

MINUTE 123

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2008

The following Councillors attended:

Mr Mike Lewis in the chair, Greg Lye and Miss Nora Swinford.

4 parishioners attended

Apologies were received from Mr Jonathan Hanslip, Mr Ken Bowers Mrs Penny Price, County Councillor Steve Osborne and District Councillor Wendy Amos.

OPEN FORUM: Residents from South View explained their reasons for opposing the idea of a hedge being planted there

1. DECLARATION OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS RELEVANT TO MATTERS ARISING ON THIS AGENDA

Miss Swinford declared an interest in item: f ii, as she is a resident of South View.

Mr Lewis declared an interest in the item 5, as he lives at The Locks.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings of 15th October and 26th November.

3. FINANCE

a) Financial Statement

The current account stands at: £3064.30

The reserve account stands at: £4040.50

b) It was resolved to approve the following income and expenditure

Income:

Consolidated Stock interest (July and Oct): £0.04

Mr T Treacy (photocopies) £1.55

DDC: Refund £79.84

Expenditure:

| Cheque no. | | | | VAT to reclaim |
|------------|----------------------------|--|--------|----------------|
| 655 | SLCC-CiLCA Management | Clerk's course registration fee | 70.00 | |
| 656 | Whilton Village Hall | Hiring of Hall to Aug 2007 | 121.50 | |
| 657 | Smith of Derby | Extra visit to rectify problems with clock | 94.00 | 14.00 |
| 658 | ABB Ltd | Lighting maintenance | 46.95 | 6.99 |
| 659 | Open Spaces Society | Annual subscription | 30.00 | |
| 660 | Orchard Print Services Ltd | Newsletter printing | 56.70 | |
| 661 | E.ON | Electricity | 90.70 | 4.32 |

c) Insurance update

The Clerk reported that the fidelity guarantee has been increased to £8000, as advised by the auditors. After discussion it was agreed to insure the 11 bracket lights for £500 each at a cost of £73.34 per year.

d) Review of Clerk's salary

It was agreed to raise the Clerk's salary by 10% to £1100, backdated to April 2007

e) Budget for 2008-9

After considering the proposed budget, it was decided not include a new street light in plans for 2008/9. It was proposed by Mr Lye, seconded by Miss Swinford and agreed that the following budget be agreed:

WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL: BUDGET 2008/9

| | Budget 2006/7 | Outcome 2006/7 | Budget 2007/8 | Anticipated outcome | Proposed Budget 2008/9 | Notes |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Administration | 2100 | 1611 | 1300 | 1350 | 1500 | |
| Clerk's salary | | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1100 | |
| Parish clock maintenance | | 230 | 200 | 765 | 100 | Towards fund for next payment |
| Newsletter | 320 | 309 | 300 | 320 | 350 | |
| Churchyard Petrol & mower repairs | 200 | 112 | 200 | 200 | 200 | To add to £600 in funds allocated last year |
| Replacement of equipment fund | | | 200 | 200 | 200 | |
| Trees Maintenance | 150 | 300 | 150 | 10 | 100 | |
| Allotments Lease | 500 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | |
| Lease renewal contribution | | nil | nil | | | |
| Water charge | | 64 | 75 | 80 | 95 | |
| Street lighting Electricity | 530 | 557 | 560 | 600 | 800 | Large rise in electricity expected |
| Maintenance | | | | | | |
| Street furniture Maintenance | | 35 | 85 | 30 | 50 | |
| New bin | | | | | | |
| Roughmoor Spinney Grant | 450 | 450 | 600 | 600 | 450 | |
| Parish Plan | 250 | nil | nil | | 250 | Contingency for printing |
| Section 137 | nil | nil | nil | nil | 20 | Competition entries |
| Total payments | 4500 | 4382 | 4665 | 5235 | 5520 | |

| INCOME | Budget 2006/7 | Outcome 2006/7 | Budget 2007/8 | Outcome 2007/8 | Proposed Budget 2008/9 |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Precept | 4500 | 4500 | 4750 | 4750 | 5750 |
| Grants | | 724 | | | |
| Allotment rents | | 54 | 112 | 112 | 112 |
| Reserves Funds brought forward at beginning of year | + 4000 expected in funds | 4484 | + 5000 expected in funds | 5255 | + 4770 expected in funds brought forward |

f) SETTING OF PRECEPT FOR 2008-9

Proposed expenditure 2008-9 £5520

Less anticipated amount brought forward: £4770

£ 750

Adjustment to add to reserves: £5000

Precept request £5750

It was proposed by Mr Lye, seconded by Miss Swinford, and agreed that the precept for 2008/9 be set at £5750, with expected use of the money as follows:

| 2008-9 | PRECEPT |
|--|----------------|
| Administration | 1500 |
| Clerk's salary | 1100 |
| Parish Clock | 100 |
| Newsletter | 350 |
| Churchyard: Maintenance | 200 |
| Towards new mower fund | 200 |
| Allotments | 175 |
| Street lighting (large electricity increase expected) | 800 |
| Street furniture | 275 |
| Parish Plan | 250 |
| Roughmoor Spinney | 450 |
| Trees | 100 |
| Section 137 | 20 |
| TOTAL | £5520 |
| | |
| Intended Reserve Fund | |
| Mower replacement fund | 600 |
| Election costs | 1000 |
| Unforeseen expenses/contingency fund | 3400 |
| TOTAL | £5000 |

f) Consideration of projects for grant funding 2008 -9

i) Repair of dry stone wall near Kunda Cottage: Although this is seen as a village feature, it is private property, and therefore is unlikely to fit the criteria of any grant scheme. It was agreed to put this matter on hold, although Mr Lye offered to continue to investigate further.

ii) Proposed planting of a hedge at South View : Residents from South View had expressed their opposition to this proposal and attended the meeting. However, as Miss Swinford had declared an interest and there were only two other Councillors present, there was no quorum, and so this will be raised at a future meeting.

iii) The seat on the Green is no longer practicable for use because of leaf drips and bird droppings from the tree above. County Councillor Steve Osborne has reported that the removal of the old seat and the provision of another sited further back by the churchyard wall would fit the criteria for the grant available through County Councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk should get estimates for this, liaise with the Chairman, and apply for this grant.

