

Minute 223

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th July 2018 - 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – A Gilbert, J Hanslip, K Hiscock, J Melling, R Smith (Chairman), Clerk – S Porter, District Councillor J Amos and 4 members of the public

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 APOLOGIES – A Lee, M Thomas

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Personal or Prejudicial - Nil

2. MINUTES of the MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 9th MAY 2018 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting, proposed by K Hiscock, seconded by A Gilbert and the **MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD THURSDAY 14th JUNE 2018** were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting, proposed by J Melling, seconded by A Gilbert. These will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Whilton Locks - Railway Bridge Height Signs – E-mail confirmation has been received from Ian Boyes (NCC Highways) that the bridge height on the A5 reading 4.0m is incorrect and the sign on the bridge is 3.9m, is correct. Highways England will be contacted by NCC to make them aware and ask that the signage is corrected..

3.2 Litter Picking – Sample Risk Assessment – A sample has been provided by DDC, which R Smith will amend to suit the requirements of Whilton PC.

4. PUBLIC TIME – J Hanslip has received a call from a Brington resident with concerns about the Grange Farm planning application in Brington and feels that Whilton should also have been consulted. The land has previously been let out for light commercial use; however the planning application is for change of use; it seems that errors have been made on the application. Brington PC have objected to the application, the deadline for comments has now passed. The Clerk will contact Grant Perks at DDC Planning to ask that Whilton be part of any further consultations and be notified of any decisions.

M Clements stated that the Brington Lane highway condition is very poor, by the 30mph sign, following the flooding in May.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

DDC (J Amos) – The main discussions at DDC are the unitary councils formation. A shadow cabinet is expected to be in place by March 2019. Any elections planned for 2019, look like being deferred until 2020, to save costs to District, County and Parishes.

Grants are available for any organisations planning a WW1 commemoration for the 100 year anniversary.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Internal Audit Report 2017-18 - The report was received by the Parish Council and the advisory comments have been actioned by the Clerk. To comply with the Transparency Code, the Internal Audit report has been added to the website along with the parish councillor's areas of responsibilities.

6.2 DDC - Community Governance Review - No comments to make.

6.3 Consult Northants: Future of County, District and Borough Councils – K Hiscock attended a workshop on the proposed unitary councils. The main concern is the formation of West Northants, comprising of DDC, South Northants and Northampton Borough. This is a mix of urban and rural, with urban being the dominant. Central Government will only accept unitary councils with a population of 300,000. This will mean massive changes with the financial responsibilities involved; there will be an increase on the council tax for the Daventry District, fewer councillors covering a much larger area and the inheritance of NCC's debt. Small rural communities will suffer due to urban domination under unitary. R Smith completed the questionnaire with consultation from the PC, during the meeting on behalf of Whilton Parish Council.

6.4 DDC – Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation – Enhanced Dog Control Powers – The Parish Council is in support of some of the proposals but are against the defined lead length and type, restriction on number of dogs to be walked, introduction of DNA testing and delegation of enforcement powers to parish councils.

6.5 Grass Cutting – A5 Norton/Whilton crossroads – The grass verges have been cut recently but there is an ongoing battle with Highways England with the amount of cuts required per year during the growing season at the crossroads. Due to the classification of the road, cuts are only required twice a year. Norton PC have approached the Police and the MP for re-classification of this road due to the highway danger at these crossroads. Whilton PC will support Norton PC with this proposal.

6.6 The Spinney Management Group – The Group are actively looking for a Chairman and Secretary. Notices will be posted on the noticeboard, website and via the circulation list. Concerns were expressed regarding the ongoing maintenance required in The Spinney. There is a lack of volunteers and there needs to be an organised working party formed. The pond is a potential danger and the trees need to be assessed. K Hiscock will identify the work required and the risk level. This will be discussed further in September.

6.7 Highways Condition – Great Brington to Whilton and Duston to Norton – NCC Highways will be notified about the conditions of both of these roads.

6.8 Winter Maintenance 2018/19 – No impact to the Whilton parish.

6.9 Bus service from Norton to Northampton – NCC have advised that there have been no offers to take on the Service 63 or 64, therefore both services will end on 21st July 2018. The DACT service is available to parishioners who need travel for medical appointments, at a cost. The Chairman will apply for grant funding from DDC for a Travel Club (DACT) for the villages of Whilton, Brington and Norton. This will enable a weekly return visit to Northampton. It is estimated this would cost around £80.00 per week. The Clerk will ask for support from Norton and Brington PC's, J Amos (DDC) and S Osborne (NCC). E-mails of support for the scheme are recommended from the parish councillors.

6.10 Allotments update – The allotments have now been transferred into the name of Whilton Parish Council and recorded in the Land Registry.

6.11 Community Speedwatch update – Defer until September.

