

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE WHILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 8 P.M. ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2008**

13 parishioners attended, with Mr Mike Lewis, Chairman of the Parish Council, in the chair, and Mrs Anthea Hiscock, Clerk to the Parish Council, as secretary. County Councillor Steve Osborne attended part of the meeting.

Mr Lewis welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mr Keith Hiscock, Mr Paul Mitchell, District Councillor Wendy Amos, Mrs Penny Price and Mr Derek Brown.

1. THE MINUTES

It was proposed by Mr Bowers, seconded by Mr Lye, and agreed that the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting be approved.

It was proposed by Mr Bowers, seconded by Miss Swinford, and agreed, that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 20 September 2007 be approved.

2. POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY

Lorraine Humfress, our Police Community Support Officer, addressed the meeting and answered questions. She is part of a team of 6, who cover 30 villages around Daventry, and visits Whilton on a regular basis.

She emphasized the need for village residents to be aware of security, especially of outbuildings, and would be willing to advise parishioners over security of their property. All residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to the control room as soon as possible (0845 3 700700). It was agreed that it would be helpful to inform the whole parish about this through the notice boards and Newsletter.

3. ANNUAL REPORTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Lewis reported that he saw the current challenge to the Parish Council as its response to the impact of the proposed growth of Daventry and the west side of Northampton. Whilton Parish Councillors participate in monthly meetings with the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, and have contributed to the County Growth Strategy and the Daventry Infrastructure Strategy. Increasing traffic and the doubling of the capacity of the sewage works will have an impact on Whilton. The parish has also generated the Parish Design Statement during this period. He thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for their work during the year.

In the ensuing discussion parishioners expressed concerns about increases in traffic, especially on the Red Route, poor road surfaces, parking in the village and drainage problems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT TEAM

Mr Waights reported that the Design Statement has passed all the Committee stages of the DDC and now awaits approval by the full Council on 15 May 2008.

Mr Waights pointed out that the Design Statement does not include all the provisions the team would like to see. Proposals for village confines and a green belt have been reserved by the DDC for their own plan, and can only be referred to here as Parish Preferences. The important aim now is that the Parish Council will make full use of the Design Statement in responding to planning applications.

The team has consisted of Parish Councillors Mike Lewis, Jonathan Hanslip and Greg Lye, plus Richard Bunce, Frances Drake, Gerry Heeley and Jeremy James. Mr Waights expressed thanks to all members for their hard work and especially to Gerry Heeley, without whose computer skills the team would have not met the deadline.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: FOOTPATHS WARDEN

Mr Clements reported that the damaged fence between Whilton and Long Buckby has at last been renewed, and thanked Gordon and Martin Emery, who completed the repair. He is keeping an eye on various paths and step boards on stiles, which will soon need attention. He reminded parishioners to inform the Parish Council if they come across any problems.

May Gurney have replaced Atkins as the contractors. There has been some talk about using local farmers to carry out repairs, but he has no further information at present.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In the absence of Mrs Amos, the Clerk read out her report. This wide ranging report referred to the slow process of fighting for the necessary infrastructures for the proposed huge growth in Daventry, where some commercial development has now started, and where a trial “pod” travel system is due to take place. Leisure centre renovations are ongoing and grant money has been made available for play areas. Daventry remains a Beacon Status authority for waste management and is part of Northamptonshire Waste Partnership to face future problems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEVE OSBORNE

Mr Osborne reported that the County has a new Chief Executive and a new Highways contract with May Gurney. He is concerned at the poor state of the roads, but at present the money is not there for the quality of work required. He was pleased to report that Whilton had received its grant for a new seat on the Green.

PARISH ACTIVITIES: VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT GROUP

Mr Lewis reported that remedial outside building works have been carried out, and the outstanding work now remains in the kitchen. The social event, the rounders match, was poorly attended, and the 200 Club continues to provide a large proportion of income for the Hall. He suggested that a whole parish “Fund Committee” might benefit the parish.

He thanked the 200 Club collectors, and Derek Brown and Mary Kane for all their work for the Hall.

PARISH ACTIVITIES: ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY MANGEMENT GROUP

The Clerk read the report from Mr Brown. The working parties had been well attended, 20 new trees have been planted and are doing well, and the replacing of sleepers on the board walk, including netting them, has been completed. On the other hand, some damage has been done to the seats made in 2006 and to the notice board.

This is the tenth anniversary of the commencement of the Spinney Project and it is hoped to plan a celebration later this year.

PARISH CONCERNS: TRUSTEES OF WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Clerk read the report from Mr Hiscock. Only one grant has been made this year, and this was to a younger resident. The trustees wish to remind parishioners that older people resident in the parish may also fit the criteria for a grant. Details of these criteria this will be published again in the August Newsletter.

The trustees, who may be approached in confidence, are Rev Chris Goble, Ann Gilbert and Keith Hiscock.

PARISH CONCERNS: BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL

Mrs Baker reported that the staff continue to keep up to date with training. The children benefit from learning about a wide range of topics, and from being a small group where best care, observations and planning are possible. There have been outings to Daventry library and leisure centre, the Spinney and to feed lambs. Parents play a large role in the Management Committee and in money raising.

PARISH CONCERNS: BRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Chairman read the report from Mr Mitchell, who is retiring as Chair of the Governors. He praised the high level of learning and social awareness at the school. However there are now concerns about numbers, which are dropping, with new parents looking towards new schools in the developments in Northampton and Daventry. Options for moving the pre-school to the school are being considered, but would need careful assessment.

4. WELCOME FOR NEWCOMERS

The suggestion for a booklet of information with maps showing the houses in the parish was discussed. Overall it was agreed this would be a good idea, and might also be available on the website. It was requested that this should be followed up by the Parish Council.

5. ANNUAL LITTER PICK

This will be on Saturday 17th May and a number of residents offered to help.

6. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS

The Parish Council was requested to follow up concerns about parking in the village. Parishioners do not like the new timing of the rubbish collecting, as this happens about 8 a.m. on a Thursday, just as people are going out of the village. The verges at Langton Rise are being damaged by the rubbish collecting vehicles.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.