

## WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3rd March 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.

**3014: Public Question Time** No members of the public were present

**3114: Apologies for absence** The Ward Councillor

**3214: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest:** None

**3314: To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 3rd February, 2014**

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

**3414: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items**

a) 2014b): retirement of the Grapevine Editor

It was announced that Mr Brian Penny of 5 Main Street had agreed to take over as Grapevine Editor, and the next magazine would be Mr Lake's last. However, there would be a period when Mr Penny would be responsible for producing the magazine, but Mr Lake would continue to deal with the advertisement content, advertising revenue and ensure invoices to advertisers were sent out.

b) 2014d) RCC Development Control and Licensing Committee

The outcome of the meeting had been that the Committee had resolved not to proceed with the Enforcement Order so the play equipment for the older children could remain on The Banks. The Chairman read a letter from the Council's solicitor which passed some comment on the unnecessary length of the process, and commended the Parish Clerk for her work throughout. Councillors approved the sentiments expressed. Mr Browne would be thanked for his patience and support and for his generosity in providing his time at a reduced rate.

Consideration was given to the possibility of noise and disturbance in the future and it was observed that the Neighbourhood Watch representative for The Nook was prepared to assist in ascertaining and describing the nature of any problem so that the Council was aware of the frequency and degree of nuisance. Incidents of antisocial behaviour had to be reported to the police.

c) 2214: beware bull notices

These had been reported to the Footpaths Officer who was investigating. He believed there were animals present at times, but Councillor observation was that no animals were in the fields over winter and when they were present there was not necessarily a bull. Having signs left could cause confusion to the public. The Clerk to check with Mr Logue for the outcome of his investigations.

d) 2814: new parish councillors needed

The Clerk had contacted RCC and arranged for notice of the need for three councillors to be put on the RCC website and a relevant notice describing electoral procedural had been sent. These were copied for posting on notice boards around the village. Information had been put into the Grapevine.

### **3514: Ward Councillor's Report**

Mr Montgomery had given notice that he was unable to attend as he was recovering from surgery. He had offered assistance and support via the telephone during this period.

### **3614: Reports from Councillors**

Mr Comber had been present at the WEG meeting and reported to Councillors that although it had been planned that work should start soon, there was now some doubt about the grant as the terms and conditions had not proved acceptable. This could mean that the tree surgery could not be carried out at the appropriate time, but ground work would still go ahead. Other funding possibilities were being considered.

### **3714: Planning Matters**

#### **a) 2014/0144/FUL : 4 Station Road, conversion of an existing barn for letting purposes**

Councillors observed that this was a sympathetic conversion of an existing building which did not adversely impact on the neighbouring properties. The site was sufficiently large enough to take additional vehicles and there was no objection to it being a rented property.

**b) Planning updates:** none.

#### **c) Rutland Local Plan - representation to the Planning Inspector**

This was a further stage in the consultative process for the 'Sites Allocations and Development Plan Document. The relevant documents were available via the RCC website or at five county locations, the nearest to Whissendine being in Oakham. There were no sites in Whissendine allocated for housing development, but there was an appraisal of the site off Stapleford Road to the north east of the village offered for a waste site.

This had been rejected by Rutland CC as:

- a new access road to the site would be needed
- the proximity to residential development
- HGV access via the village.

It was also on record that one of the highest number of objections had been accrued in regard to this site during consultation. Therefore it was hoped that there would be no overturn of the rejection, but realisation that there was need to look carefully at the outcome of the Inspector's report.

### **3814: The Banks**

#### **a) Specifications for improving access in preparation for tender.**

It was agreed that:

- RCC should be contacted re the provision of a bicycle rack for The Nook entrance. It was decided that the fence line should be moved back to accommodate this on the lane side as it was most unlikely children would take their cycles in through a gate and they would be left cluttering up the lane to the annoyance of residents.
- The old stile should be removed and a small gate wide enough for a pushchair or wheelchair should replace it.
- The old field gate should be replaced by a new one
- The metal gate in Cow Lane should be retained, but there should be a pedestrian access alongside it, suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

'Farm & Garden' to be approached to tender as its specifications designs, and knowledge of requirements, in 2011 indicated suitability. At the same time the company to be asked to inspect the field bridge and make recommendations for repair that would ensure safety.

A site meeting to be set up with a company representative, Chairman and Clerk.

b) Maintenance and repairs

Mrs Lake had visited the site recently and found it to be good order. The lower area was still very boggy after the wet winter, but there were no problems to report.

