

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 13th April 2015, in the Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

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

In attendance

Mr Sam Asplin - Ward Councillor
Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

Mr Farr opened the meeting at 7.18pm and welcomed those present. He remarked that it was good to have Ward Councillor Asplin return after recovering from illness.

04315: There were no members of the public present to ask questions, though a resident attended to listen to the discussion concerning the litter bin in Harborough Close.

04415: Apologies for absence: All Parish Councillors were present.

04515: Minutes of meetings:

a) The Parish Council Meeting of 2 March 2015

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

b) The record of the Annual Parish Meeting 18 March 2015.

This was agreed by Councillors, and would now be sent to be published in full on the website. A synopsis had been prepared for the Grapevine.

04615: Declarations of pecuniary interest: None.

04715: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 03415b) Loodal Farm report

Mr Howat had visited the farm on 9 April, and reported there were no maggots. The Clerk would include this in the April PC Grapevine report.

b)03415c) Litter bin installation

It was confirmed that the litter bin outside the shop had been installed and was being emptied. There had been an initial problem with fixing it securely, but it was able to take the place of the temporary bin that the shop's owner had provided.

c) 013114c) salary review

The Clerk reported that she had been paid in March, but the salary received did not include the increase as agreed by the Council in December, although the RCC payroll dept had been informed. She had prepared a letter to confirm the new amount and it was agreed that this should be signed by the Chairman and sent.

04815 Reports from Councillors

a) Whissendine Village Hall

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated and Mrs Moss, who had represented the Council, observed that there was little else to report as they were self explanatory. However, it had to be noted that although plans had been made for the next project of upgrading the basement there were still problems with the heating system and it had been decided that work should not begin until this had been resolved.

The Village Hall had applied for a grant towards funding the new project and costings were now provided as required (min 4115b). However, they had arrived only 24 hours before the meeting giving no opportunity for circulation. Therefore it was agreed no discussion should take place until Councillors had seen the information provided. A decision on a grant would be made at the May PC meeting.

b) Whissendine Environmental Group (WEG)

Mr Comber had attended and minutes of the meeting had been circulated. Once final planting had taken place on 25th April the footpath project was complete except for ongoing maintenance once there was growth. A meeting between WEG members and Councillors was proposed at The Banks to discuss what could be done to enhance the area. This was agreed and would take place on 11th May at 6.15pm. WEG had also put in a request for finance to cover insurance, but as it had not arrived in time to be published on the agenda it was agreed it should be discussed at the May meeting.

c) Parish Council Forum

Apologies were given as the representative could not attend.
A report would be available for circulation from RCC next month.

d) The Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin had now had discussions with Severn-Trent. An investigation had been made of the drain in Main Street between the school and the Village Green. There were two tree root blockages and broken pipe discovered and remedial work had been carried out to remedy these problems. Councillors commented that this had not proved effective. Water was coming from beneath the tarmac and flowing down the the street. It was also noted that the similar problem in the Foxhill/Main Street was recurring, and believed this was a matter for RCC Highways. Mr Asplin was asked to report this, and report that the gullies in Main Street needed another clean.

The Ward Councillor had also investigated further the reason the Sports Club had not received grant funding, despite a good application. It had been clarified that the funding was from 106 payments, and as there had been no development in Whissendine in the previous year there had been no direct contribution to the village, and so financial support could not be given this time. It was noted that there should be money from this source available in the next financial year.

04915 Planning matters

a) New planning applications:

None.

b) Notice of an appeal.

App Ref: APP/A2470/W/15/3005928

An appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate to overturn the decision not to approve an additional dwelling in Hortons Lane on land adjoining 1 Hortons Lane. Councillors were content to let the objections from the Council go forward to this as there was no additional information.

c) Planning updates

- 4 new houses, and conversion of farm buildings to an additional house and garages at Station Road
- listed building permission for the conversion of the old buildings at Station the Road site APPROVED
- Construction of a garage attached to the bungalow at 11 Melton Road APPROVED
- Change of ground floor use from business to residential at Pickwell Lane Farm APPROVED

05015: The Banks

a) Noticeboard

Mrs Raymond was still working on the design.

b) Play Area Inspection.

It was proposed by Mr Hatton, seconded by Mrs Arnold, that the annual inspection by ROSPA should be carried out in conjunction with the Welland consortium, as organised by Melton Borough Council. The cost per site was £49.50 + VAT.

c) Routine maintenance

It was observed that the grass had received its first cut and the area looked in good condition.

05115: Highways & village maintenance

a) Notification from EON of a price rise for unmetered supply

The cost of unmetered electricity for street lights was to be raised from 8.24p per KWh to 12.40 unless a fixed contract was taken. However, this was unavailable if the electricity used was below a fixed level, and Whissendine came into the low use category.

