

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 7th September 2015, in the Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

Chairman: Mr W Farr
Mrs L Arnold Mr T Edmunds
Mr D Hatton

In attendance

Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

Shortly after 7.15 pm the Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors, Mrs Sally Vincent and Beth Sykes of Rutland Community Agents. Mrs Vincent outlined to Councillors a new initiative between the Rutland Community Council and Spire Homes to provide impartial advice and guidance for adults in the county in need of support. They had also spoken to representatives of the Whissendine Good Neighbour Scheme in the previous months. Their aim was to provide a link to whoever needed it in the community. It was stressed that the elderly were often quite well provided for by various agencies, but the young in difficulties and those with problems could remain hidden. The service was confidential and tailored to individual needs, though there could be payment required from the end user, depending on means. Cards were left so that they could be available in the shop, and Parish Councillors thanked the visitors for attending. The Clerk gave a reminder that there were funds accessible via the Long Clawson Land Charity for anyone who needed urgent financial help in Whissendine, and that this was on record with RCC Social Services.

At 7.30pm the visitors left the meeting.

09115: Public question time. There were no members of the public present

09215: Apologies for absence: Mrs P Lake, Mrs C Moss and Mr R Comber had sent apologies for absence that were accepted. The Ward Councillor, Mr Asplin, was unable to attend.

09315: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None.

09415: Minutes Parish Council Meeting of 13 July 2015

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

09515: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 08415: Parish Council election

All information held on Councillors had been sent to Rutland CC and there had been no queries. The information that additional councillors were required remained on the website, but no interest had been expressed.

b) 08415b) Harborough Close trees.

Information on the unsuitability of the site for tree planting had been passed to RCC. It seemed that there were still plans to replace the trees in spite of this, but nothing had been planted to date.

c) 11714b) speed reactor sign

Mr Slater (RCC Highways) had been contacted and was now checking on installation costs with Eon Services. It was hoped the project would be completed before the winter.

09615: Reports from Councillors

a) WEG It was noted the the chapel footpath project had received newspaper publicity.

b) Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin was unable to attend the meeting, and had been unable to be active with Whissendine matters over the summer because of poor health. He hoped to take up his responsibilities again and informed the parish Council of ongoing difficulties with the placement of the sign for Hortons Lane.

09715 Planning matters

a) New planning applications

2015/0671FUL & 2015/0688LBA: resubmissions of permissions granted under 2013/1114FUL & 1116 LBA re conversion of outbuildings and construction of new homes in Station Road, Whissendine.

It was observed that these plans were as those presented in 2013 when the Council had been in favour of the conversion and small development on the old farm site. There were no new observations or comment. It was considered that the site was suitable for development and it would not impact unduly on neighbouring properties.

2015/0717FUL: proposed double garage for 15 Stapleford Road, Whissendine

It was noted that the construction would not be visible from the road nor would it impact on neighbouring properties. The design was considered to be in sympathy with the listed building.

b) Planning updates:

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

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

Approval had been given for the listed agricultural developments.

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

The appeal made to the Planning Inspectorate against the decision not to approve an additional dwelling in Hortons Lane on land adjoining 1 Hortons Lane had been unsuccessful. The close proximity to a neighbouring property, and the lack of plot size were the two main reasons for this.

c) Neighbourhood Development Plan Information

Further information of Neighbourhood Development Plan would be circulated for background reading. However, the conclusion of preliminary discussion was that as Whissendine had a village envelope in place, and little room for development within it, there was no immediate relevance.

09815: Whissendine Grapevine

The Clerk and Councillors had been contacted during the summer months because no further editions of the Grapevine had been published. Mr Penny (Editor) had not responded to phone call and emails, though when spoken to directly had given assurance that there would be a publication shortly and copy was with the printer.

It was agreed that there should be a special meeting of the Council to discuss how to proceed if Mr Penny wished not to continue as editor. Mr Lake (previous editor) would be invited to explain in detail the nature of the tasks involved, as it was thought that responsibilities could be split between different people.

In preparation for this:

Mr Edmunds would speak to Mr Penny to determine whether he wished to continue to have all, partial or no responsibility for future Grapevine publication.

The Clerk would contact the printer to ascertain whether he was still having computer problems that were delaying publication and check that there was an edition that would be produced shortly. She would also speak with Mrs Scull to learn whether she still had any interest in taking on responsibility for the Grapevine, and find out whether Mr Tatham could assist with design layout for the foreseeable future.

09915: The Banks

a) To approve the artwork for the notice boards for The Nook and Cow Lane entrances

A design had been received and circulated to Councillors. It was very much appreciated. The only change to be requested was that the text should have been spaced to have a level right hand margin so that the paragraphs were blocked. The company would be asked to proceed.

b) To report on the work carried out over the summer

Mrs Lake had supplied detailed illustrated specifications which had been passed on to Mr Prentice. He had carried out the repairs to the ground and the cutting back of overgrowing hedges and undergrowth at the entrances. He had sub-contracted the hedge trimming to LBD tree care as this company could provide for the removal of the hedgerow waste.

Proludic had been contacted immediately it was brought to the Clerk's attention that the zip wire platform needed replacing, and an order for the parts and the fitting had been generated at a cost of £439.15 +VAT (£526.98). The work was scheduled to be completed by 8 September.

c) Routine maintenance

09915: Highways & village maintenance

a) Meeting with Severn-Trent re flooding problems

The Ward Councillor had been unable to consult with Mr Hammonds of Severn-Trent. It was hoped there would be news by the next meeting.

b) Proposals for double yellow lines in Main Street and its junctions with Oakham Road & St Andrews Close

A map had been sent from RCC showing yellow lines on the school side of Main Street, including the Stapleford Road access, around the bend outside Bishops Corner into Oakham Road, and at the St Andrews Close junction. A message had been sent from the Ward Councillor to indicate that this document was for consultation at present, no Cabinet decision had been taken. The Council agreed that it would support this proposal. The one observation to be made was that 2 Oakham Road had no off road parking facility and this should be considered when extending the yellow lines around the bend from Main Street to Oakham Road.

c) Maintenance work on the village pump.

Residents in the locality had pointed out that the pump was in need of maintenance. The Clerk had requested an estimate for repair from a local contractor, but had not received any information. Councillors decided that work at the present time was unnecessary.

d) Maintenance matters

It was reported that the pavement in Ashwell Road from the corner after the junction with Main Street to the last house was in need of repair. A wheel chair user had been observed on the road because it was impossible to use, and even able bodied pedestrians could have difficulty because of the uneven surface. The Clerk was asked to make a report to RCC Highways and request a repair.

The Village Green bus shelter had been damaged quite badly once again through being knocked by an HGV. Following discussion it was agreed that if the litter bin at this point was removed to the other side of the shelter it would give some protection as it would be visible to HGV drivers when the side of the shelter and its sloping roof was not. Mr Edmunds would make investigations for the move and provide an estimate for repair once this had been done.

Mrs Lake had sent a report and photographs to indicate that Sherrard Close car parks needed maintenance, particularly the hedges surrounding them needed to be trimmed and the area made tidy. It was believed they were the responsibility of Spire Homes as the company received rent for the garages on them. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Spire Homes and request some maintenance be carried out.

10015: Financial business

a) Report from the external auditor

The external audit had been completed with the return of the paperwork in mid-August. The external auditor (Grant Thornton) had raised no queries. The Clerk would now send the information for publication on the website. It was noted that gross turnover had exceeded £25,000 in 2014 and 2015 so that Whissendine PC was not a 'small council' eligible for grants to enable publication. However, this situation could change in 2015-16, particularly in the absence of Grapevine advertising revenue.

b) Financial Report for September 2015

The cheque from the end of the financial year for £39.99 had now been cleared but £50 as a donation to Whissendine Neighbourhood Watch remained outstanding. There had been no income into the current account in the six weeks since the last meeting, but the street lighting contribution from RCC had been received at the beginning of this month (£1429.79). With no receipts from Grapevine advertising this would be the final main contribution to the Parish Council's income bringing it below £25,000.

The Clerk's September salary had been received.

c) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Eon Services (maintenance)	£254.45
• External audit (Grant Thornton)	£200.00
• Cory Environmental	£ 194.75

• Caretaker	£ 47.95
• Clerk's office expenses	£ 18.74

It was agreed that payment would be required before the next meeting for the repair to the zip wire and to reimburse RCC for the Clerk's September salary.

During the period between meetings the Clerk had paid:

• Cory Environmental	£ 194.75
• Caretaker	£ 44.65
• EON Services (repair)	£ 28.16

d) Pension information

The Parish Council had no employees that were eligible. The Clerk could choose to opt in but didn't wish to so. It was agreed she should write a letter offering the facility, and a response to decline it, so that these could be kept on record for HMRC.

10115: Correspondence

<u>a) Parish Forum notes</u>	These would be circulated as no Councillor had been available to represent Whissendine. There was interesting information on RCC's responsibility for taking measures to prevent flooding.
<u>b) Aircraft noise</u>	It was agreed that aircraft could be heard, but that this did not cause problems. A response would be made to Hambleton Parish Meeting.
<u>c) Information</u>	The bus information was considered not relevant for display, but the new library van times needed to be obtainable from the website. Notice of the Electoral Review had been circulated
<u>d) Invitations</u>	Details of the Citizens Advice AGM, Health Watch meeting and the Justice Service would be circulated for Councillors to check their diaries.

There were magazines and charity & advertising information to circulate.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

5 October Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.15pm
Special meeting to discuss the Grapevine to be arranged.