

MINUTE 123
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL AT 8 P.M. ON MONDAY 3RD MARCH 2008

The following Councillors attended:

Mr Mike Lewis in the chair, Mr Ken Bowers, Mr Jonathan Hanslip, Mr Greg Lye, Mrs Penny Price and Miss Nora Swinford.

County Councillor Steve Osborne and District Councillor Wendy Amos also attended.

3 parishioners were present

OPEN FORUM: Residents from South View re-iterated their opposition to planting a hedge there, but would prefer an improved fence.

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

Miss Swinford declared an interest in the item "Proposal to plant a hedge at Southview".

2. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of 7th January and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of 18th February 2008, after the date had been corrected and the sentence "No members of the public attended" altered to "Two members of the public attended."

3. FINANCE

a) Financial Statement

The current account stands at: £2554.54

The reserve account stands at: £4040.50

b) It was resolved to approve the following expenditure:

Cheque no.				VAT to reclaim
667	Allianz Insurance plc	Additional premium to cover street lights	25.91	
669	Mrs A Hiscock	Clerk's salary Jan – March	275.00	
		Clerk's expenses	192.74	
			467.74	

The following cheque was also signed and will be confirmed at the next meeting:

670	Mr Roy Haynes	Mower service	163.07	24.29
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It was agreed to review the position with the mower before its next service.

c) Internal audit

It was resolved that the **Terms of Reference for the Internal Audit Service** be approved.

Review of effectiveness of Internal Audit.

The observations and recommendations made in the last internal audit were considered.

- agendas are now being signed.
- new standing orders and financial regulations have been approved
- the street lights have all been included in the assets register and insured
- the Clerk is liaising with the Record Office in preparation for depositing the Council's archives.
- the one remaining issue is the Council's publication scheme, which will be raised on the next agenda.

4. PLANNING

The Chairman reported that although Whilton had produced its draft Design Statement on time there have now been delays meaning that all nine statements awaiting decisions will not go to Committee until May, which the Design Team is finding very frustrating.

Some discussion followed about the apparent likely contradictions between the growth strategies not yet approved and the actions of the West Northants Development Corporation.

Planning Application DA/2008/0169: front and rear of Whilton Locks Carpet Company: work to trees in a Conservation Area. It was agreed to support the application as it will reduce risk to both the buildings and the public.

5. VILLAGE GREEN

Registration: The Clerk reported that she has written again asking for an explanation for the County Council's refusal to register the Green.

The seat: Councillor Osborne reported that he expects Whilton to be awarded a grant to replace the old seat. It was suggested that once this is done, the old seat might be placed near the top of the village on the verge.

Trees: The Clerk reported that Cutting Edge have inspected the trees and given a verbal report that no work should be required before next winter.

6. ROADS AND TRANSPORT

- The response from Atkins to the Autumn Parish Walk was considered. It was agreed that if possible some Councillors should accompany the new contractors, May Gurney, when they carry out their inspection of Whilton in April. This will be particularly relevant when they inspect drainage. The Clerk was asked to liaise over this.
- The Clerk has obtained a map from NCC showing ownership of the verges at the Locks.
- Mr Hanslip offered to attend the next meeting of Highways Representatives.
- The Clerk was asked to find why the hole in the pavement outside Dormer Cottage has not been repaired for months, as this is now seen as a hazard. She was also requested to find out whether the drain below Langton Rise is a proper drain or a soak away.
- It was requested that the lack of a white line at the top of Whilton Hill be notified again, and a complaint about dustcarts driving over the curbs at Langton Rise be sent to the DDC.

7. PROPOSAL TO PLANT A HEDGE AT SOUTH VIEW.

Miss Swinford declared an interest and did not take part in this discussion.

As parishioners opposed this suggestion, the proposal was withdrawn. It was agreed that the current fence is not safe and to request that the County Council review the need for a fence there. If the County Council considers there should be a fence, the residents have suggested they would like one with concrete posts and a metal bar. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the tarmac surface of the path has been damaged recently.

8. THE ENVIRONMENT

a) Litter bin at the Locks

The Clerk reported that the DDC have agreed to empty a bin there and that Mrs Barbara Bavister of the Locks Association has said there would be no objection to a bin by the seats.

It was proposed by Mr Bowers and agreed that the Council should acquire a bin for no more than £350 and the Clerk was asked to obtain prices before the next meeting.

b) Dog fouling

A number of complaints have been received about dog fouling over recent months, and there has been concern about safety issues as a dog has been wandering in the road. The Clerk was asked to write an article in the Newsletter reminding dog owners of their responsibilities, and also to contact the owners of a dog which has been wandering loose in the area.

9. LIAISON WITH THE DDC

Mrs Amos reported that there are no immediate plans for a merger of the DDC and South Northants, but there may be a working partnership. Simon Bovey will be the Managing Director of the DDC from April.

There will be DDC elections on 1st May.

10. LIAISON WITH THE NCC

Mr Osborne reported that the whole of the County Council is being re-organised.

Information received from the NCC included:

- Consultation on Northants Fire and Rescue Service
- NCC Emergency Planning Team Parish Conferences: 11 March and 17 July

11. NCALC and ACRE

The following will be circulated:

- NCALC *Update* Jan – Feb 2008
- Invitation to the launch of Green Space Toolkit 16 April
- *Village Viewpoint* Spring 2008.

The Clerk reported that she has gained the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

12. INFORMATION RECEIVED

Details of Tim Boswell's advice centre dates were taken by Mr Lewis and Mr Lye, who offered to see Mr Boswell for advice on planning aid and consultations, and to discuss the drainage problems in the village.

The following information is available from the Clerk:

- *The Playing Field* Winter 2007-8
- CPRE roadshow invitation: 15 April: Northants Planning and Landscapes
- Department for Communities and Local Government: Consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of local authority members in England.
- Information on celebrating St George's Day
- *Open Space* Spring 2008

13. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 28TH APRIL

It was agreed to invite Lorraine Humphrey to report to this meeting about her Police/Community liaison work.

The Clerk was asked to invite representatives of parish organisations to present brief reports to the meeting.

14. MATTERS TO RAISE ON THE NEXT AGENDA

The Clerk was asked to note the coming Parish Council election in the Newsletter.

The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.