

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL  
Annual Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 11th May 2015, in the  
Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

Mrs L Arnold	Mr R Comber
Mr T Edmunds	Mr W Farr
Mr D Hatton	Mrs P Lake
Mrs C Moss	

In attendance

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

As it was the first meeting after an election date at 7.15pm Parish Councillors signed a Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk to the Council.

05415: Election of Council Officers

- a) Chairman: Mr Hatton, seconded by Mrs Moss proposed Mr Farr as Chairman.  
There being no other nominations, Mr Will Farr was declared elected.
- b) Vice-Chairman: Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Hatton proposed Mr Comber as Vice-Chairman.  
There being no other nominations, Mr Rob Comber was declared elected.  
Declarations of Office were signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

05515: Public question time. No members of the public were present.

05615: Apologies for absence: All Parish Councillors were present.

05715: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

Mr Edmunds had tendered for work at the Village Hall and left the room when a grant for the VH Committee for the purpose of this renovation was discussed. (Min. 06615c)

05815: Appointments

a) Planning Committee

This to consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Mr Edmunds, Mrs Lake and Mrs Moss with delegated authority to deal with minor planning matters between meetings. Other councillors would be invited to substitute if sufficient members were unavailable.

<u>b) Representatives:</u>	<u>Parish Forum:</u>	Mr Comber, and Mrs Lake
	<u>L&amp;RALC:</u>	Meetings no longer held

<u>c) Community positions:</u>	<u>Village Hall Committee:</u>	Mrs Moss
	<u>WEG:</u>	Mr Comber
	<u>Sports Club Liaison:</u>	Mrs Arnold

<u>d) Responsibilities</u>	<u>Tree warden &amp; fences:</u>	Mrs Moss
	<u>Play Area:</u>	Mrs Lake

05915: Minutes Parish Council Meeting of 11 April 2015

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

06015: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 05315 (end note): Parish Council election

It had been unnecessary to hold an election as 7 people had been nominated for 9 vacancies. The remaining places could be filled by co-option without need to hold a further election, if this was done within 35 days.

There had been some expression of interest and it was agreed that the Clerk should post notice of the vacancies on the notice board and the website. Candidates would be invited to attend the next meeting which was to be held on June 1st, and if more than 2 applicants a vote would be held.

b) 05115c) Further action on dog fouling

The Clerk had found printed signs that remained from a previous campaign. They could have the wording cut from them to leave the illustration only, then be laminated and put in areas known to be frequently fouled. Councillors agreed this was worth trying.

c) 05115d) Grass cutting

RCC had not replied to the query on ownership of the bank opposite the church, but it was noted that it had been cut. However, the adjacent bank opposite Station Road had also been mown in its entirety so bulbs, and wild flowers coming into bloom had been lost. Nothing could be done this year, but it was resolved that in 2016 there should be a reminder given that only a strip of that bank required cutting until June, and those concerned for the cuckoo flowers should be asked to mark the area if possible. It was noted that there were also some of these on The Banks so they had not been lost to the village.

06115 Reports from Councillors

a) Whissendine Environmental Group (WEG)

Mr Comber had attended and minutes of the meeting had been circulated. There had been a day of planting at the end of April and work in the area of the chapel footpath was now complete except for ongoing maintenance once there was growth. Those that had seen it agreed that the area was much improved. Mrs Lake queried whether work below the tree on the Village Green would be taking place. Mr Comber confirmed that the group would be doing this.

b) The Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin was congratulated on his re-election as ward Councillor.

He reported a very successful meeting at the Mace Stores with the result that it had been agreed that post office facilities should be reinstalled. He believed the shop owner had put together a good business plan and impressed the PO team. Preparatory work had to be completed so it was anticipated that the PO services would be available by November.

The Ward Councillor had also spoken to RCC about better signage provision for Hortons Lane at the junction with Hall Close, and this had been agreed.

Consultation with Severn-Trent was ongoing, but it was observed that the major work to replace water pipes was not being carried out by the same department responsible for drains and sewers, and so would have no impact on the drainage problems in Main Street.

06215 Planning matters

a) New planning applications: None.

b) Planning updates

Outline planning permission for five new homes within the grounds of Whissendine cottage had been granted despite Parish Council and resident objection. The access point onto Main Street satisfied the legal criteria and there were no other grounds for refusal. However, Mrs Asplin reported that the PC observations on the severity of the flooding on occasions had been considered by the planners and were the reason for conditions being stipulated with the permission. Detail on the levels of all surfaces and the provision for dealing with surface water drainage would have to be given ahead of any development commencing.

There was as yet no outcome from the appeal on the decision to refuse permission for an additional dwelling in Hortons Lane.

06315: Annual Risk assessment

a) 2014-15 Insurance Policy

One year had passed of the three year fixed term policy negotiated by Came & Co who were specialists in Parish Council insurance. Therefore there could be no change, but it was considered that from information provided in other offers received that the rates were good. One feature liked was the cover provided extended to employees, Councillors and volunteers on Council business.

b) To review areas of risk that are the responsibility of the Council.

