

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2nd June 2014, in the
Village Hall, Whissendine

Present:

Mr W Farr (Chairman)	
Mrs Arnold	Mr R Comber
Mr D Clements	Mr T Edmunds
Mr D Hatton	Mrs P Lake
Mrs C Moss	Mrs A Mould

In attendance: Mr Brian Montgomery (Ward Councillor)
Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk)
Marrons Shakespeare representatives
2 Whissendine residents

7214: A presentation in advance of a planning application.

At 7.18 Mr Farr welcomed Councillors and three representatives of Marrons Shakespeare, Mr Edmond, Mr Reid and Mr Daubney. They presented plans to erect five new homes within the grounds of Whissendine Cottage, in the centre of the village, opposite the Village Green. It was stated that the buildings would be one half storeys, set back from Main Street, within most of the existing trees, with the existing house and surrounding wall and hedging unchanged. Therefore the village aspect would be altered only a little (driveway widened into a splayed entrance road), and there would be low visual impact on neighbouring properties. It was intended to use building materials in keeping with the location.

Preplanning consultation had been carried out with RCC Planning and Highways Depts and the flood risk discussed with the Environmental Agency. Arboreal, ecological and archaeological assessments had also been undertaken with satisfactory results, though these were reported rather than being integral to the presentation. Based on the findings from these Mr Edmond believed there was no major single factor to cause concern for the proposed development.

In reply Councillors made checks that the village envelope was accurately depicted, and noted that the junction of the proposed access and Main Street was an area where poor visibility caused traffic problems. It could provide an opportunity to discuss further traffic calming. However, the major difficulty would be caused by the severity of occasional fierce flooding at exactly the access point. It would prevent residents going to and from their properties and possibly mean the homes would be flooded.

The Marrons Shakespeare team agreed this was a matter to be given further consideration. They hoped to make a presentation to the village in the autumn, as consultation ahead of a planning application and promised to keep Councillors informed.

They left the meeting shortly after 8pm, as did the residents.

7314: Public Time

There were no members of the public present.

7414: Apologies for absence

All were present, but Mrs Mould had sent apologies for lateness and joined the meeting at 7.40pm

7514: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest:

Mr Edmunds had tendered for maintenance work, and left the room when tenders for this were considered and awarded.

7614: Minutes the Parish Council Meeting of 2nd June 2014

These were approved on the proposal of Mrs Lake without correction or amendment, but she noted that the date on the agenda was incorrect and requested an amended copy as it was wanted for display in juxtaposition with a PC agenda from 1914.

7714: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 6414a & 6814d) new waste bins for outside the shop and Harborough Close

Ms Hallam of RCC had agreed that it was sensible for the Parish Council to purchase the bins from Cory Environmental and have them installed at the sites required at PC expense, and they had been put on order. However, there was as yet no delivery date. Mr Lowe of Cory to be contacted again. It was confirmed that once installed they could be emptied on the usual rota.

b) 6514b) meeting with Mr Howat of RCC Environmental Services

A village meeting had taken place on 4 July at which Mr Howat had presented information on the reason for the severe fly infestation this year. The disinfection procedures at Loodal Farm had failed to kill maggots in one shed, despite best practice being followed, and a Nuisance Abatement notice had been served. Following an increase in larvicidal applications it seemed that the problem was being brought under control, but the severity of the impact on homes was acknowledged. It was agreed that the EHO would in future give regular reports via the Grapevine, and a frequent level of inspection would be maintained.

7814: Reports from Councillors

a) AGM of Whissendine Environmental Group

Mr Comber had attended this meeting. He reported discussion on the new arrangements for the administering the allotments, and that the cuckoo flower had seeded again on the bank opposite the church. There would be the planting of trees on the lower Banks to replace those that were damaged, and work on the footpath project would begin in the autumn. All grant funding was now secured on acceptable terms.

b) Ward Councillor's report

Mr Montgomery had to leave the meeting shortly after the presentation.

7914: Planning Matters

a) 2014/0520/FUL: Raise roof to create first floor accommodation, and construction of side extension at 11 The Nook

Councillors observed that this would increase the bungalow in size considerably by height, and extension of the footprint. However, it was considered that the plot was sufficiently large enough for such a development, and there would be no undue impact on neighbouring properties or the street scene at that location. The outlook from new windows would be across open countryside.

It was noted that the road surface of The Nook was in poor repair and likely to be damaged further by contractors' heavy vehicles. Therefore it was agreed that there should be a request that making good the road surface after the development had taken place should be a planning condition.

b) 2014/0520/FUL Single storey side extension at 16 Stanilands

It was observed that this extension was very similar to others that had been permitted for dwellings in this location. It was agreed would not affect the the street scene or be detrimental to neighbouring properties.

c) Application for a removal of a planning condition for a bungalow to the rear 41 Main Street

If the condition was removed it would allow vehicles to reverse from the property onto Cow Lane. It was agreed that it was preferable for a turning circle within the site to remain a requirement.

d) 2013/1006/FUL Construction of a detached 1.5 storey dwelling following demolition of a barn on land adjacent to 9 Oakham Road

It was noted that the footprint of the proposed dwelling was now the same as the existing barn, but agreed that this did not remove the objections made to the first proposal for this site (min 14313c). It would dominate the street scene at the entrance to the village, with a design not in keeping with neighbouring buildings. The size of the site made it unsuitable for a home as there would be very restricted outdoor amenity, and outlook. It was further agreed that planners should be asked to check if the front edge of the site was not considered as footway as it been used for this purpose by village residents since the construction of Mill Grove in 1962.

e) Planning updates

2014/0353/FUL Stables to replace the existing block at The Pastures, Cow Lane: refused.

The structure was considerably larger than the one it was replacing and would dominate open countryside.

8014: The Banks

a) Report on the project to upgrade the entrances

Farm & Garden had been unable to give a start date to replace the gates and fences, but hoped to commence work shortly. A consultation with RCC had taken place over the siting of the cycle rack and the RCC team had supplied plans. It was resolved that these should be submitted to the Planning Department to check that planning permission was not required, in advance of the consent form being signed.

b) Routine maintenance

There had been a report of loose wiring on a section of fencing, but Mr Clements had seen this and effected a repair with staples.

It was noted that the bark beneath the swings was very weedy, and agreed that the caretaker should be asked to clear this as soon as possible.

The Clerk observed that the ROSPA Report had arrived that day. It would be circulated for consideration, and discussed at the September meeting.

c) Consideration of signage for the area

It was agreed that once the fencing was completed in both The Nook and Cow Lane new signage would be required and careful consideration would be needed to avoid so much detail that it wasn't read, but that the main points were targeted. It had to assist the police in removing those involved in antisocial behaviour, provide contact information and ensure safety (dogs excluded from area for very young children). It would probably be necessary to have more than one sign and Councillors had to assess what would be suitable wording for each location: large equipment and open area, small restricted area and at the Cow Lane entrance.

A resident had requested:

- avoidance of excessive noise
- 8pm closing time
- age range for equipment use
- alcohol ban

It was agreed that a closing time of 9pm was more sensible as the police had to enforce it and had requested it should be realistic. The resident to be informed that the others would be given consideration along with other requirements, and sent a copy of the cycle rack plans, as these had also been requested. Also, in response to a query, it would be reiterated that it was the Council that had to be consulted rather than Councillors, which made private individual consultation difficult.

8114: Highways Matters

a) Estimates for maintenance in the Village Green area. (Mr Edmunds left the room)

It was agreed: Mr Edmunds would be requested to carry out the painting required
Mr Smith would be requested to trim and tidy the brook bank.

(Mr Edmunds returned)

It was also resolved that there should be consultation with the Environmental Group on planting and maintenance around/under the tree seat on the Green as Mrs Lake was unable to continue to carry this out. Mr Comber would pass on the request.

b) Maintenance

There was no longer a water flow past Honeysuckle Cottage. Some road surfacing had been carried out in The Nook on the edges and around iron works, but was disintegrating almost immediately after the first refuse collection had passed through. This to be drawn to the attention of Mr Tomlinson, along with the pothole that needed repair alongside the Village Green.

RCC also to be contacted to clear weeds in the Foxhill Hall Close passage way.

Mrs Mould reported that a resident had a pot grown oak tree to donate. It was agreed that he would thanked and informed it would be planted later in the year. Councillors would consider a suitable site for this over the summer and discuss it in September.

8214: Financial business

a) Financial Report for June 2014

The VAT reclaim for £1289.89 had been paid and £31.96 of this transferred to the Long Clawson account. The street lighting grant had been applied for from RCC, and the information had been sent to the external auditor (Grant Thornton) with receipt acknowledged.

There was £11776.51 in the current account with £200 (donations) not yet drawn. All but one organisation (EMICS) had acknowledged receipt of the donation made. The Village Hall Treasurer had supplied a new invoice removing Youth Club sessions not used (£38)

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions)	£ 297.20
• EON (electrical supply)	£ 390.17
• EON (street light maintenance)	£ 254.45
• Cory Environmental - grass cutting April-June	£ 584.25
• Caretaker (April & May)	£ 41.15

There was £689 to pay in from Grapevine advertising received. Also £150 from the Youth Club that was to be passed to the Sports Club to contribute to facilities for young people. (Min 5214)

8314: Correspondence

a) Mr Baxter - on behalf of Western Power

This explained the short power failures experienced by the village and what was being done to remedy the fault,. It was accompanied by a short article for the Grapevine. Mr Baxter had also offered (verbally) to attend the APM in March to give an update of power delivery improvements made in the area.

b) Local resident to RCC Highways, with a copy to the PC

This was principally concerned with the increase in HGVs passing through the village in spite of the weight restriction. Councillors noted that extensive work had been carried out by Severn Trent at the sewage Works which would account for some of the increase in recent weeks, although this was now completed. It was agreed that police checks for persistent offenders would be useful.

c) Resident concern at the Whissendine Cottage development.

The risk of the development increasing the severity of flooding had been noted. (min 7214)

Other information and advertising and advertising to be circulated.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

1st September

Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall

7.15pm