L&RALC had supplied a list of six alternative providers and it was agreed that all should be contacted to see if there was a better deal. As EON had given a deadline of May 1st it was agreed that the Clerk be delegated to enter a contract with the company that offered the best rate.

b) Litter bins installation (Harborough Close objection)

It had been queried whether the bin had placed in Harborough Close solely at Mrs Lake's request. She refuted this commenting that two other Close residents had spoken on the issue prior to installation, and that the current tenant of the field was pleased an effort was being made to encourage dog owners to clean up. Other Councillors noted that there was strong public feeling that everything possible should be done to facilitate this, and there would be objection if bins were removed. As the chief concern of the objector was that he did not like to see the bin it was agreed it should be lowered to the fence line so did not stand out quite so prominently. Mr Edmunds would carry out this action, and also lower slightly the bin on the bus stop near the church so that it was at waist height rather than 'nose' level.

c) Further action on dog fouling

It was clear from comment at the Annual Parish Meeting that there was public perception that fouling was increasing. It was hoped that with the better weather dog walkers would go further from the village as usually happened, but some fouling would remain a problem. It was agreed that a note should be in the Grapevine once again, with an illustration if space. It was possible to print signage from the internet and agreed that this matter should be returned to the next agenda to determine whether to site posters at badly affected areas.

d) Grass cutting opposite the church in Main Street

There had been a request from a resident that the bank below 93 and 95 Main Street should be added to the cutting rota. Previously a resident had mown the area, but he had recently left the village. There was some discussion on whether the land belonged to RCC Highways or the home owners. It was agreed that RCC should be requested to cut and left to Highways to determine whether they were responsible for this bank.

A reminder would be given in June that the bank opposite Station Road needed a full, rather than a partial cut to protect wild flowers. It was hoped this would prevent it becoming overgrown.

e) Pickwell Lane

It was noted that some volunteers were picking up litter in the area, and anyone wanting to assist could obtain a kit from Catmose. It was agreed that RCC would be approached to consider bringing the lane within the 30mph limit, because it was narrow and used by pedestrians as well as farm vehicles.

f) 20mph speed limits in areas of the village

It was considered that parked vehicles and bends in the road slowed most traffic most of the time, although there would always be some that went through the village too quickly. The conclusion was signage for 20mph would not make a lot of difference and would be difficult to enforce on the few that ignored the present 30mph speed limit.

g) maintenance matters

Lights were on all the time in Harborough Close (first two on the left) and out outside 7 Foxhill. All would be reported to RCC Highways together with a request for inspection of the Foxhill road surface.

05215: Financial business

a) Draft Accounts for the financial year 2014-15 and the appointment of an internal auditor.

The Clerk had prepared accounts that had been circulated. It was noted that the amount held at the end of the year had increased by almost £2000, but recognised that some was earmarked for spending in 2015-16 and some needed to be reserved for future capital projects. There were no questions on the figures provided. It was proposed by Mrs Arnold that Mr Bain at Lamin & White should be appointed as auditor and this was agreed.

b) Request for grants

Formal request had been received from the Sports Club, a portion of what had been applied for from RCC (min 4815d), and from the St Andrews PCC as a contribution towards churchyard maintenance.

It was agreed that the Sports Club should receive £3500, as requested, and the PCC receive £900 to be paid at the beginning of June, as requested.

Decisions on other grants would be on the agenda for the next meeting (min 4815a), information would be circulated.

c) Subscriptions

Leics & Rutland Association of Local Councils (L&RALC) £290.01 and Rural Communities Council £50 were agreed as both were supportive to local parish councils. The Leics Playing Fields association was not agreed, as by membership of the Fields In Trust scheme the Council belonged to the national association which supplied for more information.

d) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£ 324.00
• Farm & Garden - bridge maintenance	£ 217.74
• EON (electrical supply)	£383.52
• Caretaker	£ 57.38

05315: Correspondence

a) Langham PC: invitation to Neighbourhood Plan meetings and consultations

Dates were supplied so that Councillors could attend if they wished. It was noted meetings were held on Thursday evenings.

b) Notification of RCC's Information Service

The poster to be on a notice board and a link supplied from the village website. The ward Councillor noted that it was an effort to make access to service provision more user friendly.

c) Donation requests and general information and circulars to be put into circulation.

No official notification had been received by the Clerk, but the date for nominations had closed and information on Whissendine had been posted on the Rutland County Council election pages. There would be a poll for Ward Councillor as there were two candidates, but the Parish Council had received only seven nominations and therefore all would remain parish councillors. It was expected that by May a co-option notice for the remain two places could be made and those wishing to be co-opted could put their names forward to the June meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

11 May	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
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