

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 6th January 2013, in the
Village Hall, Whissendine

Present:

Mr W Farr (Chairman)	
Mrs L Arnold	Mr R Comber
Mr D Hatton	Mrs P Lake
Mrs A Mould	Mr B Rickaby

In attendance: Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.23pm.

0114: Public Time No members of the public were present

0214: Apologies for absence The Ward Councillor

0314: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest: None

0414: To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2nd December, 2013

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

0514: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 14113a): provision of a Christmas Tree

It was agreed that Mr Prentice should receive a letter of thanks for erecting the tree on the Village Green once again in his own time. It had proved difficult because of weather conditions at the time and it had had to withstand severe storms over the month.

b) 14013a): Housing Needs Survey

Mr Mugglestone had emailed the Clerk to apologise for further delay. He was now planning to have an article ready for the February Grapevine so the surveys could be distributed.

c) 10213c: cycle track

There had been a press announcement of road closure in the Parish of Langham for construction of a cycle path along Whissendine Road from the bridle path to the A606. Councillors were pleased the project was going ahead, but concerned that hard core placed along Loodal ridge track at this time of year would be adversely affected by the weather and heavy farm machinery and not last long.

d) 13213b): flooding

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Howat was willing to visit the village when it was flooded if he was available to do this. A request would have to be made at the time.

e) 14413b): litter bins

The Clerk had not contacted RCC in the pre-Christmas period as it was anticipated the job would not be a priority until after the problems caused by winter weather. Mrs Lake observed that during the month since the last meeting there had been no further reports of wrapped dog waste near the Harborough Close stile and she had seen nothing inappropriate in the area. The small litter bin in Stapleford Road was correctly positioned near the bridle path entrance, and although it became full when use was frequent it was easily emptied.

It was resolved that a request for a new bins should wait until spring/early summer while the situation was monitored, and an assessment of requirement could be made when more use was being made of the paths and fields.

f) 12813f): retirement of the Grapevine Editor

Mr Lake had announced his retirement, as planned. It was reported that no volunteer offering to replace him had come forward as yet.

g) 14613f): Long Clawson Land Charity

A message of thanks to the Parish Council from a recipient had been placed in the Grapevine, which had also commented favourably on the village shop. A thank you note to the PC had been sent to the Clerk. In total there were 17 donations made of £70 each, and the total was covered by the land rent. The Clerk would collect the vouchers from the shop at the end of January.

0614: Reports from Councillors

Mr Comber had been unable to be present at the last WEG Meeting, but was able to report that the footpath project was definitely going ahead.

The only other meeting held during December was for the Budget Working Party who would present the draft budget later in the meeting.

0714: Ward Councillor's Report

Mr Montgomery had given notice that he was unable to attend as there would be at an RCC Council meeting taking place on the same evening. He had no updates to send.

08143: Planning Matters

a) Installation of solar panels on the roof of a detached garage to a listed building at 93 Main Street 2013/1091/LBA

It was observed that these did not impact on the structure of the main building in any way, nor would they be visible from the street. Residents of properties to the rear would be able to see the panels, but not with any detrimental effect.

b) Planning updates:

Full planning permission was given for:

- the construction of a porch/store at the front of 30 Hall Close.

c) Survey of village businesses and services

This had been circulated to Councillors since the December meeting and was given a brief review to ensure it was complete. The Clerk would return it to RCC before the end of January.

0914: The Banks

a) Grass cutting contract for 2014.

It was agreed that as the Council was extremely satisfied with the work carried out by Cory the company should be asked to tender again and authority was delegated to the Clerk to renew the contract if there was no more than a 5% increase. It was noted that in addition to Cory being local, unlike others who offered to tender, they also performed a litter clearing service on a regular and emergency basis, for no additional charge.

It was also agreed that Cory should be asked for a price to renew and service the bark beneath the swings. This was necessary annually and had previously been carried out to a satisfactory standard. It was noted that if bark was available from the WEG footpath project it might well be usefully used for this purpose or elsewhere on The Banks.

b) Maintenance and repairs

It was noted that it was now difficult to access The Banks as the lower area was partly submerged and everywhere was muddy after an extremely wet winter period. Checks for maintenance would be made ahead of the half term holiday. The area would probably be little used in the coming weeks.

c) Cycle rack provision

RCC had notified the Council that money would be available for a suitable cycle rack for the area and preferences were sought. It was agreed there would be consultation on type, location and installation only after the planning outcome.

d) RCC Development Control and Licensing Committee

The Council's solicitor had met with the Planning Officer in mid December and requested information had been supplied. It was expected that the matter would come before the Committee in February.

1014: Highways Matters

a) Cow Lane

An email had been received from a resident outlining a near-miss incident between a van and pedestrians. It was agreed that the response should point out that RCC Highways should be informed of these types of occurrence as the direct evidence of those involved and any witnesses carried more weight than a report from the Parish Council.

Also, it should be noted that none of the suggestions put to Highways had received a positive response and the difficulty was that the lane was a thoroughfare giving access to properties and this use could not be restricted. Some extension to the footway was possible, if funded by the Parish, but probably not immediately on the bend which was the most hazardous point.

It was agreed that signage indicating pedestrians on the road should be requested from RCC.

b) Maintenance

It was observed the street light was on Foxhill (lamp 3) had not been repaired, probably because the fault appeared to be intermittent. The Clerk would pass that information to RCC.

It was noted that work had been carried out recently in the village streets to fill potholes. However, it was thought that one on Ashwell Road, outside the village near the Loodal Lane bend, had been missed. This would be checked and the Clerk notified to report it through to RCC if a repair needed to be made.

1114: Website

It was noted that this needed updating in several areas. The webmaster had been away, but refreshing the site also depended on representatives of organisations sending new information and asking for what was out of date to be removed.

The Clerk would send documents to bring the PC records up to date, and place a notice in the Grapevine to remind others to do the same.

1214: Financial business

a) Financial Report

The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation for December 2013, with £17550.70 on deposit and £7592.28 in the current account. All payments had been cleared, but there would be higher than average expenditure in the first quarter of 2014 (speed sign, street lighting bills and two salary repayments to RCC expected).

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• E.ON electrical supply	£ 393.70
• E.ON street light repairs	£ 296.33
• Impressions	£ 256.00
• RCC (repayment for provision and installation of SID)	£ 4490.00
• Village Hall (room hire)	£ 165.00
• Caretaker	£ 42.25

There was £260.81 to pay in as reimbursement from WEG, and the Long Clawson Land Charity had received a contribution of £140 from the Hurst Jackson Trust.

c) 2014-15 budget: to agree a budget and set the precept for the forthcoming financial year

The budget as proposed by the working party was considered and one amendment was proposed: that £4000 should be transferred from property expenditure to community action. This was approved unanimously and the 2014-15 budget was then agreed. The precept for the financial year would remain at £20,000 making no change from the previous year.

The precept application to be submitted to RCC.

1314: Planning for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was decided that this would be in the school in mid March as in previous years. 19th March was the preferred date, with 12th as an alternative. It was suggested that Councillor Pocock of RCC (responsibility for Highways policy) should be invited as many issues raised at the APM were concerned with highways matters. In addition PC Appleton and the representatives of village organisations were to be invited, as usual, and the Chairman asked Councillors to give further thought to the programme for the evening so that it be confirmed in February and published in the March magazine.

1414: Correspondence

a)E.on For the purpose of statutory rights re billing, and arbitration via the ombudsman service, the Parish Council was designated as a small business user.

b)WEG The minutes of the December had been received. It was noted the group could have temporary funding difficulties because of the timing for the WREN grant allocation. The chapel footpath project would begin in the spring.

The meeting finished at 8.52pm

Future meetings:

3rd February	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
19th March	Annual Parish Meeting	Whissendine School	7.30pm (provisional)