

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5th October 2015, in the Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

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

In attendance

Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

102115: Public question time. There were no members of the public present

10315: Apologies for absence: Mrs C Moss and the Ward Councillor, Mr Asplin, was unable to attend.
PC Appleton had hoped come, but duty rescheduling prevented this.

10415: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None.

10515: Minutes Parish Council Meetings

a) of 7 September 2015

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

b) of an extraordinary meeting re the Whissendine Grapevine on 23 September 2015

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

10615: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 09515c) speed reactor sign

There had been no update from Mr Slater (RCC Highways), although there had been a request made for any information on 1 October. The Clerk would contact him again.

b) 09915d) Ashwell Road pavement

A letter had been sent to RCC on 9 September, with a follow up at the end of month, but so far there had been no acknowledgement or response. The Clerk would make contact again and ask for Ward Councillor support.

c) 09915d Sherrard Close car park

A letter had been sent to Spire Homes on 9 September, with acknowledgement that it would be forwarded to the surveyor, Neil Brunning. To date there had been no reply from Mr Brunning despite a request sent at the end of September. The Clerk was asked to pursue the matter further.

d) 10115 Correspondence: b) aircraft noise

Feedback had been given as directed. There had been no further contact.

e) 10115 Correspondence: c) information

A revised schedule for the library van had been received and uploaded to the website

10715: Reports from Councillors

a) No Councillors had attended meetings recently.

The Clerk was asked about the opportunities for training for new Councillors, and responded that information about training courses was now invariably received by email and circulated. News of appropriate training would now be highlighted.

b) Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin was unable to attend the meeting, and to undertake Ward Councillor responsibility. Ward Councillor Gale Waller was covering for him, but was at another meeting.

She had sent a report that updated the Parish Council on liaison with Mr Brown, RCC Highways on matters relating to Hortons Lane that had been raised by a resident.

- It had been agreed that RCC should take on action on the Hortons Lane verge.
- Also, that the street name sign was inappropriately placed and should be moved.
- The traffic generated by the redevelopment of Grange Farm and its outbuildings was not anything that RCC Planning Department could influence as planning consent had not been required, and therefore conditions could not be applied.

There had also been concern raised about parking in Main Street at school times and the difficulty for traffic when having to pass oncoming traffic. The school was working with the Council's road safety officer, and it was hoped that parking would be addressed in these discussions. It was suggested that the owners of two properties in the locality that did not have the white H markings across their drives should be encouraged to request them as the space created would provide additional passing space.

Councillors observed that the residents who did not have their driveways marked in this way were aware that they could request this, and had chosen not to do so.

10815 Planning matters

a) New planning applications

2015/0864FUL: single storey infill extension and alterations to existing door/window openings at Rutland House, Stapleford Road.

Councillors observed that the house was not visible from Stapleford Road, nor was it in close proximity to neighbouring property. The infill was small and did not affect the local scene in any way.

b) Grange Farm development : concern re access

Councillors noted comments from a resident on the possible affect on properties in Hortons Lane during the course of development, but agreed that Councillor Waller's findings (min:10715b) meant that comment to RCC Planning Dept would not be relevant.

c) Planning updates:

2015/0687 & 2015/0688LBA: resubmissions of permissions granted under 2013/1114FUL & 1116 LBA re conversion of outbuildings and construction of new homes in Station Road, Whissendine.

These resubmission applications had been withdrawn.

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

This had been approved.

e) Information from RCC re the development plan & call for sites

The purpose of the consultation was to give an early opportunity for developers, landowners, town and parish councils, and other interested parties to put forward potential development sites to the Council for consideration in the plan covering the next 20 year period up to 2036. Information had been received from RCC Planning Dept by email and circulated. There were links available to further detail on the RCC website.

Councillors noted that several sites in Whissendine had been submitted following the previous call for sites, but none had been found acceptable and included in the development plan. Several had been very small, and it was observed that a minimum size of .15h for housing or .25h for economic development was required.

Only Councils that had an approved Neighbourhood Development Plan would be consulted directly. Therefore it was resolved that the the RCC website should be monitored for information to learn what sites had been put forward from Whissendine so that any comment thought necessary could be made.

f) Langham Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation

There was appreciation of that Langham had sent the document for consultation, and that it contained a great deal that was of interest. Langham PC would be thanked and congratulated on their achievement.

There followed further discussion on the need for Whissendine to have a Neighbourhood Development Plan, and it was noted that NPDs had a place within legislation that Design Statements and parish Plans did not, and so their potential for influence, once approved, was greater. However, it was known that several years of work went into the production of the final document and queried whether the outcome would be useful to Whissendine, a residential village without main route access.

It was resolved that further information would be circulated and Mrs Moss given an opportunity for comment.

10915: Whissendine Grapevine

a) Update from liaison with the editor

It had been known that Mr Penny could not attend this PC meeting as he had a prior engagement, though understood that he should have a sufficient amount of material that had come in over the previous months, although some would no longer be relevant. It was recognised that he could not be relied on to keep to schedule and support was agreed.