**3914: Highways Matters**

a) Drainage problems in Melton Road and Main Street

Various sites were identified in Melton Road and Main Street as problem areas because of water coming through drains and from below the surface. Holes were filled only to have the filling washed out at the next rainfall. There was water flowing downhill on Main Street from near the Foxhill junction, and holes near the school, shop and church. It was recognised that RCC took short term steps to remedy some of the larger holes, but not known whether there was any long term planning to make more permanent improvements and repairs for the village.

b) Resident complaint re the road surface in The Nook

The Parish Council had received a copy of a complaint sent to RCC Highways about the poor state of the road surface in The Nook. There was some sympathy expressed for this, but not agreed that dredging downstream from the Main Street bridge would assist with the flooding in the area. The stream had been cleaned ahead of the winter and dredging would cause the banks to deteriorate

The Clerk to make an appointment with RCC Highways for a Councillor visit to discuss long term strategy for highways improvements in Whissendine. This would primarily be in connection with a) but b) could also be discussed

c) Shop waste bin

The owner had removed his bin from outside the shop because of the amount of public litter, including dog mess, that was placed in it. He had had to transport it to empty it.

It was agreed that a large bin should be ordered from Cory and the Parish Council would be responsible for a contract for it to be emptied weekly.

d) Maintenance

3 street lights needed attention. RCC and Eon to be contacted to carry out repairs.

**4014: Website**

a) to review contact and access

There was concern about the upkeep of the website as the Clerk had failed to make contact with Ms Reynolds. One result was that the photographer had withdrawn the licence for use of his picture as indication of copyright could not be given. Mrs Lake would replace this.

It was resolved that the best solution was for the Clerk to be trained to manage the site and there would have to be a discussion with Ms Reynolds about this as soon as possible.

b) Renewal of contract for site provision and management support

The benefits of this needed clarification with Ms Reynolds, but it was known technical support was provided as was risk management and security to prevent misuse.

It was agreed that the contract with Endis should be continued for another year.(£756)

**4114: Financial business**

a) Financial Report

The Clerk reported February's payments were cleared. £5000 had been transferred from the deposit to the current account to meet the solicitor's bill and clerk's salary. £12558.51 remained on deposit primarily reserved for The Banks project and a second speed reactor. A transfer from the charity account to cover the Long Clawson voucher repayment had also been made (£1450).

b) Subscription to Fields In Trust. This was agreed (£25)

c) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Paul Browne solicitors	£1440.00
• Impressions	£ 248.00
• Eon Energy Solutions	£ 254.45
• Endis (website)	£ 756.00
• Caretaker	£ 52.00
• Fields in Trust	£ 25.00
• Office expenses	£ 9.98

There was £24 to pay in from Grapevine advertising.

d) Request for funding for a meeting from the Allotment Society

It was known the Society had two more meetings ahead of collecting subscriptions from members and agreed that these should be paid for. The Secretary to be informed of this, but also told that future applications would need to be costed to show where money would be spent, and accompanied by a proportion of matched funding from members' or another donor source.

e) The Long Clawson Land Charity Accounts

The Clerk presented the accounts which would have a very small amount of extra interest added at the end of March, but were otherwise completed. All 19 claimants had received £70 and had spent it at the shop. In addition there was £260 to pay for late vouchers of the 2012 donation. That left £660.24 to be added to account from the 2013 rents. It was known that Barrowden had a link to RCC Social Services who referred village residents in need to the its charity for occasional emergency payments. It was agreed that Whissendine should investigate the possibility of a similar link so that the money in reserve after the Christmas payments had a function.

#### 4214: Planning for the Annual Parish Meeting

There had as yet been no definite commitment from Councillor Pocock, although he had promised to send a substitute if unable to attend. There had been no response from the police although an invitation had been sent by the Clerk and Neighbourhood Watch. The Clerk would contact the Councillor and Mrs Mould speak to PC Appleton. Village organisations were expected to attend, and the Chairman said that he wished to keep discussion brief.

#### 434: Correspondence

a Parish Council Forum The minutes of the recent meeting had been received and were put into circulation. No Councillors from Whissendine had been able to attend.

b) Conduct Committee The minutes of the February meeting had been received and were put into circulation.

c) Melton Borough local plan - community consultation (information)

Newsletters and advertising information were put into circulation.

The meeting finished at 9.12pm

Future meetings:

19th March	Annual Parish Meeting	Whissendine School	7.30pm
7th April	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
28th April	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm