

## **WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 6th October 2014, 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:**

Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk)  
Mr R Mugglestone (Midlands Rural Housing)  
3 residents

Mr Farr welcomed those present shortly after 7.15pm.

### **9514: Presentation of the outcome of the Whissendine Housing Survey**

The survey had been conducted in April with a copy being sent to the 560 homes within the parish boundaries. 27% of these had been returned which was considered an average response.

It was noted that most property within Whissendine was privately owned, and unaffordable for the average first time buyer, with the lowest priced sold requiring a minimum deposit of £58,000. The village population was stable with a high proportion living there for more than 15 years. A few were known to have moved away solely because of property prices. (19 with possible overlap).

However, there was a low request for affordable homes. From both the survey and consideration of RCC's housing register it could be determined that only 3 were needed at this time for people with Whissendine connections, which would be insufficient to generate a project development.

This outcome would remain valid for 5 years (2019) and could be used to inform, and in response to local planning consultation. If further housing need should be identified through local sources a future initiative would have to be planned with RCC directly, as it was no longer working in conjunction with Midlands Rural Housing.

66% of those who responded were sympathetic to the idea of affordable housing being built within the village for those who had a Whissendine connection. The survey also identified that residents were very positive about the village and its amenities, finding a good place to live.

In response to a resident's question it was confirmed that the Parish Council had no plans to initiate action for housing development. It was known from previous experience that land was not readily available. It was currently for information only.

Mr Mugglestone was thanked for his presentation, and left the meeting at 7.35pm.

### **9614: Village Website**

Mr Tatham had noted that a volunteer was required to support the website, and commented that it was need of some redevelopment, which was acknowledged. He had found that as a newcomer to the village it did not supply sufficient information about Whissendine and its services. He believed the content management system was rather outdated and should be transferred to a new platform that was more readily accessible, so that once put together a small team could be responsible for its upkeep.

Councillors requested that he set out his proposal, with costs, and send it to the Clerk for circulation. If it identified what was needed from the current site a request for permission to use the material would be made to Ms Reynolds, and she would also be informed of the construction of a new site to replace the existing one.

### **9714: Public Time**

The residents present left the meeting at 7.45pm, with no questions raised on other matters.

#### **9814: Apologies for absence**

Mrs Mould had sent apologies which were accepted.

#### **9914: Resignation of Mr D Clements**

The resignation of Mr Clements was put to the meeting and accepted. It was understood that from the beginning of November co-option could be made without the need to advertise the vacancy as only 6 months remained of the current Parish Council term. The Clerk was requested to confirm procedures and requirements with RCC Democratic Services before any decision was taken.

#### **10014: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest:**                      None.

#### **10114: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of 1 September 2014 :**

These were approved on the proposal of Mr Hatton without correction or amendment.

#### **10214: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items**

##### **a) 8814b) Loodal Farm report**

There had been a further inspection reported by Mr Howat on 18 September. No indication of maggots had been found. This would be reported in the next Grapevine.

##### **b) 8914b) Ward Councillor**

An election would be held on 16 October as there were two candidates for this position. RCC Democratic Services had been concerned about a report in the local press that one of these had already taken on some responsibilities, but assurance had been given that it was not from the Parish Council or other official source.

##### **c) 9214e) Pavement parking**

The reminder would be placed in the October Grapevine. The Clerk gave apologies for missing the deadline for the September edition.

#### **10314: Reports from Councillors**

##### **a) Whissendine Environmental Group**

Mr Comber reported that about a third of the pathway had been cleared by volunteers in preparation for the tree work to be carried out, and at least another two work sessions would be needed. The trees were scheduled to be cut 26-27 November so there was time for this. New planting would be done in the early spring. There was comment that the area was already improved.

Further consideration would be given to the area beneath the seat around the tree on the Village Green in liaison with Mrs Lake.

##### **b) Village Christmas Tree**

Mr Hatton reported that a tree would be donated again, but new lights would be needed this year as the previous set no longer functioned properly. Councillors chose a type that would give a spread of lights and asked that Mr Hatton obtain the price of 12 sets and circulate it.

#### **10414: Planning Matters**

##### **a) 2014/0810/FUL: The construction of a Victorian style greenhouse at The Old Vicarage , 2 Station Road**

It was noted that this would not impact on the street scene or neighbouring properties so there were no concerns or recommendations.

b) 20014/0836/LBA: To dismantle outbuildings at 3 Ashwell Road

It was considered unfortunate that a small piece of village history was to be lost, but understood that the buildings were unsafe, and therefore could not be renovated. It was noted that the bricks were to be retained for a possible future construction.

c) Planning updates:

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|---|-----------------|
| • 2014/0646/FUL & 0634/LBA: ancillary accommodation at Harborough Cottage                 | <b>approved</b> |
| • 2014/0662/PTA: tree work at White Lodge Stables   | <b>approved</b> |
| • 2014/0685/PTA: tree work at 67 Main Street  | <b>approved</b> |
| • 2014/0654/FUL: an extension at 9 St Andrews Close                                       | <b>approved</b> |
| • 2014/0684/FUL: construction of a new dwelling on land at 1 Hortons Lane                 | <b>refused</b>  |
| • 2014/0705/FUL: demolition and replacement of a stable block at 2 Cow Lane               | <b>approved</b> |
| • 2014/0730/PAD: prior approval for change of use of agricultural buildings to a dwelling |                 |

Councillors noted:

- a) that the refusal was based on reasons the PC had put forward.
- b) no listed building consent was required for replacement windows to the rear of 15 Stapleford Road as they were not historic.
- c) the letter from residents to Marrons about the Whissendine Cottage development. It was confirmed that PC objections would be made in response to a planning application, as agreed at the previous meeting.

**10514: The Banks**

a) Signage requirements

It was considered that the signs should enhance the location and provide information that was not readily available elsewhere.

- give a little of the history of the land, the long village ownership of its historic sheepwash and the traditional pin and candle letting
- indicate that the Banks is a QEII Diamond Jubilee Field In Trust
- show the footpath map for the area

As three signs were required it was thought there should be some design co-ordination.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Digital Deadlines in Melton Mowbray, to view the site with Councillors who were available, supply them with the specifications and request signage designs and costs.

b) Routine maintenance

Mrs Lake reported that the area was clean and tidy, and there were no problems in evidence.

c) Bridge repair

The Clerk had requested Farm & Garden to schedule the work for the spring, and for weed killer treatment to be applied to the bark under the swings at this time. The company to be given a reminder early in 2015.

**10614: Highways Matters**

a) Litter bin purchase

There was further discussion on the size of the bin, as Councillors had indicated a preference for a larger bin at the previous meeting, but a smaller one from the designs circulated. The shop owner had indicated he did not want anything big, but it was recognised that there would be a continuing rubbish problem if the new bin was only the same size as the current one. 140 litre to be considered, in green and with ballast, not permanent fixing. The Clerk was authorised to order this via RCC, after a final consultation with the shop, along with the small bin for the post in Harborough Close.

b) Grass cutting

There was a complaint from a resident in Harborough Close that the strip along the edge of the field had not been mown. It was agreed that RCC should be requested to include this, although known that this type of boundary was not necessarily adopted by Highways. (Mrs Arnold left the meeting).

A request also to be made that the bank outside the bungalows near the old chapel should be cut back. That had been done in previous years, but recently a resident had kept it tidy.

c) Maintenance

A lamp outside 3 Stapleford Road needed repair.

RCC Highways to be informed of a blocked field drain collecting mud at the bottom end of Cow Lane.

Advice to be sought on the village green horse chestnuts from the RCC tree specialist as they were showing signs of disease.

d) Oakham Road bus shelter cleaning and painting

Mr Edmunds reported the work to be scheduled for 28 October.

**10714: Financial business**

a) Financial Report for September 2014

Current account £7062.97, deposit account £22,566.47, with no outstanding bills to be paid.

It was agreed that the purchase of a speed reactor for Ashwell Road should be on the next agenda.

c) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• RCC - payment of the clerk's salary and admin fee	£781.34
• Impressions	£ 283.00
• Cory Environmental - grass cutting	£ 194.75
• Eon (street light maintenance	£ 254.45
• Village Hall room hire	£ 61.75
• Caretaker	£ 56.35
• Editor's expenses (R Lake final payment )	£ 27.35

**10814: Correspondence**

a) Parish Council Recruitment Project

A course designed to promote skills to attract candidates to stand for the 2015 elections on 27 November at Anstey. This would be circulated for consideration.

b) Parish Forum

October agenda and invitation to submit items for future discussion in the forum.

c) Winter Heating Appeal from the Lord High Sheriff

It was agreed this should be put into the Grapevine

d) New bus service information

This to be in the Grapevine and on the website, when possible.

e) Resignation of Brian Maunders as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Brian's contribution to the community in this role was remembered with appreciation. It wasn't known whether there was someone to replace him.

General information, advertising and magazines were put into circulation.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

21 October	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm
03 November	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm