

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 1st June 2015, in the Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

Chairman: Mr W Farr
Mr T Edmunds Mr D Hatton
Mrs P Lake Mrs C Moss

In attendance

Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

06815: Public question time.

Two members of the public were present, but did not wish to ask questions or make comments.

06915: Co-option of two additional councillors to complete the Council following the election.

There had been a notice placed on the website, in the Grapevine and on the notice board requesting those interested to contact the Clerk and/or attend this meeting. There had been interest expressed, but not confirmed. As there were no candidates co-options could not be made and Democratic Services at RCC would have to be informed.

07015: Apologies for absence:

Mr R Comber had sent apologies which were accepted.
The Ward Councillor had to attend a Rutland County Council meeting.

07115: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

None.

07215: Minutes Parish Council Meeting of 11 May 2015

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

07315: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 05415: Parish Council election

The Clerk reminded those Councillors who had not yet complete their Register of Interests that these were required by RCC before the end to week.

The Chairman gave reminder that the election expenses claim form should also be returned even if no expenses had been incurred.

b) 06515b) Litter bin installation (Harborough Close objection)

A further email had been received from the resident concerned asking when Mr Edmunds was going to move the bin. The Clerk had replied that it had been moved, and a photograph had been shown at the May meeting to show the new position, which the Council had approved. It was accepted that a certain amount of ill feeling had been generated, but that this was from a single objector.

07415 Reports from Councillors

a) Whissendine Village Hall

Mrs Moss reported that she had been unable to attend the recent committee as she was not in Whissendine, but had received an update on her return. She thought there were no new matters. Most time had been given to discussing plans for the refurbishment of the basement, and general maintenance. Thanks had been expressed verbally for the Parish Council's financial report, and a letter of acknowledgement would be written shortly.

b) The Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a short report.

He had managed to to arrange a new meeting with Severn-Trent particularly to discuss the problems with the drains and sewers in Main Street between the school and the Village Green. This was planned for Friday, 19 June at 1.30pm, and Councillors who could do so were invited to attend. Mrs Moss confirmed that she would definitely be able to represent the Parish Council and others hoped to attend. It was hoped that there would be some suggestions for improvements to prevent water breaking up the road surface during storms, as the drains were unable to deal with heavy rainfall quickly enough.

The Ward Councillor had also sent a small map to show the new location for the Hortons Lane sign. This had been installed, but forcibly removed. It was believed a resident was unhappy that access would be blocked, and some discussion on a different site for the sign, with confirmation of an application for additional access, had been made. The police community officer had assisted in resolving the situation. RCC had funded the cost of re-installing the sign (almost £70) but had warned that it would not do so again.

07515 Planning matters

a) New planning applications

2015/0404 a bungalow on land to the east of 27 The Nook.

This was a very much smaller dwelling from the original plans submitted, but it was entirely within the village envelope. Previous plans had been rejected as the development was partially outside this. It was noted that it was now close to the access from The Nook, and without a garage though two parking places had been included. It was considered that the size of the building was suitable for its location. As it was on lower ground than the nearest neighbouring property, and was single storey only, it would not impact unduly on the street scene or the next house. It would look across the adjoining property to the rear, but there were not windows on the closest side.

No objection would be made, but it was considered important to recommend strongly that a condition be made that any damage to The Nook during the construction process should be made good. It was noted that repairs to the road surface in the immediate area had only just been carried out, so that it was important this improvement was not lost.

b) Planning updates: None

07615: The Banks

a) Noticeboard

The Clerk had taken the illustration, map, history and notice wording to the signage company, 'digitaldeadline' in Melton Mowbray, and obtained estimates for two A2 sized signs mounted on two posts in a lectern style, and a third small notice for the gate to the fenced area. The strongest possible material had been requested for the large signs.

The costings supplied were:

2 off A2 landscape panels with a single box section and two legs:	£745 for each
1 off dibond play area sign 300mm x 150mm:	£4.86
1 off fitting:	£300
Total: (ex VAT)	£1794.86

There was a query on what 'fitting' included, as it was unclear whether this was the mounting, posts and installation, or only some elements of this. The Clerk would ascertain this.

It was also agreed that Mr Edmunds would obtain a second quotation for the work so that a comparison could be made.

b) Routine maintenance

Mrs Moss had circulated a report and photographs on her meeting with the owners of the neighbouring property. They were pleased to be kept informed of the possibility of a project with WEG and had discussed what remained of the sheepwash. They were having work carried out on the boundary and promised to include repair to the sluice gate on the brook if that was possible.

Mr Digby, who had carried out research into the history the wash, had submitted a short summary. The washing of sheep had continued until the 1930s. Some consideration would be given to presenting his information.

Mrs Moss promised to check on bindweed growth to see if the area below the swings was ready for treatment.

It was noted that on one occasion of a Councillor visit on the recent Bank Holiday weekend all of the pieces of play equipment were in use. It was proving an excellent village amenity.

07715: Highways & village maintenance

a) Severn-Trent work

Extensive work was being carried out to the water supply in Main Street. To date it had caused minor inconvenience but no major problems. The team had done their best to assist residents.

b) Maintenance matters

A resident had reported an ongoing build up of rubbish (cardboard and other packaging) on the banks of the brook below the Main Street bridge, and it was believed that the owner of the property was placing it there. Some photographs had been taken and it was agreed that these should be sent through to RCC's Environmental Health Dept so that an investigation could be made. It was acknowledged that there could be a reasonable explanation, but direct information was required from person responsible.

It was noted that the gales blowing had almost uprooted the silver birch on the corner of Harborough Close. It was agreed that RCC should be asked to check on its stability and health, and also look at the trees nearby, as it was suspected they were also very loose in the ground, as the soil in the area had no depth for roots. It was agreed that Mrs Lake should inform a nearby resident of the concern, as she took a close interest in the trees and would want to know what the situation was.

It was noted that spring growth meant some bushes and trees were spreading from gardens over the pavements. It was agreed a general message should appear in the Grapevine, and the resident of The Nook should be contacted as the hedge in the ground opposite the house was causing a particular problem

07815: Financial business

a) Financial Report for May 2015

The cheque for £39.99 remained unpaid, but other financial transactions for May were completed. No income had been received.

In response to a query the Clerk reported that there had been no reply to the Chairman's instruction in April to increase her salary by the agreed amount and pay the new rate from 1.1.2015. The salary would be paid in the middle of the month and it would be known then whether the correct payment had been made.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£ 324.00
• Caretaker	£ 44.58
• Clerk (office expenses)	£ 14.62

c) Grant towards maintenance of the churchyard and new burial ground.

Financial information to support a request for a grant of £900 to St Andrews PCC for churchyard maintenance had been circulated. This was as agreed in the budget and so approved.

d) Donations to organisations that support the community

A budget of £750 had been agreed for the donations in 2015. £675 was allocated as set out below with £75 held in reserve to support any other donation request during the course of the year.

The donation schedule for 2015 to be:

• Leics & Derby Air Ambulance	£200
• EMICS	£150
• Whissendine Good Neighbour Scheme	£125
• LOROS	£100
• Citizens Advice Bureau	£50
• Whissendine Neighbourhood Watch	£50

06715: Correspondence

a) Thanks from WEG

Written thanks for the grant paid in May

b) Fields In Trust

AGM notice and general information.

There was no other correspondence to circulate as other newsletters and information received between meetings had been by email and was forwarded electronically.

The meeting finished at 8.27pm

19 June	Severn-Trent	Outside the school	1.30pm
13 July	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm