

## **WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 7th April 2014, in the  
Village Hall, Whissendine

Present:

Mr W Farr (Chairman)	
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.

### **4414: Public Question Time**

Mr D Clements, Mr T Edmunds and Mrs C Moss were present to express an interest in being co-opted to the Parish Council. They introduced themselves, stating village residence and interests and Councillors then (and at various points throughout the meeting) gave a brief outline of the work involved. The Clerk gave a summary of the legal requirements concerning the registration and declaration of pecuniary interests for councillors and any resident partners.

On the proposal of Mr Comber, 2nd by Mrs Mould all were welcomed to participate in the meeting that evening. The Clerk would distribute forms for the registration of interests and the formal co-option and Declaration of Office would be on the agenda of the Parish Council's May AGM.

**4514: Apologies for absence** Mrs L Arnold 's apologies were accepted.  
The Ward Councillor had a meeting at RCC.

**4614: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest:** None

### **4714: Minutes**

a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 3rd March, 2014

These were approved on the proposal of Mr Hatton with the addition of 'subscriptions' at 4114d.

b) The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19.3.14

There were no corrections or amendments and these were approved to go forward to the APM of 2015, and to be published on the web site as draft meeting minutes.

### **4814: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items**

a) 2014a): The Housing Needs Survey

This had been distributed with the March Grapevine and envelopes had been enclosed so that residents could supply confidential information. An email had been received from a Harborough Close resident expressing concern that neither RCC nor the PC would see the raw data provided in order to validate it. The points raised had been answered by Mr Mugglestone and the Clerk was asked to pass on his response, stressing that Midland Rural Housing had no commercial interest, and that if any housing need was identified there would be a consultation and planning process before any development could take place.

Note: the £100 fee for distribution was donated to the Sports Club.

b) 3914d) Waste bin outside the village shop

Mr Lowe of Cory had confirmed that a bin could be sited there and the PC billed for it to be emptied weekly, but it had not yet been delivered. The Clerk would remind Mr Lowe that it was very much needed in position for the start of the new term.

c) 2714: Allotment Society grant request

A representative had expressed disappointment at the APM that there had been no grant award as yet. No further information had been received on financial requirements other than meeting expenses. It was acknowledged that this was a new group that was not yet used to procedures required for grant application.

**4914: Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting**

a) School and Cow Lane traffic

It was observed that the police office present had ensured that the letter promised had been delivered to the school with an apology for its delay. It was hoped that the action with the fire engine would take place and not postponed indefinitely.

The Clerk would remind RCC of the signage request for Cow Lane as it was a new financial year.

b) Cycle track

The Ward Councillor had reported that this was now unlikely to happen for three reasons:

- a gas main had been found which would require work costing an additional £240,000
- there would have to be compulsory purchase of land as no agreement had been reached with the owner
- those who used the bridle path for horse riding had not withdrawn their objections

Councillors expressed disappointment, but would await a full report from Mr Montgomery before determining any action

c) Defibrillator

The acquisition of a defibrillator would be discussed at the next meeting. Councillors wished to be sure that purchase would be worthwhile, and not only because other villages had them. The Clerk was asked to contact other village clerks to gain reports on usefulness.

d) Village diary

It was reported this was being worked out between the new GV Editor and Mrs A Edmunds.

**5014: Ward Councillor's Report**

Mr Montgomery was at a meeting to receive a briefing on a wind farm development at Woolfox. He had discussed Whissendine Highways problems with Councillor Pocock after the APM and would report to the PC at the next meeting.

**5114: Reports from Councillors**

None

**5214: Planning Matters**

a) 2014/0221/RES: reserved matters on a single storey dwelling to the rear of 41 Main Street, with access to Cow Lane

Outline permission for construction of a single storey retirement bungalow had been given in 2008 and 2011. Councillors observed that it was consistent with other properties built on similar sites in Cow Lane and it would have no undue impact on the street scene or neighbouring properties.

b) 2014/0298/FUL: construction of a house and garage on land to the east of 27 The Nook

Councillors were appreciative of the concern for the environment in the design of the property and the protective measures planned for the construction period. It was observed that the new dwelling would not impact on neighbouring properties (even at a distance) nor the street scene. There was now a culvert rather than a weak bridge near the site access which cancelled a previous objection.

The chief concern was for damage to the structure of the road surface of the The Nook which had already been reported to RCC Highways as in need of repair and resurfacing.

It was resolved that:

There should be a request any damage made to The Nook during the course of construction should be repaired by the developers and that the surface should be made good.  
Also, the public footpath to the east of the site should remain accessible and safe for walkers and that any damage during construction should be repaired.

c) Planning updates: none.

### **5314: The Banks**

a) Improvement of the entrances to The Banks at The Nook and Cow Lane.

The specifications given in the tender from 'Farm and Garden' were discussed as 4 separate proposals.

- I. A newly structured entrance at The Nook with new gates, a cycle rack, concrete pad to the front of the gates with a locked bollard to prevent unauthorised access.
- II. 6' high panel fencing in a 11.8m linear run to the left of the entrance to replace the existing insecure post and rail fencing and stile
- III. The same type of fencing in a 30m linear run to the right of the entrance (behind the swings)
- IV. New access for pedestrians and push/wheel chairs in Cow Lane with the existing field gate retained and the new entrance having a concrete base pad. Existing bushes and wire to be removed as necessary.

It was resolved that I and IV should be actioned immediately, proposed by Mrs Mould, 2nd Mr Comber. II and III would be returned to the agenda of the next meeting as it was considered that the alternative of securing the existing fencing and planting additional hedging in the autumn should be given further thought.

A summary of this information to be published in the Grapevine.

Note: Mrs Mould left the meeting at 8.45pm

b) Cycle rack

It was agreed that a holly green rack (junior size) should be requested from RCC. It would be sited on the concrete pad to the right and front of the new entrance. The purpose was to ensure cycles were taken well away from the lane where they could cause obstruction.

c) Maintenance and repairs

It was noted the grass had been cut, but not whether the swings had been rebarked. This would be checked and Cory reminded if necessary.

d) ROSPA safety check.

It was agreed that there should be participation in the check organised by the Welland Group (Melton Mowbray BC) as in other years. There was no price increase.

e) Letter from Paul Browne Solicitors

It was thought this should be acknowledged and it was agreed that Mr Browne's advice of no further action should be followed.

### **5414: Highways Matters**

a) Drainage problems in Melton Road and Main Street

Mr Tomlinson had suggested dates for a meeting as proposed by the Parish Council, but either Mrs Lake or the Clerk were unavailable. It would be rearranged for later in the month or early May, and Mr Farr and/or Mr Comber could now possibly attend.

b) Maintenance A dog gate to be requested on Harborough Close public footpath at 2nd fence.

#### **5514: Website**

The Clerk reported a) that a meeting with Ms Reynolds had not yet taken place; b) that Mr Lake would not be showing separate charges for website advertising as this had not been arranged in a structured manner in the previous year which had caused disappointment.

#### **5614: Financial business**

##### **a) Report for the end of the financial year**

The end of year accounts had been finalised, and paperwork for the external audit had been received from Grant Thornton. This year there would be an intermediate audit, possibly because the asset register was required to be set out differently (external audit 2013). It was noted that the additional expenditure for the speed reactor and in grants took the level above £25,000 threshold so that the Grant Thornton charge would be £200.

RCC had paid the clerk's salary quarterly, but only reclaimed three of four. This would have to be noted in both of the audits.

The Clerk was thanked for the preparation of the end of year accounts.

##### **b) Appointment of an internal auditor**

It was resolved unanimously to appoint Mr Bain of Lamin & White, Oakham.

##### **c) Financial report**

The Clerk reported that all cheques except that for Mr Billsdon's (on holiday) had been cleared, although there had been postal delays and one loss in March. This cheque had been successfully represented after initial redirection to the PC's bank.

The grant paid to WREN for the WEG project would have to be reclaimed. The insurance quote had been received and another would be obtained.

##### **d) Subscription payments:**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would retain membership for 2014-15 of:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Leicester & Rutland Association of Local Councils | £ 292.62 |
| • Rural Community Council                           | £ 45.00  |

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

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| • Impressions              | £ 212.00 |
| • Village Hall room hire   | £ 117.00 |
| • Eon Energy Solutions     | £ 56.33  |
| • APM hospitality (P Lake) | £ 34.17  |
| • GV Editor's expenses     | £ 29.01  |

#### **4314: Correspondence**

a) WEG minutes Mr Comber observed that grant from a different source had been applied for, and it was hoped that work on the footpath could begin in the autumn.

b) Bridle path obstruction at Moor Lane crossing Referred to RCC Footpath Officers.

##### **c) RCC Youth Work**

Mr Comber reported that funding for Whissendine Youth Club was being withdrawn. There was a query on whether the PC could assist in any way, but not possible as it was the cost of two youth workers that would no longer be met. Mr Comber was planning to liaise with the Sports Club over storage for the equipment bought, and it was hoped that it would be useful for activities there at some time in the future.

d) The Council had received a letter from the Prime Minister's office drawing attention to a budget change in employers' contributions to national insurance, but this was not relevant to small Council's with a single part time employee.

Newsletters, general and advertising information were put into circulation.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

Future meetings:

28th April	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm
12th May	Parish Council AGM	Village Hall	7.15pm