

## **WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3rd February 2014, 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

**In attendance:**                      Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.20pm.

**1514: Public Question Time**                      No members of the public were present

**1614: Apologies for absence**                      The Ward Councillor

**1714: Councillor retirement**

Mr Rickaby had sent a letter announcing his retirement as a Parish Councillor to the Clerk and had discussed the matter with the Chairman in advance of the meeting. he had other commitments to which he wished to give more time. This meant there were now three vacancies as recruitment at the end of 2013 had proved unsuccessful.

It was agreed there should be posters in the village as well as an announcement in the Grapevine and on the website. Councillors would also try and encourage interest. As there was just one year ahead of an election it should be stressed that it was a trial period, and that there need be no additional commitment beyond the monthly two hour monthly meeting.

**1814: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest:**                      None

**1914: To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th January, 2014**

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

**2014: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items**

**a) 0514b): Housing Needs Survey**

Mr Mugglestone had emailed the Clerk once again to apologise for further delay. He was now planning to have an article ready for the March Grapevine so the surveys could be distributed in April. RCC had now reverted to earlier requirements.

**b) 0514f): retirement of the Grapevine Editor**

Mr Lake had had put an article into the January Grapevine stressing there was an urgent need for a new editor. This had proved successful. He had already met with one volunteer and there were two others with whom meetings were planned. He hoped to be able to put together a team to split the roles of advertisement management and magazine editor to make it less onerous for a single person in future, and believed that would be feasible given the number of volunteers. Councillors considered that a new person dealing with editorial content only might well be able to assist with website management as Ms Reynolds currently had limited time for this role.

**c) 0914d) RCC Development Control and Licensing Committee**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the solicitor would be present to represent the Parish Council at the meeting the next day. It was known the residents would make a statement, so he would make one on the Council's behalf, though this had to be submitted in advance and not be made in reply.

The summary of events that indicated the Council had had no advance contact with RCC Planning Dept had been refuted in writing already. The Clerk had supplied information that was relevant to indicate use of the Banks by children for many years, and how efforts had been made to monitor noise, and ascertain the level of nuisance.

#### **2114: 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.

#### **2214: Reports from Councillors**

Mr Comber had been present at the WEG meeting and reported to Councillors that work should start of the land adjoining the old chapel - Foxhill Footpath very shortly now that funding was in place. Contractors had been selected to carry out the tree work.

Concern had been raised that there was inappropriate use of bull signs at two rights of way entrances: the Stapleford Road bridleway gate and near the stile in Harborough Close. The land did not have any animals on at present and these sign were intimidatory and could therefore be classed as an obstruction.

The Clerk to make a check on this with the RCC Footpaths Officer, and ask him to contact the landowners if necessary.

There would be a short report from WEG at the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **2314: Planning Matters**

##### **a) FUL/2010/0688 & LBA/2010/0689:**

Station Road development - renewal of permissions only, no changes.

A renewal of the planning permission on this site was necessary as that obtained in 2011 lasted for only a three year period. However, nothing differed from the original application. The Council had no comments.

##### **b) Planning updates:**

Planning permission was refused for:

- the demolition of a barn and the construction of a dwelling on the Mill Grove/Oakham Road corner. (The Council was pleased its objections had been noted.)

#### **2414: The Banks**

##### **a) Grass cutting contract for 2014.**

Mike Lowe had responded from Cory to say there would be no increased charge for mowing and litter services in 2014. The Clerk had agreed this. The bark beneath the swings would also be renewed for a cost of £128.

##### **b) Maintenance and repairs**

Councillors had visited the site, and found no problems other than waterlogged ground caused by the heavy rain over the winter period. It was agreed that ROSPA Services should be accessed via the Welland Group once again, as this reduced the cost of the inspection.

It was noted that a WEG member had again passed on concerns about the bridge, but agreed that inspection should wait until the spring, as any work could be part of package of repairs and improvements to gates and fencing planned for when the planning issue was resolved.

The WEG member to be informed that the concerns had been noted and investigation would be undertaken in due course.

## **2514: Highways Matters**

### **a) Cow Lane - pedestrian risk**

RCC had agreed to install signs near the bend indicating that pedestrians could be in the road. The timing for this would depend on whether there was funding remaining in the 2013-14 budget, or have to wait to the new financial year. The information would be passed on to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **b) Maintenance**

There was discussion on the failure of the street drains to cope with storm water adequately. In Melton Road water was entering one home and there had been a lack of response from RCC. It was known tree roots blocked the drains from Melton Road through Main Street to the brook, and to date there had been only superficial repair near the school, which did not last.

The resident would be recommended to contact the Ward Councillor for support to deal with RCC, and the matter to return as an item for the next PC agenda to consider more general PC action.

### **c) Street lighting and perceptions of safety**

Neighbourhood Watch had circulated a report indicating that where street lights had been turned off or dimmed resident safety concerns increased, particularly amongst women and young people. This would have to be taken into consideration if a reduction in streetlight hours was considered in the future. It was also observed that this could lead to increased insurance premiums for residents, which would be information to be shared if there was future demand for less lighting.

## **2614: Website**

It was noted some action had been taken to update the site, but that many private adverts remained after the items had been sold. It was hoped that the new Grapevine advertising support would be able to take on this aspect of site maintenance.

Payment was agreed to pay for a photograph that had been taken unauthorised from the web. A reminder would be sent to those managing the site to check that any photographs used were the property of the person putting them onto the site or permission to use them had been given

## **2714: Financial business**

### **a) Financial Report**

The Clerk reported all cheques had been cleared from the previous month and as yet no major payments had come in. A legal bill and the Clerk's salary were two major items outstanding for 2013-14.

### **b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:**

• Impressions	£ 212.00
• JJ Young (photograph copyright holder)	£ 100.00
• Caretaker	£ 45.00

Wayleave for the electricity post on the Banks had been received (£19.35) and there was a further £25 from Grapevine advertising. The final total for this was £2541.

### **c) Request for funding for a meeting from the Allotment Society**

During repairs to the White Lion the Society's committee could not use it, and needed a degree of privacy for discussion on tenancy agreements and rents. It was agreed that the cost of the meeting would be met by the Parish Council so that the meeting could take place in the small room of the Village Hall. It was expected that the cost would be £15 as for a PC meeting.

## **2814: Planning for the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk confirmed that the school hall was booked for March 19th and Councillor Pocock had been invited. There had been no reply as yet, but there had been a delay in sending the invitations whilst confirmation of hall availability was awaited. Mr Maunders had replied on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch. The Clerk would now contact PC Appleton, the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Village Hall Committee. WEG and the Sports Club would be contacted by Councillors.

The need for new Councillors also to be on the agenda.

It was agreed that refreshments would be provided.

## **2914: Correspondence**

a Conduct Committee Meeting and agenda circulated with a request for two new parish council representatives.

b) WEG The minutes of the January meeting had been received (PC min 2214).

c) Posters Those with relevant information were distributed for notice boards.

The meeting finished at 8.52pm

### Future meetings:

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

Note: Mrs Lake borrowed the Harborough Close Archaeological Survey Report and the notebooks of old PC records sent by Mr Robert Hayes.