

Minute 218

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November 2017 - 7:30pm

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Attendance: Parish Councillors – A Gilbert, J Hanslip, K Hiscock, A Lee, J Melling, R Smith (Chairman), M Thomas, Clerk – Sue Porter, Johnnie Amos (DDC) and 1 member of the public

1.1 APOLOGIES – S Osborne (NCC)

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Personal or Prejudicial - Nil

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2017

were approved as a correct record by R Smith, seconded by J Melling and all voted in favour. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Paint Means Poo Campaign 2017 – Buckby Lane is being sprayed regularly, and posters are in place. There is a persistent offender who needs to be reported to the DDC for action, once photos and details can be obtained.

3.2 Broadband Speeds in the Village – The download speed and address details provided to R Smith by the villagers have been submitted to BT. The Gigaclear website states that the superfast broadband will be installed in the village in 2018.

3.3 Community Defibrillators – Training has taken place and was attended by 19 parishioners. This was very well received and a positive response given. There is a 500m radius for the defibrillators, which means that Whilton Lodge is on the boundary. The maintenance of the defibrillators will be undertaken by R Smith and J Melling. Another training session will be arranged for Spring 2018.

3.4 NCC Flood Resilience Project – R Smith will contact the project leaders and ask for more information about the details which were provided on the risk assessment map.

4. PUBLIC TIME – M Clements asked that the users of the Village Hall leave the security light on when leaving the building.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

J Amos (DDC) – Much praise was given for the organising of the Capt. Reynolds celebrations. Contact has been made with James Ring (DDC) with regards to the transfer of the allotments, and this is currently with the solicitors.

NCC budget cuts are underway, with more information coming forward over the next few weeks. Chris Heaton Harris (MP) is keen to keep the libraries open.

DDC have released the Christmas/New Year waste collections and their office opening hours. The dog control orders are being enforced, with a successful prosecution recently. The DDC lottery is going ahead in 2018, with a top prize of £25,000, plus lower cash sums available to win. The proceeds of the Lottery will enable grant funding throughout the District. Norse will be taking over the waste/recycling contract from 4th June 2018, with an improved HQ in Daventry and new vehicles. The garden waste bin will be expected to cost around £35 per annum per household. This new contract will mean savings to DDC of around £2million.

The Brockhall Road will remain closed for another 6/7 months.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Adopt Asset Register 2017 – Capt. Reynolds memorial stone needs to be added to the Register, with a £1 purchase cost and insurance value for £2,500. This will be adopted at the meeting in January 2018.

6.2 Allotments – Transfer of Ownership from DDC – This is ongoing between Randal Smith/Solicitors/DDC's Simon Bowers/Chris Millar/James Ring. The latest update is that the DDC legal team have provided correspondence for review by the PC's solicitor, who has now changed to Peter Rollason; due to a change of staffing and are awaiting a response. A statutory declaration will need a sworn affidavit by the PC/Allotment Association with regards to gaining the access rights to the Allotments, and protect any future challenge. These rights have been gained over the last 10 years; however it will be a further 12 years until this is recognised by the Land Registry. R Smith will be contacting the Future Housing Group.

6.3 Allotments – Rent Review for 2018 – The PC agreed that the allotment rents will remain the same for 2018. Once the allotment transfer has taken place, the rents can then be reviewed; the PC members, who are also allotment holders, would need to declare an interest before the discussions.

6.4 Capt. Reynolds Celebrations – Many thanks were given to Anthea and the History Society for a great event. Over 65 people from the village were involved in the organising, and there was a fantastic community spirit. The first copies of the book have sold out, however more can be ordered.

6.5 NCALC – To appoint a Police Liaison Representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police – M Thomas proposed K Hiscock as the Rep, seconded by R Smith and all voted in favour.

6.6 Highways – Grass Verges & Ditches – The problems have been reported to Highways and they advise these issues are common place within a rural community. The PC has been told that the blocked drains are inspected and cleared on a 6 monthly cycle.

6.7 Budding Communities – Spring Bulbs – These will be planted in an appropriate location by a group of volunteers.

6.8 Whilton Gardener's Association – Crocus Bulbs – These will be planted in an appropriate location by a group of volunteers.

6.9 The Spinney – A regular risk assessment is being undertaken, and this was confirmed by J Hanslip (PC Rep). A copy of December's report will be brought to the next PC Meeting. It will be asked that the Committee minutes are copied in to the PC Chairman.

6.10 Community Speedwatch – The Community Speedwatch has taken place a couple of times this year and has proved very effective, and has resulted in reducing speeds in the village, therefore improving safety. There was only one complaint received. The PC confirmed that they would like to see the process repeated again in 2018.

The campaign "Twenty is Plenty" will continue with support from the PC to erect 10 very large signs for a two month period to enforce the issue. Bin stickers will be made available from June 2018.

6.11 Parish E-Mail Distribution List – The group leaders within the village will be asked to contact their members, and ask them to sign up to the parish distribution list. R Smith will also include a reminder to sign up in the next newsletter article.

6.12 Village Litter Pick – The Clerk will ask that DDC undertake a litter pick along the main road from the village to Whilton Locks. R Smith will arrange a village litter pick for Saturday 13th January 2018, meet at the Green at 10am.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation from September & October 2017 – It was proposed by M Thomas, seconded by R Smith that the following accounts are approved, and all voted in favour.

