

MINUTE 138

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2009

The following Councillors attended:

Mr Ken Bowers, Mr Jonathan Hanslip, Miss Nora Swinford, Mrs Susan Wingrave and County Councillor Steve Osborne.

Apologies were received from Mr Mike Lewis, Mr Michael Thomas and District Councillor Wendy Amos.

Three parishioners attended.

PUBLIC FORUM

A parishioner requested that the Parish Council should complain to Anglian Water about the water being cut off too often, and there was a discussion concerning surface water at the bottom of the village.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

As the Chairman was on holiday, it was proposed by Miss Swinford and agreed that Mr Bowers should chair this meeting, whereupon he took the chair.

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

No declarations were made.

3. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

4. FINANCE

a) Financial Statement

Current account: £1735.33

Reserve account: £5641.20

b) It was resolved to approve the following expenditure:

Cheque no.				VAT to reclaim
717	Orchard Print Services Ltd	Printing Newsletter	74.10	
718	Mrs A Hiscock	Clerk's salary April – June Advertisement for new Clerk in Daventry Express	325.00 225.31	29.39
719	Mr Roy Haynes	Mower expenses	33.54	2.16
720	Anglian Water	Allotment water charge	42.64	
721	E.ON UK Energy Services Ltd	Street lighting maintenance	48.33	6.30

c) Response from Insurance Company re volunteers and value of mower

Allianz Insurance have informed us that the premium could be reduced by £9.74 if the mower value is reduced to £400. After discussion, it was agreed not to make any alterations. The insurance company confirmed that volunteers for the Parish Council are insured, and that appropriate clothing and tools should be provided. The Clerk was asked to check that Roy Haynes has access to appropriate clothing for grass cutting.

d) Internal Audit Report

The report was accepted and it was agreed to act on the following recommendations:

- Review the risk assessment policy
- Review the Clerk's contract regarding hours
- Review the archiving/destruction policy
- Review need for a health and safety policy with regard to work undertaken by staff and volunteers
- Review insurance regarding the use of volunteers, both councillors and non-councillors
- Review the value of fidelity guarantee for insurance purposes
- Consider adopting a complaints Procedure covering both public and employees
- Review the location of deeds and inclusion on Assets Register
- Confirm or otherwise the authority/policy for maintaining the church clock

5. REPORT ON RESPONSES TO PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

The Clerk reported that the questionnaire had been delivered to every household in the parish, and that there had been only three responses. The matters raised included drainage problems at the bottom of the village, obstructive parking, inadequate broadband speed, too much infilling in a small village without amenities, a desire for more proactive approaches to planning and a strategic vision.

It was agreed that the Clerk should report on this in the Newsletter.

6. VILLAGE GREEN :

• Response re registration

The Clerk reported that the County Council has not in fact rejected the application to register the Green, but is still awaiting a legal opinion. It was agreed that she should write again asking that some clear response should be supplied as we have now been waiting for almost five years, and that this letter should be copied to the Chief Executive.

• Village sign progress

The Clerk reported that she has contacted three blacksmiths and is awaiting their quotes for making the sign.

• Agreement on what is required by tree surgeon before requesting quotes.

It was agreed to ask Mr Chris Spokes of Long Buckby to inspect the trees and quote for any work required.

7. VILLAGE CLOCK

It was reported that the annual service has taken place, and the contactors, Smith of Derby, have sent us a copy of their newsletter. It was agreed to find the records of the original agreement to take on the maintenance of the clock, as recommended at the internal audit.

8. PLANNING

The District Council has granted permission for a single storey extension and alterations to the shed at: Field View, Wadd Close Lane. DA/2009/ 0194 and DA/2009/0312. Councillor Steve Osborne reported that he had attended the Planning Committee and had supported this application, as had the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the Joint Core Strategy for the developments in Daventry and area is expected to be out for consultation in mid July for only six weeks, and that the Parish Council may need an extra meeting to make a response, as the September meeting will probably be too late.

9. POLICY RE ADVERTISING IN NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that the Parish Newsletter will not contain advertisements. However, flyers may be delivered with the Newsletter, if paid for by the advertisers, and at the discretion of the editors.

10. ROADS AND TRANSPORT

- **Request for improved bus service**

There was some discussion about the need for more frequent buses. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask through the Newsletter if villagers consider a need for this, and also find details of a bus which runs from Brington.

- **Case for traffic mitigation through village**

The Clerk reported on her meeting with Nick Gore of MGSWP. The request for a concealed entrance sign at Brington Lane is not considered appropriate, but it would be possible to put in a request for a 20 mph zone through the village. It was agreed to follow this up.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of keeping high hedges along the road to Great Brington. It was agreed to find the details of the original agreement with the Althorp Estate concerning cutting these hedges.

- **Information re proposed Parish Enhancement Gangs.**

After discussion about these proposed gangs, which can give a day's work per year to a parish, it was agreed that Mr Hanslip will draw up a list of priorities to consider at the next meeting. This may include digging out the drainage ditch at the bottom bends.

- **Drainage**

The Clerk was asked to find what had been the results of an investigation of the drains in Brington Lane, as there is constant concern about surface water not draining away there.

- **Volunteer Co-ordinator** : information had also been received on this new NCC post to support Parish Path Wardens, Tree Wardens and Highway Representatives.

11. MAINTENANCE OF PARISH ASSETS

It was agreed that the Clerk should put up a poster advertising for someone to carry out general maintenance for the Parish Council, but without any specification for the work.

The Clerk reported that the District Council claim no responsibility for the seats at the Locks, and consider this to be the Parish Council's responsibility.

12. CONCERNS RE BT BROADBAND IN WHILTON.

There was some discussion about the fact that Whilton still depends on copper cable and is too far from the exchange. It was requested that the Clerk should write to BT explaining that Whilton is experiencing difficulties. The Clerk requested that she should be given facts and figures about this before writing.

13. LIAISON WITH POLICE

Planned Police surgeries with the Community Police Support Officer will be held in the Village Hall as follows:

- Tuesday 18 Aug 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.
- Monday 7 September, 6.30 – 7.30 p.m. before Parish Council.
- Saturday 10 October, 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.

14. VILLAGE COMPETITIONS

No Councillor volunteered to attend the Village of the Year presentation evening. The Clerk will attend if possible.

The Gardeners' Association was unable to find volunteers to organise an entry for East Midlands in Bloom next year. This may be considered again, when details are sent next year.

15. LIAISON WITH DDC

District Councillor Wendy Amos was unable to attend, but had wished to emphasize the need for a response to the consultation on the growth of the Daventry area.

The following information had been received and will be circulated or is available from the Clerk:

- Agenda Parish and Town Councils' Meeting 17 June.
- Information pack re Licensing Act 2003 : Community Premises
- Information re smoking related litter campaign in July.
- Information re *Money4Youth* scheme.
- Minutes of June Daventry Play Forum
- Briefing paper re large scale wind farms and wind turbines.
- DDC Hate Incident Policy
- DDC Health Walk Newsletter. Summer 2009

16. LIAISON WITH NCC

County Councillor Steve Osborne gave his report. White lining of the top road towards Nobottle is likely to be carried out soon.

An invitation to a Parish Emergency Planning Seminar in Daventry on 7 July 2009 had been received.

17. NORTHANTS CALC AND ACRE

The following had been received and will be circulated:

- N CALC Update May – June 2009
- Notification of Northants CALC AGM: 14 October 2009
- Information re NALC Annual Conference 4,5 September 2009
- Information re new bursary scheme for training for Parish Clerks.
- Village Viewpoint Summer 2009

18. INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following had been received and will be circulated:

- Information from Society of Local Council Clerks
- East Midlands Regional assembly : regional plan partial review: option consultation launch
- Information re applying for a grant for a small project from the Community Environmental Improvement Budget (Daventry and District Housing.)
- Rural Services Network Newsletter June 2009
- *Clerks and Councils Direct* July 2009

The following are available from the Clerk:

- Open Spaces Society Annual report and “Open Spaces” Summer 2009
- Glasdon product catalogue of street furniture

19. PROGRESS WITH APPOINTING A NEW CLERK

The Clerk reported that since advertising in the Daventry Express there have been several inquiries for further information. It is hoped that interviews will take place in late July or early August after the return of the Chairman

20. MATTERS TO RAISE ON THE NEXT AGENDA

The Clerk reported that she had postponed the invitation to Nick Wybrow to talk about a proposed new footpath to the Locks, as she was aware that there was not likely to be a full July meeting. An invitation will be issued to the September meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.