4. PLANNING

Parish planning issues

- Notification has been received of planning permission for application: DA/2007/1156: Manor Barn: swimming pool, pump room & shower
- Parish Design Statement: Mr Lewis explained that the consultation period has ended, and he is unaware of any problems arising from it. It is hoped that advance payment for the printing can be arranged, before our grant expires. An extra £250 has been included in the budget in case there are any problems over this.

Wider planning issues

- Mr Lewis reported that Daventry Villages Together had responded to the Middlemore Core Strategy Issues of the Joint Planning Unit.

- The Parish Council working party had responded to the West Northants Development Corporation's Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation and copies are available.
- Mr Lewis and Mr Lye agreed that they are both willing to continue to attend liaison meetings with the WNDC, as it is considered there will be an impact on Whilton and the area around.
- Mr Lewis has responded to the Daventry Infrastructure Strategy, agreeing with its objectives, but asking that its boundaries should be extended to include to C5 road (the Nobottle road).
- Mr Lewis read out notes from District Councillor Wendy Amos, in response to questions raised about approaches to DDC and WNDC proposals for Daventry development.
- Mr Lewis reported that he and Mr Lye will attend an independent planning seminar on 23rd January, where they hope to obtain information on how to get disinterested advice, and how to oppose aspects of the Daventry Infrastructure plans which are not wanted.
- Mr Lewis offered to write an article in the Newsletter, to find the extent of parishioners' interest in these wider planning issues, which do also relate to Whilton.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISH WALK

- Parking issues at the Locks. As Mr Lewis had declared an interest, there was not a quorum to discuss this matter.
- Risk assessment at the allotments. There was some discussion about the safety of the unofficial steps down the bank to the road from the allotments. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask the allotment holders not to use these steps, and that if necessary the top of the steps should be taped off.

6. ROADS AND TRANSPORT

- The Clerk said she had reported the items noted on the Parish Walk to NCC/Atkins.
- There is no further information on village drainage problems. NCC/Atkins have stated that an investigation will be programmed and that we shall be advised of the outcome.
- NCC information re floods and road drainage has been received.
- NCC/Atkins: Winter service leaflets 2007/8 were distributed
- Highways Agency: planned roadworks East of England December 2007- Feb 2008: these leaflets were distributed.
- It was noted that the white markings have still not been reinstated on the main road between Gypsy Spinney and the village turn. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC/Atkins.

7. LIAISON WITH DDC

The following information has been received from the DDC:

- Invitation to training event: Affordable Housing and Village Design Statements 31 Jan
- Homelessness Services Review and poster :posted on notice board
- Launch of Daventry and District Housing details
- *Daventry Calling* Issue 55 (will be circulated)
- Information re Smoke Free Health Act 2006
- *Let's talk rubbish* questionnaire (completed by Clerk)
- Open space, sport and recreation facilities study (completed by Clerk)
- New Code of Conduct Clerks' Training Course: 6 Feb
- Play Forum meeting: 16 Jan.
- Review of parish councils' responses to graffiti
- Notes on Parish and Town Councils meeting on 11 December
- Daventry Over Fifties Forum: 25 January: details posted on board

8. LIAISON WITH NCC

The following information has been received and is available from the Clerk:

- NCC DVD and leaflets re Direct Payments and Protecting Vulnerable Adults
- NCC: Draft budget consultation for comment by 13 Feb.
- County Council Meeting minutes: 18 Oct 2007 and agenda 13 Dec 2007

9. NALC (now NCALC) AND ACRE

The following will be circulated:

- National salary awards for clerks 2007-8
- *Village Viewpoint* Winter 2007
- *Update* Nov/Dec 2007

10. INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following will be circulated:

- *Clerks and Councils Direct* November 2007 and January 2008
- SLCC: *Continuous Professional Development* : national training strategy
- DEFRA: booklet: Parish and Town Councils: *Ways to tackle Climate Change*
- *Open Space* Autumn 2007
- Northants Police: *Policing in your Community* Winter 2007

The following are available from the Clerk:

- *East Midlands Development Agency News*: October 2007.
- Advertisement from Stephen Hartwell, Kilsby, re parish grass cutting contracts
- Northants Police: budget consultation for response by 11 Jan:.

11. DATES FOR MEETINGS 2008

There was a discussion about the value of six-weekly meetings. A letter on this matter was read out from Mr Hanslip.

It was agreed to revert to bi-monthly meetings on Mondays in 2008, as follows:

7th January, 3rd March, 12th May (Annual Meeting), 7th July, 1st September, 3rd November.

Extra meetings will be called if required.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 28th April 2008

12. MATTERS TO RAISE ON THE NEXT AGENDA

No matters were raised and the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.