- Mr Edmunds to act as the liaison from the PC and check on whether there were any difficulties.
- If Mr Penny voiced concerns, or Mr Edmunds thought there was the potential for problems that Council was to be contacted immediately so that resolutions could be discussed.
- It was known some contributors left it to the last minute to send in material. The Clerk would assist by reminding frequent offenders and suggesting an earlier deadline.
- Mr Penny to be reminded that the distributors needed to be given their copies on schedule.

b) Report from the Clerk on obtaining the annual advertising

The Clerk reported that all previous advertisers had been contacted in order to put together the section printed annually. To date about two thirds had responded positively and about a quarter had paid. Two regular advertisers did not wish to continue because their employment circumstances had changed, and one because the magazine had not been published over the summer. With some new people to be included it seemed hopeful that there would be sufficient advertising agreed by the 15 October deadline.

c) Long Clawson Land Charity documentation

It was agreed that this should be published in the November edition. The village shop had been sold and it was not known whether the new owner would wish to participate in the voucher scheme.

11015: The Banks

a) Feedback from the work carried out during August/September

A letter had been received from Mr Prentice explaining the reason hedge cuttings had been left on the site for a short period. There had been a technical problem with the machine resulting in a delay, as they would normally be removed as soon as the cut was completed. It was known this had resulted in a complaint to RCC, but photographic evidence had been obtained to show the delay was brief and the site kept tidy.

It was resolved that a reply should be sent to Mr Prentice thanking him for his work and noting the results were considered to be of a high standard.

The zipwire had been repaired by Proludic, but not until 24 September. The repair had been inspected and the invoice paid.

There was no news yet on the completion of the signs.

b) Routine maintenance

Mr Hatton noted that there was further cutting back and tidying required in the Cow Lane area of The Banks. It was agreed that Mr Prentice should be asked to look at this and contact Mr Hatton for the specifications. Mr Edmunds had purchased a new catch for the pedestrian gate and would fit this

11115: Highways & village maintenance

a) Resident comment on yellow lines in Main Street

All replies to the notification given on the website had agreed that the suggested yellow lines would be worthwhile. Most wanted them extended slightly to take in the corners of Melton Road, and the bus stop areas, plus the inside of the Stapleford Road triangle. One wanted further extension into St Andrews Close. This was not supported, but it was agreed that parking in the area of the bend and junction posed greatest risk, as driver visibility was reduced, and the exit from the Oakham Road courtyard made very difficult. However, there was concern that an Oakham Road resident would not be able to park as near to her home as she could expect. It was agreed that all of these observations should be passed to RCC.

b) Bus stop consultation

Mr Edmunds reported that the shelter at the Village Green was more badly damaged than he had first thought. An effort had been made to place the litter bin to protect it, but it had been moved back to its original position several times.

It was resolved that RCC should be asked to repair/replace the shelter, preferably with one that did not have a roof overhang that was not visible to drivers when reversing lorries into the area.

c) Maintenance matters

The broken posts on the Village Green were discussed, but it was agreed no action should be taken, other than to remove anything that was a hazard. In due course all would need replacing or the Green left without a surrounding border. There would be village consultation in advance of any decision on this.

There were potholes to bring to the attention of RCC in Stapleford Road, opposite West Farm and with the northern junction of Sherrard Close, and in Oakham Road near Bishops Corner. The road surface of The Nook continued to break up.

Some concern was expressed at the amount of advertising signage on verges in and near the village.

It was agreed that Mr Hatton should obtain a Christmas tree for the Village Green and ask for Mr Prentice's assistance in erecting it.

11215: Financial business

a) Financial Report for September 2015

The first receipts for advertising in the Grapevine had been come in, and most payments cleared through the account, although the Neighbourhood Watch donation had not been drawn. The major payments for projects (speed indicator reactor and noticeboards) were still to be made, but expenditure during the first half of the years was as expected.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Maintenance (R Prentice)	£573.50
• Cory Environmental	£194.75
• Melton Borough Council	£ 59.40
• Caretaker	£ 45.235

During the period between meetings the Clerk had paid:

• Clerk's salary & admin	£880.63
• Proludic (zipwire repair)	£526.98

c) Pension information

The Clerk had written a letter to put on file stating that she did not wish to join the pension scheme.

11315: Correspondence

a) Invitation request

Tim Hiskens, Melton and Rutland County District Manager for Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, had been invited to the next PC meeting at the request of PC Appleton.

b) Village email address

There was no wish to follow up on this.

c) Civic reception

Mrs Lake would represent the Parish Council and invite Mrs Moss to attend with her

There were magazines and charity & advertising information to circulate. Information on autumn adult learning courses had been sent to the website.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

20 October	Parish Council Forum	Catmose	7.00pm
1 November	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm