

MINUTE 140**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2009.****The following Councillors attended:**

Mr Mike Lewis (chairman), Mr Michael Thomas, Mr Ken Bowers, Mrs Susan Wingrave and County Councillor Mr Steve Osborne.

Police Community Support Officer Lorraine Humfress; Nick Wedgbrow and Jim Cosford, Rights of Way Officers, NCC; and 2 parishioners attended.

Apologies were received from Mr Jonathan Hanslip, Miss Nora Swinford and District Councillor Wendy Amos.

PUBLIC FORUM

A parishioner was concerned about the water at the bottom of the village and this was discussed.

1. WELCOME AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

Alison Nicoll was appointed as the new Clerk and welcomed to her first meeting.

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

No declarations were made.

3. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6TH JULY AND 3RD AUGUST 2009

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings of 6th July and 3rd August 2009.

4. LIAISE WITH POLICE

Lorraine Humfress reported that there had been burglaries in villages near Whilton but none in Whilton itself. Crime figures for Whilton between April and July 2009 were down on the same period in 2008. A suspicious vehicle had been seen in the village and the police investigated. The next public meeting for all villages in the 'Crick' Beat is Wednesday 28th October at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Station Road, Long Buckby. The police would encourage someone from Whilton to attend and possible join the panel. Ros Gardner, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is going to be contacted.

5. PROPOSAL FOR NEW FOORPATH: WHILTON VILLAGE TO WHILTON LOCKS

Nick Wedgbrow and Jim Cosford, Rights of Way Officers, NCC reported that the process to create a footpath would involve getting the consent of the landowner and then agreement of the Parish Council and other user groups i.e. Ramblers Association. There are 2 options, firstly a Creation Agreement or secondly a Creation Order, the second is not recommended. They suggested that the landowners are contacted on a local level in order to get them on board. Discussion took place as to where the footpath could be situated and whether the grass verges were wide enough. It was suggested that Nick Gore was approached first.

A working party is to be set up to take this matter further with Nick Gore and Ian Smith. One of the parishioners (Maurice Clements who is the footpath representative) is to be on the working party and Jonathan Hanslip is to be asked.

6. CONSIDERATION OF CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

There has been no request for an election and there has been no interest from the advert on the notice board. It was noted that the council should be taking action to get a full house as Daventry District Council can step in and put someone in. It was suggested that enquiries were made on a personal level to see if anyone was interested in joining. The vacancy is to be put on the noticeboard again and also in the village newsletter.

7. FINANCE

a) Financial statement

Current account:	£865.57
Reserve account:	£5641.20

b) It was resolved to confirm and approve income and expenditure

Income:

Expenditure:

Cheque Number				VAT to reclaim
723	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	Audit Fees	138.00	18.00
724	Mrs A Hiscock	Salary July-August 2009	216.60	
		Expenses	<u>107.13</u>	
		Total	323.73	
725	Orchard Print Services Ltd	Newsletter printing	54.60	
726	Whilton Village Hall	Rent	174.00	

c) Recommendations of Internal Audit

- Review of insurance for volunteers
- Resolution of increase fidelity insurance to £10,000 at an extra cost of £5.04 per year
- Formation of a working party for following up other recommendations of Internal Audit:
 - Formation of Risk Assessment Policy
 - Confirmation of policy for maintaining the church clock
 - Creation of a Health and Safety Policy
 - Adoption of a Complaints Procedure
 - Review of archiving and adoption of Archive Policy

Discussion took place and it was decided that Mike Lewis and Michael Thomas would set up a working party to look and take action at the above recommendations.

d) Acceptance and approval of External Audit 2008/09

These were accepted and approved.

e) Consideration of Clerk's Salary

The Clerk's salary was reviewed and it was agreed to raise this to £1600 per annum. The Clerk was requested to keep a record of her hours spend during the 'handover' and actually carrying out the duties of the Clerk. The salary will be reviewed again after the probationary period.

8. VILLAGE GREEN

- Response re registration - None has been received to date.
- Consideration of village sign quotes - One written quotation has been received so far.
- Report on trees by Chris Spokes - No work on the trees is needed this year.
- BT invitation to Parish Council to adopt red telephone box on the Green, as BT intends to remove telephony, with only 9 calls recorded in 12 months.
Discussion took place and it was agreed that the Parish Council does not wish to adopt the box.

9. PLANNING

- Planning application: DA/2009/0625: Roughmoor Grounds, Brington Lane: replace dwelling (amended).
- Planning application DA/2009/1515: Home Farm Grounds: amended plan showing position of tree on site for information.
- West Northants Joint Planning Unit: emergent Joint Core Strategy consultation for response by 30 September 2009. (Extension from 11 September) and corrected questionnaire.

10. ROAD AND TRANSPORT

- Whilton priorities for Parish Enhancement Gangs – no response as yet from the Highways Rep.
- Date for Autumn Parish Walk – Saturday 17th October 2009 at 10.00am, meeting at the signpost in Whilton.
- Request for volunteer to attend Highway Reps Annual Day Conference: 6 Dec 2009. It was reported that this should read 9 December – information to Highways Rep.

11. MAINTENANCE OF PARISH ASSETS

Response to advertisement – So far there has been no response, another advert to be put in the newsletter.

Consideration of replacement of mower and/or new team for mowing for next year, and provision for regular checking of machinery – a note will be put in the newsletter re team. If a new mower is purchased the insurance will need to be reviewed.

12. LIAISON WITH DDC

District Councillor Wendy Amos was unable to attend.

Information received:

Energy Saving Trust information

13. LIAISON WITH NCC

County Councillor Steve Osborne gave his report.

It was reported that some of the potholes have been filled in. Steve Osborne and Ian Smith, Area Manager, MGWSP should be invited on a Parish Walk. The concrete benching near the Green is breaking up, it was enquired whether the Highways Authority own it.

Information received:

NCC Council Agenda for 30 July.

14. NORTHANTS CALC AND ACRE

NCALC *update* July-August 2009

Village of the year: Judges Report for Whilton – Whilton was awarded 73%.

Information re Business Link (posted on board)

15. INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following information has been received and will be circulated:

- Fenland Leisure Products Catalogue
- Daventry and District over 50s Forum: event 16 September (posted on board)
- Local Government Law Conference: 15 October
- Society of Local Council Clerks: details of membership and publications
- Regular information by e-mail for Rural Services Network

15. MATTERS TO RAISE ON NEXT AGENDA

- Traffic – Michael Thomas to carry out a survey of lorries passing through the village. It was thought that the satnav systems direct traffic through Whilton, James Butlin, Northamptonshire Highways to be contacted.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 2 November 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.