

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

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

In attendance

Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

Shortly after 7. 15 pm the Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors. Mrs Arnold joined the meeting at 7.30pm.

08015: Public question time. There were no members of the public present

08115: Apologies for absence: Mrs Arnold had sent apologies shortly afterwards for being absent from the June meeting.

08215: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None.

08315: Minutes Parish Council Meeting of 1 June 2015

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

08415: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 05415: Parish Council election

A notice asking for additional members of the Council had been on the website and the Parish Council notice board outside the Village hall, but there had been no interest.

b) 04715a) Loodal Farm update.

The Clerk had received a report from Mr Howat in mid June to report that no maggots had been found. This had been sent for publication in the Gapevine. Subsequently (3 June) he had received a complaint from a resident on Hall Close reporting flies, but confirmed the absence of maggots on regular weekly visits, with the last on 2 July. There had been an increased number of adult flies noticed at this time, and sprays were being used against these, as well as the continued precautionary measures against any larvae.

Several Councillors had noted an increase in the number of flies in areas not local to the farm. It was observed that that was not unusual at this time of year in a rural area.

c) 07415a) Village Hall

The letter of thanks noted by Mrs Moss had been received.

d) 07715a) Severn-Trent work

This had been ongoing in the weeks between the meetings, and no problems had been reported. The Chairman remarked that any comments he had received had noted how helpful the operators had been, with efforts made to assist where possible and avoid inconvenience. There had been excellent liaison with the school.

e) 07715b) Harborough Close trees.

It was noted that the tree most severely affected by the gales had been removed, and it was understood that it would be replaced. It was agreed that a letter should be sent advising that the tree would not be able to survive for long in that location because it would not be able to establish sufficient root. The others there were struggling. Once the information had been given the decision would then be a matter for RCC.

Mrs Moss requested a map of the trees within the village that carried a protection order. She was to be sent a copy of the Design Statement that showed this clearly.

f) 07715b) Rubbish on the banks of the brook

It was noted that shortly after the meeting this had been burned. As there had been no complaints the Parish Council could not take further action, particularly as the action had taken place on private property. Reports from Councillors

a) Whissendine Village Hall

Mrs Moss reported there had been no meeting since the last Parish Council, but that the next was due to take place shortly.

b) WEG

Mr Comber reported that the AGM had taken place, and there had also been a further working party at the chapel footpath area to do more clearing and make additional planting.

Mrs Lake had been present on 27 June when a representative of Cory had visited to assess whether the grant had been spent satisfactorily. The conclusion was that the result achieved was very pleasing.

Work had begun around the bench on the Village Green.

c) Ward Councillor

It was believed that Mr Asplin would be attending the RCC meeting. He had been sent the minutes of the previous PC meeting which had the date for July, but the Clerk apologised for omitting to send him an agenda. It was noted that the website had given an inaccurate date for the July for some time during the previous month. This would be checked to ensure the September date was correct.

08615 Planning matters

a) New planning applications

2015/0543FUL: construction of a milking parlour and dairy cow housing at Whissendine Lodge, Melton Rd.

It was noted that this construction would not be visible from the village or the road going past the entrance to the farm. There would be no impact on village services or amenities. It was considered a suitable development for a working farm.

2015/0544HDG: removal of a hedgerow to permit the constructions at Whissendine Lodge Farm.

It was observed that the hedgerow was old, but noted that it did not contain a variety of species and so did support much wildlife. It would be replaced by a much longer hedge with a greater mix of species. This was appreciated and the application would be supported.

b) Planning updates: None

08715: The Banks

a) Purchase of the notice boards

A second quote for the notice board design and construction had been obtained from Quoin Print in Oakham. It was very close to that of Digital Deadline in Melton indicating that this was to be the price expected for this type of work. It was proposed by Mr Hatton that Digital Deadline should be asked to produce the design and this was agreed. However, it was decided that the installation should be ordered in the village. The Clerk would contact Digital deadline to give the company that specification.

b) The 2015 ROSPA inspection

The area had been inspected on 05 June 2015. The conclusion was that the overall risk was medium from scoring given to the equipment and general maintenance. It was noted that most of the recommendations concerned work on wooden structures. It was concluded that these would deteriorate further over the winter, and the best time for repairs to be carried out would be the spring of 2016. Mr Hatton proposed that there should be further inspection and the work specifications agreed in February-March 2016. This was agreed. The Chairman concluded that the report overall was positive. There were no major concerns.

c) The stile on E142 at the western end of the Play Area

A complaint had been received that this had been repaired in a way that prevented use by some dogs. Mr Crook (Rights of Way RCC) had advised that it would not be acceptable as a new installation, but existing stiles did not have to be upgraded as access to dogs was not a legal requirement. It was agreed that the stile should remain as it was currently. It could be upgraded at the time repairs became necessary.

d) Routine maintenance

Mrs Lake reported that she had inspected the area thoroughly in the previous week and there were several maintenance jobs that needed carrying out.

- hedge trimming, particularly along the western boundary of The Nook, and to the right of the main entrance gate
- holes in the ground needed filling (also noted in the ROSP report)
- nettles needed cutting back at the Cow Lane entrance
- a large dead branch needed removing from the area inside the Cow Lane gate, Cory were mowing around it so the area was becoming overgrown.

It was agreed that Mr Prentice should be given the specifications for the work required and be asked if was able to carry it out. Mrs Lake would take photos and prepare sketches to make it clear what needed to be done.

08815: Highways & village maintenance

a) Meeting with Severn-Trent re flooding problems

Mrs Lake and Mrs Moss had met with Jason Hammonds of Severn-Trent on 19 June. The Ward Councillor had been unable to attend. He had taken note of the problems that occurred, particularly when there was heavy rain, and suggested that there should be a multi-service discussion on these. It was agreed that further consideration of this matter would have to wait until the Ward Councillor could attend, as Mr Hammonds was consulting directly with him.

b) Police speeding campaign

information on a new campaign to be operated by PC Appleton had been circulated. As nothing could be done in Whissendine until after the Severn-Trent repairs were completed it was agreed to wait until further information on how the campaign was to be organised was received.

c) The position of the waste bin in Harborough Close

Further correspondence and photographs had been received from the resident who did not like to see the bin from his home. He had requested that it should be moved further along the fence so it was directly in his line of view, or that it was removed completely because it was little used. The Council considered that as a decision had been taken that the bin was suitably placed there was nothing more to discuss. Any further letters would be placed on file without acknowledgement.

d) Maintenance matters

Mrs Lake wished to relinquish responsibility for the local footpaths as she did not find it easy to negotiate some of the stiles. It was agreed that all Councillors would be responsible for noting any problems personally encountered, and passing them when residents reported by residents.

08915: Financial business

a) Financial Report for July 2015

The sum of £39.99 remained unpaid and the cheque for £50 as a donation to Whissendine neighbourhood watch had not been presented. A VAT repayment of £1305.40 had been received, with £31.96 of this transferred to the Long Clawson account. The deposit account had earned £33.09 interest in the first quarter, giving a balance of £17,576.04.

It was noted that the monthly amount being paid to Opus was £119.66 giving an annual total of £1435.92. In 2014 £1301.87 was paid to EON for the same provision. However, the increase proposed by EON would have taken the total to at least £1600 so the change of company had been worthwhile.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

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| • Cory Environmental | £194.75 |
| • Caretaker | £ 68.85 |
| • Village Hall hire (3 months) | £ 48.75 |

During the period between meetings the Clerk had paid:

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| • Clerk's salary & associated costs | £ 981.72 |
| • Cory Environmental | £ 389.5 |
| • EON Services (maintenance) | £ 245.45 |

c) Grapevine advertising invoices and payment collection

There had been no advertising income from the Grapevine in 2015 and the invoices to regular advertisers had not been sent out to the Clerk's knowledge. There had been no response from the editor, Mr Penny, to an enquiry on whether this was going ahead as in previous years. It was decided to wait to see if an August magazine was produced, and if any help was requested with invoices before further contact was made.

09015: Correspondence

- a) Thanks from organisations With the exception of Neighbourhood Watch all the organisations that had been sent donations had acknowledged receipt with thanks.
- b) Firework Noise Complaint. Information had been sent to the resident concerned that no fireworks had been let off at any Feast Week event.
- c) Agenda for the PC Forum Mrs Lake planned to attend the meeting to represent Whissendine.

There was a newsletter to circulate, but most information received between meetings had been by email and forwarded to Councillors electronically.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

27 July	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm
7 September	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm