

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 1st September 2014, in the
Village Hall, Whissendine

Present:

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

In attendance: Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk)

Mr Farr welcomed Parish Councillors at 7.20pm.

The meeting stood for a minutes of silence in respect and remembrance of Ward Councillor Brian Montgomery who had died suddenly two days earlier.

8414: Public Time

There were no members of the public present.

8514: Apologies for absence

Mrs Arnold sent apologies which were accepted. She had been delayed at work.

8614: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest:

Mr Edmunds had tendered for maintenance work on the bus shelter, and left the room when this was considered for a decision.

8714: Minutes of meetings:

a) Parish Council meeting of 14th July

These were approved on the proposal of Mrs Mould without correction or amendment.

b) Planning Meeting of 18th August

These were approved on the proposal of Mrs Lake after the correction of a typographical error.

8814: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 7214) Marrons Shakespeare presentation

This had been arranged to take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 9 September between 4-8pm. It was an opportunity for residents to call in, look at what was proposed in the plans and make comments, rather than a formal meeting. The company would be responsible for advance publicity of the event.

Some Councillors planned to visit, but it was considered that it was not an occasion to provide more information on flooding in the area. When the application was open for consultation with RCC Planning Department a meeting would be scheduled with the planning officer responsible. Photographs to show the depth of the floods would be provided at this time.

b) 7714b) Loodal Farm report

When requested by the Clerk Mr Howat had sent a report on the latest Loodal Farm inspection, carried out on 15.8.14. This had been forwarded for inclusion in the Grapevine, as agreed. No maggots had been found in either shed. It was agreed that monthly reports would be asked for throughout the winter, so that inspections would be routine in the critical spring months.

c) 8114 Village Green area maintenance

This had been carried to a good standard and the contractors thanked for their work in Grapevine. Resident comments received by Councillors and the Clerk noted it was appreciated. There was a WEG meeting that evening so that Mr Comber could not report whether the group would take action on the herbs beneath the tree seat.

8914: Reports from Councillors

a) Whissendine Village Hall

Mrs Moss had attended a Village Hall Committee Meeting. She reported the decision to defer the upgrade of the area beneath the stage so that money could be spent on installing interior doors to make an inside porch, so that those waiting to collect children, or use the hall, did not have to stand outside in bad weather. Two estimates had been provided, £1295 hardwood, and £1095 softwood. The decision had been made to take the cheaper option, and the work was now completed. Further planning and fund raising would now take place for improvement of the cellar and bin areas. It was noted that the caretaker was ill, and Mrs Hatton was ensuring the hall was ready for use.

b) Ward Councillor

It was agreed a message of sympathy should be sent on behalf of the PC to Mr Montgomery's family. Mrs Lake, and possibly others (depending on the date and time), would represent the Council at his funeral. Details of this would be circulated as soon as they were known. It was presumed that there would not be an election as ward elections for the area were due in April 2015, but a caretaker Councillor would be appointed for Whissendine for the interim period.

9014: Planning Matters

a) 2014/0730/PAD: Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellings at Grange Farm, 3 Hortons Lane.

It was noted that if prior approval for a change of use was accepted work on the conversion of agricultural buildings to dwelling could go ahead without further planning permission, though building regulations would apply.

It was agreed that change of use was preferable to the site being left neglected to deteriorate to ruin. The buildings were of the type that could be converted, and although the area was outside the village envelope it was close to other residential property. The access lane would need upgrading in the development plan.

b) Planning updates:

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| • 2014/0520/FUL: extension at 11 The Nook | approved |
| • 2014/0520/FUL: single storey side extension at 16 Stanilands | approved |
| • Removal of a condition for the bungalow to the rear 41 Main Street | approved |
| • 2013/1006/FUL: a detached 1.5 storey dwelling following demolition of a barn on land adjacent to 9 Oakham Road | refused |

Councillors observed that the refusal was based on reasons the PC had put forward.

9114: The Banks

a) Report on the completion of the gate and fence work to upgrade the entrances

Farm & Garden had now completed the work to specification, and Councillors expressed satisfaction with the job done. It was agreed that the entrances to both The Nook and Cow Lane were much improved by the new pedestrian gates.

b) Installation of the cycle racks

Confirmation had been forwarded from RCC that consultation with a planning officer (Mr Hodgett) had taken place and planning permission was not required.

It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the permission requesting RCC to install the cycle rack in the position as shown on the plan that had been drawn up.

c) Signage requirements

It was agreed that 3 signs were required. A small one at the entrance to the original play area would state the equipment suitable for use by children 7 and under, and that dogs were not allowed. Two larger ones (The Nook & Cow Lane entrances) would state:

- the closing time of 9pm,
- the equipment as suitable for youngsters 14 and under,
- consideration for neighbour/no excessive noise,
- and provide contact details.

It was agreed that alcohol would not be mentioned as if being consumed late in the evening, or by those underage, the police could deal with any antisocial nuisance caused.

It was thought that quality signage should be purchased to enhance the site. The area was a major asset belonging to the village, something to be proud of as well as enjoy. The type of notice boards envisaged were those that would stand on legs behind (and attached to) the fence, with the name clearly displayed and some information about the area, as well as conditions of use, in a presentational format.

Catalogues and website references to be obtained.

d) ROSPA report and maintenance recommendations

It was noted that there were no major repairs to be carried out, as all of the equipment was in good working order on inspection. (Inspection not carried out on the chains of the nest swing as covered). The grass was noted as worn around the seesaw, but it was thought that it would recover over the winter and spring. The balance bar (also used as a seat) had some rot, but did not present significant risk. It would be considered for repair or replacement prior to the Easter holidays of 2015.

Advice taken on the bindweed under the swings suggested it should be chemically treated in the spring, rather than any attempt to remove manually. It was agreed the work should be scheduled with Farm & Garden for the period between the February half term break and Easter 2015. Once treatment had been carried new bark could be ordered.

Combination locks were required for the chains on the two field gates to replace the padlocks.

e) Estimate for bridge repair and upgrade

This work would be £307.44 if carried out by Farm & Garden. It was considered that the company was experienced in this sort of construction and the area would be further upgraded, but it would be a further task for the spring of 2015.

92114: Highways Matters

a) Litter bin purchase

It was reported that the PC had been requested to purchase and install the bins, via instruction to RCC and Cory who would invoice accordingly. These bins could then be put on the weekly emptying schedule. It was agreed that 2 should be purchased: the largest that Cory would empty (to be checked) for outside the shop, and a small bin to be fitted on a pole for the Harborough Close footpath stile.

b) Oakham Road bus shelter cleaning and painting

Mr Edmunds estimate for this work was £320 and it was agreed it should be carried out. The paint colour to be light grey with the anti-graffiti coating applied over this.

c) Oak tree offer

It was agreed it would not be sensible to plant it where other trees had been vandalised, and that highway verges were not suitable for a mature oak. Therefore it was decided Mrs Mould should liaise with Mrs Arnold to see if the Sports Club would like it for their grounds.

d) Maintenance

Mr Clements had a meeting arranged with Mr Tomlinson to get the Cow Lane area adjacent to The Banks entrance cleared of wild growth and restored as verge. The bank on Ashwell Road had not been mown this summer, as it had been strimmed by a resident the previous season, and it was agreed this should be mentioned to RCC at the same time.

The Hall Close-Foxhill passageway had not been cleared, despite confirmation this was a job that it was known needed doing. RCC to be contacted again.

e) Parking on pavements.

Resident complaints had been received about this. It was agreed that a notice should be put into the Grapevine as a general reminder that pavements should not be obstructed as those with pushchairs and wheelchairs needed to use them. Mr Comber would request that advertising signage be removed.

9314: Financial business

a) Report from the external auditor

The intermediate audit had been completed with no 'cause for concern' raised. The Council Tax Support Grant of £959 was required to be shown as 'additional income' in future, rather than as part of the precept, although RCC had presented it as a single payment.

b) Financial Report for September 2014

The lighting grant from RCC of £1863.54 had been paid in August with an additional £188 for advertising. Most of the Council's income for this financial had been received (£25894.08). All cheques paid had been cleared leaving £11189.84 in the current account and £22.565.13 on deposit.

c) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Farm & Garden	£2575.52
• Impressions	£ 283.00
• Cory Environmental - grass cutting April-June	£ 194.75
• Grant Thornton (external audit)	£ 240.00
• Melton Borough Council (ROSPA inspection)	£ 63.66
• Eon (street light repair)	£ 56.33
• Caretaker	£ 42.25
• Clerk's office expenses	£ 20.36

There was £99 to pay in from Grapevine advertising, bringing the total to £2441.

d) Grant to Whissendine Village Hall

By a majority decision it was agreed that £750 should be contributed towards the cost of the newly installed internal doors (see minute 8114a). It was agreed that further funding could be available if additional renovation work was costed before the end of March 2015.

9414: Correspondence

a) Parish Forum notes

No Councillor had been able to be present at the meeting. The notes to be circulated for information.

b) Invitations

CA AGM 7 October at Barnsdale. Mrs Lake hoped to represent the Parish Council Rural Community Council 18 September at Birstall. No Councillor was available for this event.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

6th October Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.15pm