The Model Parish Council Risk Assessment Guide was considered point by point, as applicable. It was noted that VAT had just been claimed and that Village Hall insurance was in place. It was considered that little else had changed and risk was limited.

06415: The Banks

a) Noticeboard

The drawing had been completed and Councillors were extremely pleased with the result. There was a suggestion made that Mrs Raymond should receive some recognition for the work she had put into this, and Mrs Lake was asked to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

The Clerk would now take the illustration, map, history and wording to the signage company, 'digitaldeadline' in Melton Mowbray, for design. In addition to what had been previously agreed it was noted that some direction to the sheep dip should be included, 'furthest point on the brook upstream', and there had to be reference to what the footpath map showed and the location of The Banks in the Village Centre.

b) Report on the meeting with WEG

Councillors had met with WEG representatives to discuss a future project for the area. Suggestions were:

- a new bridge at a different point across the brook
- enhancement of the sheep wash
- a wild life pond/marsh in the wet corner of the lower area
- seating and/or picnic table provision on the Cow Lane side

It was agreed that the bridge should be given priority. WEG would be asked to investigate the possibility of a grant for the style they had suggested, with the Parish Council prepared to make support funding. The idea of a pond was liked, but there was concern that maintenance would be difficult because it would be flooded regularly.

It was appreciated that the sheep wash area was naturally wild, so difficult to improve. It was also noted that it was on the boundary of the Parish Council's land. Mrs Moss offered to contact the owners of the neighbouring property to inform of the Council's discussion, and ascertain what plans they had for the area adjacent to it.

The position of any seating in the area would be considered after other work was to be carried out.

c) Routine maintenance

The bank beside the gate to the small area needed digging out a little so that gate closed properly. Mr Comber offered to carry out the work.

It was noted that tree branches had fallen and agreed that risk from them should be monitored.

An alert to be given when the bindweed growth was suitable for spraying.

06515: Highways & village maintenance

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

Alternative providers had been contacted after EON had given notice of a price increase per unit of almost 50%. OPUS had offered a deal to supply per unit at a rate below EON's charge, although the terms included a standing charge and a discount for direct debit, so that it was impossible to make a direct like for like comparison. The monthly charge would commence in June and an assessment on the deal would be able to be made then.

It was noted that other offers had been received after that from OPUS, and that the contract with OPUS was for an initial 12 months. Therefore, if it was not satisfactory, further estimates could be obtained for a deal in 2016.

b) Litter bins installation (Harborough Close objection)

It was resolved that the removal made that resulted in the bin being on the fence below eye level was satisfactory. The resident had requested a further move, but this was considered unnecessary and that the matter should now be closed.

c) Pickwell Lane

A reply from RCC stated that Pickwell Lane did not meet the legal requirements to be designated a 30mph area, as it was not within the village boundary, nor residential.

However, it was suggested that a limit of 40mph would be considered. The Council resolved unanimously to apply for a 40mph limit. This would be explained in the Grapevine update.

d) Maintenance matters

It was noted that recent road maintenance in the Foxhill and Hall Close had produced good results.

There would be disruption in the village during the repairs on the water supply system, and information received was being passed through to the website.

Mr Asplin promised to maintain contact with Severn-Trent on the drainage problems. It was noted that a short rain storm had resulted in water breaking through the surface of Main Street near the school once again.

06615: Financial business

a) Adoption of the audited accounts for 2015..

The accounts had been returned from the internal audit at Lamin & White shortly before the meeting, but without amendment or comment. Adoption was proposed by Mr Hatton and agreed. They were signed off by the Chairman in preparation for the external audit.

b) Completion of the Annual Governance Statement

Notice of the requirements was read through at the meeting. It was resolved that confirmation could be given on each point. Proposed by Mr Hatton.

c) Financial Report for April 2015

The precept of £20,000 had been received by bank transfer into the current account. and all the payments for April had been cleared. It was noted that a cheque paid in March for £39.99 had not be drawn therefore the amount in the current account exceeded that given in the financial statement by this amount.

The Long Clawson land rent had been received for payment into the charity account.

d) Requests for grants

The first phase of work on the Village Hall basement renovation had an estimate enclosed of £900. It was agreed that this would be granted in full. It would enable a wider range of entertainment to be provided which was of benefit to the village and enabled the hall committee scope for further fund raising.

WEG had requested £300 to meet public liability insurance costs and, as an earlier grant of £286 had been returned when project match funding was not required, it was agreed that the full amount be paid.

e) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£ 324.00
• Came & Co insurance	£ 602.14
• Lamin & White - internal audit	£ 192.00
• EON (electrical supply)	£ 128.03
• VAT payment on Christmas lights	£ 87.26
• Village hall room hire	£ 48.75
• Caretaker	£ 37.14
• P Lake (APM refreshments)	£ 9.30

06715: Correspondence

a) Bus service information.

It was noted that the 'Workbus' service had been withdrawn, and that regular services would be disrupted during the road closure for the water pipe renewal. The information would be put onto the website.

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

The meeting finished at 9.25pm

1 June                      Parish Council Meeting                      Village Hall                      7.15pm