had emailed this letter around to Councillors and responded with their comments to SKDC.

10 Signpost for Village amenities

10.1 The clerk had received a letter from LCC regarding information needed to request the installation of a signpost. Details needed are:

- whether it would be a pedestrian or road traffic sign
- where it would be located
- what facilities would be listed

10.2 The letter stated that the only way a pub can be signed is with a full application from its owner to LCC. It also said that that it was not permitted to attach “modern signs or modern destinations” to the cast iron traditional guidepost in the village. Also, a single sign post would cost upwards from £400.

10.3 After discussion and taking into account the limitations and cost, it was concluded that a new signpost would not be requested. If the Welby Arms wished to have a sign they would need to apply for their own through LCC.

11 Community Broadband

11.1 In order to improve the broadband service in Lincolnshire, and ultimately Allington, it is important that villagers register their interest with ‘OnLincolnshire’ which, in turn, encourages infrastructure providers to tender for the project of upgrading the broadband.

11.2 Villagers should register at: <http://onlincolnshire.org/getting-involved/register/> There will be a link placed on the village website.

11.3 Cllr Cant has been nominated as the Broadband Champion for the village and she has a meeting planned with the Community Broadband Officer for Community Lincs. She will report back on this at the next Parish Council meeting. **(Action point: MC)**

12 Village Plan

12.1 After hours of hard work the village plan is coming together. Cllr Taylor reported that she’d recently had a productive meeting with Cllr Cant on the matter.

12.2 Cllr Cant reported that she had worked through the village survey and compiled a ‘wish list’ of requests from villagers. Cllrs were asked to look at the list and consider what is listed in time for the next meeting. **(Action point: all cllrs)**

12.3 It is hoped that Cllr Taylor has found a volunteer who is prepared to edit down the analysis findings into a short document with bullet points which will clarify the points raised in the village survey. This will produce an easy-to-read document for villagers.

12.4 After this a final plan needs to be produced. Cllr Cant will pull a formal version together. The village plan will be on the next agenda for the next Parish Council meeting in September.

13 Playing field matters

13.1 Cllr McKinlay stated that the Playing Field Committee had met recently.

- 13.2** The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations had been very successful despite the awful weather - having a marquee was clearly crucial. It was agreed that a marquee should be sought for future similar events and this would be financed by the Parish Council. The Big Lottery provided funding for the weekend's event and a financial report had been forwarded to them. Thanks to everyone involved for the hard work.
- 13.3** Dog mess at the field still remains an issue and quotes would be sought to install CCTV and a 'name and shame' policy could be adopted. The clerk would enquire about more permanent 'dog fouling signs'. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 13.4** The Hempsteads would be asked to tend to the verges around the 'Allington' signs and the clerk would find out about installing planters at these points. **(Action point: clerk)**
- 13.5** Cllr Cragg said that he had investigated the drain problem at the toilet block and a pipe needed replacing. It was agreed that a digger could be hired for this work. **(Action point: DC)**
- 13.6** Cllr McKinlay relayed the information that Cllr Bosworth had pulled together regarding upgrading the play area. She also reported that John Slater was making enquiries regarding what funding was available from various sources. Another Playing field committee meeting was planned shortly to discuss the matter further.
- 13.7** The clerk reported that she had spoken to the land owner of the copse. He has asked Brown and Co to draw up a licence to allow the Parish Council use of this piece of land for a nature area.

14 Planning matters

- 14.1** Applications received and determined since the last Parish Council meeting on 14 May 2012:
- a) Approval – Plum tree house, The Green, replacement of 3 windows
 - b) Approval – Ashes Farm, Side Street, removal of Ash Tree
 - c) Approval – School House, Marston Lane, pruning of Ash and Blackthorn and removal of a Blackthorn tree
 - d) Application – The Barn at Corner House, Main Street, Conversion of 2 storey building, build 2 storey extension, demolish single storey garage to form separate dwelling, form new vehicle access
 - e) Application – Berberene, Main Street, Demolish western elevational wall and provide 2 story extension with double pitched roof and 2 storey wing extension to NE
 - f) Application - 1 Bottom Street, demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 dwellings

15 Financial matters

- 15.1** The clerk reported on the income and outgoings since the last meeting on 14 May 2012:

Income

- Bank interest - £3.41

Total £ 3.41

Expenditure

Jubilee weekend expenditure

- Marquee - £1500
- Leaflet printing - £177.35
- Jubilee mugs – 428.70
- Jubilee crown hats – 42.30
- Oak, plaque & open gardens printing - £132.32
- Bouncy office & bungy run - £300
- Fab4 band - £1500
- PA System hire - £540
- Posters – £57.50
- Sundry items - £55.35
- Fireworks - £750
- Printing (History Society) - £180
- Village Hall rent & expenses - £158.31 (£5821.83)

Donations from AGM

- Village Hall - £850
- Village stores noticeboard - £25
- Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance - £50
- Lincs Playing field Assoc - £25 (£950)

Miscellaneous

- PE Hempstead (MUGA maintenance) - £126
- Playing field name sign - £412.67
- Electricity - £14.03
- HMRC - £126
- Harlaxton FC - £14 (£692.70)

Total £ 7464.53

Plus Clerk and Caretakers' salaries.

15.2 Councillors unanimously approved the payments retrospectively.

15.3 The clerk stated that British Gas contract for electricity was coming up for renewal in November. British Gas propose to increase the costs as follows:

- Standing charge increase from 21.9 p/day to 37.86p/day (+15.96p/day increase)
- Unit price increase from 11.5p/kWH to 15.45p/kWH (+3.95p/kWH increase)

15.4 The clerk had looked into alternative providers. The best option at this time is to go with Opus Energy. They have a standing charge of 25p with a unit price 9.95p. It was

agreed to change providers to Opus Energy when the British Gas contract expires.
(Action point: clerk)

16 Any other business for future meetings

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

- a) New Code of Conduct
- b) Superfast Broadband
- c) The play area upgrade
- d) Village plan

17 Date of next meeting

17.1 The next Parish council meeting will be on Wednesday 12 September at 7.30pm.

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