

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3rd November 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
Mrs A Mould

In attendance: Mr Sam Asplin (Ward Councillor)
Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk)

Mr Farr welcomed those present shortly after 7.15pm.

10914: Public Time

There were no residents or visitors present.

11014: Apologies for absence

Mrs Mould had apologised in advance for a late arrival at the meeting.

11114: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest None.

11214: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of 6 October 2014

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

11314: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 9514) Housing Needs Survey

An update from the RCC Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer had been received. This advised that there were two households from Whissendine looking for 2-3 bedroomed accommodation (in addition to the 3 found by the survey to be in need of affordable housing) and at least two households from adjacent parishes looking for homes with 1-2 bedrooms. This made development of affordable homes more viable if land became available. It was also to be noted to be raised in conjunction with any future planning applications for commercial development.

b) 9114b) Installation of cycle racks

RCC had sent an apology for the delay. It was now planned that the hoops would be installed mid to end of November.

c) 10614a litter bin purchase

There had been further discussion with the shop owner on size which had been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk had ordered via RCC the smaller bin (90l) and the one to attach to the pole in Harborough Close. The purchase cost would be £262.48 and there would be a charge of £166.40 for the two to be put onto the emptying rota. There would also be a payment of 15% of the total to RCC for the service, but this secured the bin provision, installation and rota addition as a single action.

d) 10614b grass cutting

A cut for the bank outside the bungalows and the Harborough Close verge had been requested, but only the first had been carried out, with no explanation provided.

e) 10614c Village Green horse chestnut trees

The RCC tree specialist had confirmed that the trees had leaf miner disease. It was unsightly and detrimental in the long term, but there was no remedy or immediate action that could be taken.

11414: Reports from Councillors

a) Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin thanked the Parish Council for the welcome received and looked forward to working with Councillors for the benefit of the village. He now had phone contact and this would be published in the Grapevine to facilitate contact with residents. He had not yet attended an RCC meeting, so knew only that he would be on the Scrutiny Panel and that there would be two others. He had a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer (31 October) to discuss Whissendine problems that had been brought to his attention.

- Parking on the bend of Main Street/Oakham Road at school drop off and collection time.
Mr Brown of RCC Highways would consider the problem and suggest solutions.
(Councillors gave a reminder that he should visit the village at one of the critical times.)
- A cycle path to Oakham
Mr Begy had reported Whissendine was not one of the 5 successful bidders last year on a cost benefit basis, but without providing a full rationale.
Mr Asplin had asked to examine the reasons.
- Main Street drainage
Extensive road repairs had been carried out on Main Street, which was considered a temporary rather than a permanent solution.
Mr Asplin had asked that better notice was provided when repairs were scheduled as they had caused inconvenience.
- Superfast broadband
This was working well for the homes that had copper wiring, but some had aluminium and the speeds promised by internet providers could not be supported. BT were not currently planning additional work in Rutland to rectify this. It would be another 2-3 years.
Mr Asplin would explain this in the next Grapevine, and provide contact details to obtain further information from RCC.

b) Whissendine Environmental Group

Mr Comber reported that there had been further work at the chapel footpath site so that the tree work scheduled for late November could go ahead. Bulbs would be planted for spring flowering. It had been agreed that the group would take on looking after the area beneath the seat around the tree on the Village Green. Mrs Lake had explained the difficulties of access and the shallowness of the soil.

c) Parish Council Forum

Mr Comber had represented Whissendine PC and gave outlines on the presentations given on health and Healthwatch and Young People, noting that mental health was of prime concern to this age group. The case for the 'patch and repair' system of road maintenance had been well explained by Mr Tomlinson and Mr Comber had been surprised by the reluctance of the forum to support an additional cost of £6 per annum to Rutland residents to maintain the fire service at the existing level, though he had noted demand had fallen by 20 %.

There would be an L&RALC drop-in day for Councillors on 28 November in Uppingham 10am-2pm.

d) Whissendine Village Hall

Mrs Moss had attended on behalf of the Parish Council and provided the minutes to be put into circulation. The caretaker had returned to work and the heating appeared to be operating satisfactorily. He would now be available to deal with other minor problems.

As the porch was now in use (and much appreciated) the cellar conversion was being reviewed and costed.

There had been a query concerning the village website and Mrs Moss had provided details of the action being taken.

(Mrs Mould joined the meeting)

e) Village Christmas Tree

Mr Hatton reported that since the last meeting there had been two offers of funding for new tree lights (Mr & Mrs Tullett and the White Lion). As this enabled extra money to be spent he sought opinion on the type and quality of lighting before ordering.

A budget of a maximum of £450 was agreed. Mrs Lake and Mrs Arnold would research lights online (strings of individual lights showing different colours) and circulate other Councillors to show the options. Mr Hatton would then make the purchase of those selected and provide the invoice.

11514: Planning Matters

a) 2014/0918/FUL: Resubmission for a dwellinghouse on land at 1 Hortons Lane

It was noted that the building was now single storey which removed the (accepted) objection that it overlooked neighbouring properties and so compromised their amenity. However, the fact that it was on a narrow piece of land, thus cramped in appearance, and sited on the edge of the village to the detriment of its character in this area, had not changed. The narrowness of the highway at this point and the removal of the parking facility for 1 Hortons Lane were also observed.

It was agreed that there would be an objection made to this application.

b) 2014/0904/FUL: Construction of an oak framed garage connected to the existing bungalow at 11 Melton Road.

The size of the structure was noted in comparison to the existing bungalow, but it was considered that it was a sufficiently large plot. It was concluded that the timber cladding was out of character for the area, and not in line with the Village Design Statement, which showed properties of brick and/or stone construction. It was agreed this should be put as an observation.

c) Planning updates:

- 2014/0836/LBA dismantling of outbuildings at 3 Ashwell Road **approved**
- 2014/0810/FUL: greenhouse construction at 2 Station Road (the Old Vicarage) **approved**

Councillors noted that a resident from The Nook had sent objections to the developers concerning the proposals for Whissendine Cottage. These concerned flooding and highway access.

d) RCC Consultation on a future paperless planning process

This had arrived just prior to the meeting and would be put into circulation for comment. The first reaction was that paying for paper plans would be preferable to doing without them.

11614: The Banks

a) Signage requirements

The Clerk had consulted with Digital Deadlines who required more detailed specifications before providing a quotation. It was agreed to have:

- 2 identical signs at each entrance
- 1 A2 in two sections to display the footpath map & give a history concluding with the Fields In Trust information and insignia (style as the sign by bungalows near the chapel)
- The second to be the rules on a standard upright notice board - A3 size (the Clerk to circulate the list of these, also mentioning clearing up after dogs)
- a further small board for the toddler area to exclude dogs and state the equipment is for use by children under 7.

b) Routine maintenance

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

11714: Highways Matters

a) Proposed parish responsibility for grass cutting

Information had been received from RCC offering the option of the PC taking responsibility for this service. There would be a contribution towards cost.

It was agreed unanimously to continue receiving the service from RCC.

b) Speed reactor sign for Ashwell Road.

It was decided to go ahead with this project.

Paul Slater to be contacted to advise on the best position for a sign

The Ward Councillor to discuss the possibilities of a grant towards cost with RCC Highways.

c) Maintenance

A lamp at the entrance to Sherrard Close needed repair.

RCC Highways to be informed that the gully off the speed table outside 35 Main Street needed cleaning out.

11814: Website suggestions

These were very appreciated by Councillors and Mr Tatham was to be asked to progress with the scheme. It was agreed it should be congratulated for his ideas and thanked for the work he had put in to date.

It was understood Ms Reynolds had left the village. She would be contacted by email to inform her of Mr Tatham's involvement and it would be suggested that she and Mr Tatham should liaise directly on the site's transference. He would also be supplied with details of the company supporting the site currently (Endis) so arrangements could be made to conclude the contract.

11914: Financial business

a) Financial Report for September 2014

Current account £4550.77, deposit account £22,567.77, with two outstanding payments to be made (Cory & Village Hall room hire).

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£ 324.00
• Cory Environmental - grass cutting	£ 194.75
• Eon (street light maintenance)	£ 47.93
• Caretaker	£ 45.50

c) Grant application from Whissendine Sports Club

After confirmation was given that funds were available to match the grant from the Parish Council so that the work could be started rather than the money put into the bank indefinitely (contrary to grant policy) it was agreed that the grant of £2500 towards outdoor gym equipment should be made.

12014: Correspondence

a) Village Hall thanks

Thanks for the £750 contribution towards the doors and advance notice of the next project .

b) Environment questionnaire

A request from RCC for information on ongoing projects, to be circulated and passed to WEG.

c) First contact information: Details on this service from RCC.

d) Difficulty caused by the lack of space for traffic to pass through The Nook

A resident had requested some cutting away of the bank opposite her cottage to allow more room for passing vehicles and thus avoid damage to her wall. This was passed to the ward Councillor to be referred to RCC Highways.

General information, advertising and magazines were put into circulation.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm

01 December	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
26 January	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm

Long Clawson Land Charity

The second instalment of the rent had been paid and the charity had funds of just over £7000 on deposit, with £2,500 reserved for the land.

It was agreed that £80 would be paid to each applicant this Christmas, with vouchers of £10 being made for spending in the village shop.

The usual form to be put into the Grapevine and the Clerk and Mrs Lake to distribute the vouchers to applicants as in previous years.