

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th February 2015, in the Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

Mr W Farr (Chairman)
Mrs L Arnold Mr R Comber
Mr T Edmunds Mr D Hatton
Mrs P Lake Mrs C Moss

In attendance

Mr Philip Tatham (webmaster) & Mr Colin Miles (web expert)
CSO Steve Houghton
1 local resident
Mrs Jen Lacey Parish Clerk

Mr Farr welcomed those present at 7.20pm.

01415: Report on the new website from Mr Philip Tatham

Mr Tatham introduced Colin Miles, who lived nearby, as also interested in the site's development and had expert knowledge of website construction and operation. He had already assisted and would be available to undertake site management and answer queries when Mr Tatham was away from home or busy. He then presented a 7 point report which is retained in full as an addendum to these minutes and submitted invoices to cover costs claimed for checking ahead of payment. The items discussed were:

- a) the web administration address of info@whissendine.net. It was agreed that the clerk would also view mail submitted through this, as well as her email address being given for Parish Council business.
- b) the set up costs total was £119.74, and the estimate supplied for annual running cost was £56.09. Councillors were very appreciated as this was a fraction of the previous company management cost.
- c) presented the planned timeline from the site going live to showcase at the APM on 18 March
- d) costed the flyer that Mr Tatham & Mr Miles with PC permission planned to insert into the March Grapevine. This was approved.
- e) poster designs would be presented to the village shop owner for approval.
- f) the suggestion was made that a Twitter account should be launched to stimulate some community interaction. This was agreed.
- g) Either Philip or Colin would assist the clerk so that she could use the website to comply with the new law on transparency in publication for smaller parish councils. This would involve uploading documents and enabling announcements from the PC directly and from RCC.

Councillors thanked the two web enthusiasts whose commitment had produced such an excellent result which would be extremely useful to the village. Mr Tatham and Mr Miles then left the meeting.

01515: Report from CSO Steve Houghton

CSO Houghton explained that he had attended the meeting as it was the first day of the new regime after a massive reorganisation of the Leicestershire Police service. For communities this would mean that CSOs would be far more visible. The force had divided into groups, each with its own responsibilities and support, to replace everyone covering many different roles. CSOs would be responsible to deal with problems within their area and to liaise with the community to provide support. CSO Houghton intended to be present at every PC meeting in future, and to attend the APM, which would provide him with an opportunity to explain the changes to Whissendine residents and answer their questions.

It was noted that over the past 90 days Whissendine had no reports of any incident, though the winter was generally a quiet period. Antisocial behaviour no longer seemed to be an issue.

There would be a liaison with the new webmasters to make a link through to the area police site and Twitter account so that each could support and give publicity to the other. PC Houghton left at 8.00pm.

01615: Public question time There were no questions.

01715: Apologies for absence Mrs Mould had sent apologies which were accepted.
Ward Councillor Asplin had sent apologies as he was unable to attend

01815: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 January 2015

These were approved on the proposal of Mrs Lake without correction or amendment.

01915: Declarations of Interest: None

02015: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 00515a) Installation of cycle racks

The Clerk had requested a start date, but received no information. However, Mrs Moss had observed that groundwork had been done, so that it seemed probable the rack would be installed by the spring.

b) 00515e) Loodal Farm report

Mr Howat had supplied the clerk with a report which had been published in the Grapevine. No problems had been found, and it was reported that there were no hens currently in the large shed which was being cleaned.

c) Speed Indicator Display sign for Ashwell Road, and cycle route to Oakham.

Requested information had been sent to RCC on both of these matters which had been acknowledged, but no new information had been supplied.

02015 Reports from Councillors

a) Village Hall:

Mrs Moss reported the installation of the curtains to cover the notice boards (£840) and some of the ongoing maintenance that was being carried out on heating system problems and fire door catches. It was noted that the committee also had queries with its insurance provider and could need to find another for the cover required. The next major project would be renovation of the basement, and once this had been costed a grant application would be made to the PC.

This week Feast Week activities would take place at the end of June/beginning of July, rather than the first week of July.

b) Parish Council Forum

Mrs Lake had attended to represent the PC, and prepared detailed notes for circulation. She commented on the possibility that the hospital would operate a drop-in surgery in two hours each evening and at weekends and Bank Holidays. It was also noted that 70% of hospital beds were blocked as there was no community care to assist the occupants to return home, and improved care had a budget priority. In response to public demand the fire service would receive direct support to avoid it being reduced in Rutland.

c) Whissendine Environmental Group (WEG)

Mr Comber had attended and reported the major clearance had been completed. It was now a matter of preparing the ground to make it ready for planting, and more volunteers had been sought via a Grapevine update. The site looked considerably improved. In reply to a query it was confirmed that the adjoining fences were the responsibility of those who lived in the properties. The Group was also organising an introduction to hedge laying.

d) The Ward Councillor

Severn Trent had failed to attend the meeting arranged for 9 January (00615b). Mr Asplin would be scheduling another meeting as soon as possible.

02115 Planning matters

a)2015/0086/OUT: Outline planning for the erection of 5 detached dwellings and associated works, means of access and emergency pedestrian access

This was an application for outline permission to build five new homes in the centre of the village on land belonging to Whissendine Cottage. The Parish Council had received a presentation on this from the planning consultants in June 2014 (min.7214). Detailed reports had now been prepared, but Councillors considered that their main concerns had not been sufficiently addressed. There was a flooding survey, but this focused on the site itself rather than the possible risk to neighbouring properties caused by additional water from run-off going into the brook just downstream of the bridge, which was considered the most sensitive point.

A model indicating water flow and depth had been prepared, but on presumed rather than actual data. It was known that at times the flow was fiercer and the level deeper, because on occasions it was impassable on foot and by car. At such times residents in the new homes would not be able to access their properties directly.

There was concern that Anglia rather than Severn Trent had been consulted as ST was responsible for water supply, drainage and sewage treatment in Whissendine. Even if Anglia had some responsibility for the brook (and there was no local knowledge that this was the case) ST needed to be a consultee, as it had a sewage treatment plant downstream, and had installed pipework around the Village Green in 2004.

The Clerk was asked to pass all of this information to the Planning Dept at RCC.

There was also concern that although the visibility splays were deemed satisfactory in the highways report, sufficient emphasis was not given to the the nearby 'blind' of the bridge. An RCC Highways investigation into traffic priority at that point in 2010 had determined that this was impractical as a driver in either direction could not see around the bend and rise of bridge and the new access point was extremely close to this area, known locally for near misses and occasional minor accidents.

For these reasons the Parish Council would not support the the application.

b) Tree Protection Order: placed on a horse chestnut to the front of 1 Melton Road.

c) Planning updates

- The application to erect a double garage at Millbank, 14 Melton Road had been withdrawn.

02215: The Banks

a) Map design and picture for the signs

Mrs Raymond had agreed to provide a pen and ink drawing to illustrate the sheep wash. The Clerk recommended application for free membership under the Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA), as suggested by Barry Howorth of RCC, before asking Mr Crook to prepare the map of the public footpaths. This was agreed.

b) Mowing for the 2015 season.

A telephone conversation with a representative of Cory had confirmed that the work would be covered for the same cost as the previous year. Written confirmation was awaited.

c) Routine maintenance

Mr Baker had been requested to spray beneath the swings, and he had replied to suggest the recommended treatment and explain that the weather needed to be dry for a period, as well as the weed growing, so it would be a little later in the year. It was considered that any time other than school holidays and weekends would be acceptable. Once it had been treated Cory would be asked to re-bark this area again.

Mrs Moss reported there was no other maintenance required.

02315: Highways & village maintenance

a) Litter bin installation

It was noted that there was an objection to the litter bin sited in Harborough Close as a resident did not like to see it from his home. After discussion the Council concluded that the benefit outweighed his objection. It had been requested by dog walkers and was being used a little. It would be monitored to see how useful it was during the year ahead. The resident to be informed.

b) maintenance matters

The gullies near the speed table outside the school remained blocked with mud, as were two in Cow Lane. It was agreed Mr Tomlinson should be informed.

Street lights outside 1 Harborough Close, 41 Foxhill needed attention (RCC).

02415: Website update

There were no further requirements or queries, but Councillors wished it to be on record that thanks to the hard work of the volunteers the village had a wonderful website that was interesting and functional.

02515: Preliminary planning for the Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the school had only just confirmed the date so that no invitations had been issued as yet. It was considered that the new website, the update on police services and PC annual report would provide the main topics. Other village organisation would be asked to contribute and there would be an opportunity for questions and refreshments which should be sufficient for the event.

02615: Financial business

a) Financial report for January

No money had been drawn from the deposit account, and the current account stood at £3409.60. The precept application had been made. The way leave (£20.30) had been received from Western Power for the transformer on The Banks. Since the last meeting the Clerk had made three additional payments for regular or previously agreed accounts.

9.1.2015

• RCC (Clerk's salary & admin)	£ 781.36
• T Edmunds (bus shelter repainting)	£ 420.00
• Eon (electrical supply)	£ 392.48

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£ 283.00
• Village hall	£ 65.00
• Caretaker	£ 42.46
• Eon services	£ 28.16

c) Long Clawson Land Charity payment

The vouchers for the Long Clawson Land Charity totalled £1440 (£80 x 18). All recipients had purchased goods for the full amount at the Village Stores. It was agreed a transfer would be made to the PC current account from the charity account in order for payment to be made.

02715: Correspondence

a) information from RCC on the elections to be held on May 7th

The Clerk had circulated this electronically and reminded Councillors of their responsibility to stand for election if they wished to do this. Each person did this as an individual candidate rather than as a previous Councillor.

b) invitation to Peterborough Cathedral on 30 March

This was to celebrate Magna Carta, but no Councillor knew their availability. The information would be circulated;

c) Cicle Race: The information received to be forwarded to the Grapevine.

d) WEG minutes: Circulated electronically.

The meeting finished at 9.35pm

02 March	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
18 March	Annual Parish Meeting	Whissendine School	8.00pm
30 March	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm