

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 8th December 2014, in the Village Hall, Whissendine

Present:

Mr W Farr (Chairman)

Mrs L Arnold

Mr T Edmunds

Mr R Comber

Mr D Hatton

Mrs P Lake

Mrs A Mould

In attendance: Mr Sam Asplin (Ward Councillor) Mrs Jen Lacey (Parish Clerk) Mr P Tatham (Webmaster)

Mr Farr welcomed those present shortly after 7.15pm.

12114: Public Time

Mr Tatham attended the meeting to give an update on the redevelopment of the village website. He reported that it was intention that the website should go live with the new hosting and updated format at the end of February, when the current contract with Endis was completed. The new domain (Wordpress) would permit greater control and be cheaper. As soon as a temporary site was completed the web reference would be circulated to Councillors so that it could be previewed and comment and suggestions could be taken.

It was taking a considerable amount of preparation, but once all pages were completed, and there was a degree of streamlining, by eliminating those that were no longer required, there should be a need only for update and maintenance. If a single address for contact was available then requirements would be received in, and dealt with or routed out to the organisation responsible. There had been efforts made to contact all the village organisations and many had responded. It seemed that some were now defunct and Councillors were asked to let Mr Tatham know if they knew of contacts that were not as listed in the Grapevine, or that the group no longer existed.

Contact had been made with Mr Bryan Penny so that the site and magazine could operate together in future, and there would be liaison with Mrs Anne Edmunds so that village diary could be kept updated. A business directory was also at the planning stage. Village advertisements would be also possible if removal after a time limited viewing period could be factored in.

Photographs were required for the Parish Council page from Mrs Moss and Mr Edmunds. Mrs Lake promised a selection of her personal village photographs for illustrative purposes.

Overall a tremendous amount of progress had been made and it was anticipated the new site would be ready for an official unveiling at the APM in March 2015. The Chairman thanked Mr Tatham for his efforts and commitment.

12214: Apologies for absence

Mrs Moss had sent apologies for absence which were accepted, and Mrs Mould had apologised in advance for a late arrival at the meeting.

12314: Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

None.

12414: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of 3 November 2014

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

12514: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 11314b) Installation of cycle racks

There had been no further report on the cycle rack installation.

b) 11314c litter bin purchase

The order had been placed immediately after the last meeting and its receipt confirmed by email by RCC (Street Scenes Officer) on 4 November with specification details stated.

c) 11314s grass cutting

An email from had stated the grass was being cut in Harborough Close, but a resident was also trimming part of the verge to a shorter level. Mrs Lake observed that the private areas of the close were maintained by residents, but these did not include the verge requested to be mown. However, it had now been tidied and it was agreed there should be a request made to ensure it was on the rota for regular maintenance in 2015.

d) The Village Christmas Tree

This was now in place on the Village Green and decorated with the new lights. All comments had been very positive and it seemed that improvement on 2013 was really appreciated. The Chairman thanked Mr Hatton for a job well done. Mrs Hatton asked that thanks were passed on through the Grapevine to all who had assisted in the project, by donation of the tree and in time to getting it in place and illuminated.

e) 12014d) Environmental Survey

This had been completed and returned to RCC by WEG. Dr Moyce had forwarded a copy to the Clerk to be kept on record and this had been circulated to Councillors.

12614: Reports from Councillors

a) Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin gave Parish Councillors an update on RCC, police and fire budget planning for the next financial year, and their impact on services in Rutland. There would be less money available and existing man power would be reduced. It was known there was some dissatisfaction within the county, particularly at the loss of fire engine.

Some central government grant funding was available for leisure facilities. The Village Hall had made an application, and information would be passed to the Sports Club.

Mr Asplin had been in contact with Severn Trent on the water in Main Street and around the Village Green that flowed from damaged pipes. It was now a particular hazard when it became icy. He promised to inform councillors of the date and time of a promised visit so that those who wished to could attend.

He had discussed parking on the Oakham Road/Main Street bend at school time, and hoped that it would be raised in cabinet in December. Mr Brown (RCC Highways) had promised action would be taken. Councillors raised the issue of implementation of any restrictions made.

The Ward Councillor had been assured the damage to a garden wall in The Nook would be repaired by CORY, but was not optimistic about the bank opposite being cut back to widen the road. It was observed that soil removal would restore the highway to its previous width rather than being anything additional, and it was queried whether Highways would have any objection to this being done by a resident. Mr Asplin promised to raise this with Mr Tomlinson.

CORY were also assisting by writing to Melton Road residents, asking that bins were taken back from the pavements as soon as possible after refuse collection. It was suggested that operatives were requested to push them off the path to properties that had easy access.

b) Whissendine Environmental Group

Mr Comber urged Councillors go and look at the Old Chapel footpath entrance now that the first stage of the work had been completed. The removal of the overgrowing trees and bushes had made a big difference and the area was now ready for planting for the spring. A collection of comments could then be sent to the group as thanks for all the work done to date.

c) Whissendine Village Hall

Mrs Moss had attended the AGM on 1 December on behalf of the Parish Council.

She had sent a report that noted thanks to the Parish Council for the financial contribution for the internal doors and that there would be a request for a grant towards further improvements in the new year. A query had been raised on the keeping of the village diary via the website, which had been covered in Mr Tatham's report.

12714: Planning Matters

a) 2014/0985/FUL & 0986/LBA: Construction of a Victorian style conservatory at 2 Station Road (The Old Vicarage) and listed building consent for access through opening up an old doorway from the house.)
Councillors had no objections and considered the work continued to make improvements to the property. (Mrs Mould joined the meeting for this discussion)

b) 2014/1063/FUL: A ground floor extension for 1 Hall Close

It was considered the site was of a sufficient size and that the extension would not impact on the street scene or neighbouring properties

c) Notification of an appeal for 2014/0298/FUL (single dwelling on land to the east of 27 The Nook)

Councillors had made no objection to this development when it was submitted and did not wish to make comment to the appeals process.

d) RCC Consultation on a future paperless planning process

RCC Planning Department to be informed that the Parish Council would prefer to pay for paper plans rather than have online access only. There was no wifi access in the village hall, and that area of the village had poor mobile reception.

e) Planning updates:

2014/0918/FUL: Resubmission for a dwellinghouse on land at 1 Hortons Lane.

Councillors had been notified that the plans had been amended after the last meeting to include a second storey once again with windows to most elevations, and the Clerk had notified RCC Planning Department that the original objections remained in place.

The development had been refused by RCC on the same grounds as previously given, which confirmed the PC's objections (see min 11514a).

12814: The Banks

a) Report on signage

The Clerk had circulated suggested wording to Councillors which gave the history of the site and included mention of Fields In Trust. It was hoped that a drawing could be made to give an artists impression of the sheepwash as no photograph had been found. Mr Crook (RCC Public Rights of Way Officer) had approved the idea of including a footpath map and thought a fresh design would provide the relevant information. There had been a delay on this as the original map had not transmitted via email, but it was expected that Councillors would have the choice of a map of the general area (up to and beyond the parish boundary), or one that focussed on the village in more detail).

b) Routine maintenance

None known to be needed.

12914: Highways Matters

a) Speed reactor sign for Ashwell Road.

The Ward Councillor had initiated the process for the scheme to be put to RCC for consideration for financial support. It was agreed that the Parish contribution would be 50% and RCC would be informed of this. Mr Slater had agreed to inspect the area for the most suitable location, but had not yet fixed a date for his visit.

b) New proposal for cycle route

The proposal for a cycle route out of the village to Langham following Oakham Road had been circulated.

Councillors concluded that it would be more expensive to construct a path where no verge existed than along the previous suggested route. The problem of avoiding the gas main would still exist. It was doubted that there would be a favourable outcome from a cost/benefit appraisal.

c) Maintenance

A lamp outside 3 Stapleford Road needed repair.

The street cleaner to be requested to deal with leaf clearance in Foxhill and Hall Close.

d) Bus shelter

Mr Edmunds described the problems with the graffiti proof paint not taking an additional layer. It was agreed that the PC would pay the additional cost for a primer, and then ordinary paint would be applied that could be freshened as required

13014: Website report

All were satisfied with the good progress made.

13114: Financial business

a) Financial Report for December 2014

The Clerk had circulated a reconciliation of the accounts to the end November. After a transfer from the deposit account of £5000 (25% of the 2014 precept remaining on deposit) the current account balance was £6438.59 and the deposit account held £17567.77. There were no outstanding payments to be made. An additional £80 had been received from Grapevine advertising, but there would be little additional income for the remainder of the financial year.

RCC would once again be paying a grant contribution to support the precept.

It was agreed that the Grapevine should be limited to 16 pages. The Editor would be informed.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£ 324.00
• Eon (street light maintenance)	£ 282.61
• Caretaker	£ 48.75
• Clerk's office expenses	£ 35.97

c) Review of staff salaries

Clerk £10 and caretaker £6.75 per hour from 1 January 2015.

d) 2015 subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks

It was agreed that this subscription would be paid by the Parish Council. (£88)

e) The appointment of a working party to bring a proposed budget and precept recommendation to the January meeting

It was agreed that Mrs Arnold, Mrs Lake and Mr Edmunds would meet with the Chairman and Clerk at 8 Harborough Close on Wednesday, December 30th.

13214: Correspondence

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| a) Christmas bus service information | Notices to be placed in the bus shelters. |
| b) Publication of the Electoral Roll for 2015 | Information to be circulated to Councillors. |

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

30 December	Budget Working Party	8 Harborough Close	3.00pm
05 January	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
26 January	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm
09 February	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm