

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2nd November 2015, in the Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

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

In attendance

Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk
Nirav Modhvadiya
2 village residents

11415: Public time.

a) Fire & Rescue Service:

Mr Hiskins could not attend.

b) The village shop: Mr Modhvadiya who would be taking over the business in the middle of the month introduced himself and gave a little of his background. He stressed he had family support for the new venture.

The continuation of the lottery terminal was raised as his greatest concern, as he did not wish the shop to lose any services because of the possible impact on the business. He pointed out that both the local community and local suppliers benefitted from a retail outlet in Whissendine and he wished to develop the business from a stable base. He requested the Council to contact Camelot in time for the meeting the next day expressing support.

There were several question from Councillors on the promised Post Office facility. It was understood that the location had been accepted and Mr Odeera (current shop owner) had been approved to administer it. However, although the site approval would continue, the new owner would have to undergo training. He expected this to take 3-4 months and April 2016 was now the target date for a PO facility.

Councillors also explained the use of the village shop to operate the Long Clawson Land Charity. Mr Modhvadiya gave assurance that he was happy to participate in the scheme.

He left the meeting at 7.35pm

11515: Apologies for absence:

Mr T Edmunds had sent apologies that were accepted and Mrs Arnold had given notice that she would not be able to attend throughout the meeting. (She was absent from 8pm for about 20 minutes).

Mr R Comber had sent apologies for lateness and arrived at 8.30pm

11615: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

None.

11715: Minutes Parish Council Meetings of 5 October

These were approved on the proposal of Mrs Lake after the correction of a typographical error.

11815: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 10615a) speed reactor sign

An apology from Mr Slater (RCC Highways) for not working on the scheme had been received on 10 October. He explained a heavy work load had prevented this, but hoped to make a start the following week. However, no work on the site had begun.

b) 10615b) Ashwell Road pavement & 115c road surface maintenance

Further detail on the state of the Ashwell Road pavement, including a photograph, and a report of other road surface concerns in The Nook and at specified sites, had been sent to Mr Tomlinson by email on 8 October. There had been no acknowledgement

c) 10615d Sherrard Close car park

A request for acknowledgement from Mr Brunning, the Shire Homes surveyor designated to assess the site, was sent on 8 October. There had been only an automated response.

d) 10715a) Councillor training

The Clerk had highlighted recent training opportunities with L&RALC as these had been given in email briefing received from the association, although there had been nothing local nor in an evening. Notification had been received that the full schedule for 2016 was on the L&RALC website. Evening courses for Chairmen and Councillors were scheduled on three dates.

e) 11115 a & b yellow line and bus stop consultations with RCC

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

f) 08415 Harborough Close trees

It was noted that a new tree had been planted in Harborough Close by RCC despite Parish Council advice that the site was unsuitable because of the lack of soil depth for roots.

g) 11415g: Camelot terminal in the Village Shop

Some concern was expressed that it would not be legal to intervene in a commercial operation. However, all agreed that the shop provided a service to the village and it would not be beneficial for its continuation to lose any of the facilities it currently held.

It was agreed that after checking the legality with SLCC the Clerk would immediately write to Camelot to support the continuation of lottery provision with that rationale stated.

11915: Reports from Councillors

a) Whissendine Environmental Group

Mrs Lake had attended as the PC representative as Mr Comber could not be present. She gave a brief update on continuing maintenance on the Chapel Footpath and reported that Mrs Moyce would be looking after the herbs beneath the seat on the Village Green, although this was difficult task. It was planned to have bat boxes at strategic points. WEG did need money for the remainder of the current financial year, but gave advance notice of a grant request to be made in the next.

b) Civic reception: Mrs Lake had attended to represent Whissendine PC.

c) Village Hall: Mrs Moss could not be present but would circulate minutes when they became available.

d) Ward Councillor

Mr Asplin was unable to attend the meeting, and had sent a short message to say he was resigning as Ward Councillor because of continued poor health. It was acknowledged that he would be very much missed for his enthusiasm and willingness to work on behalf of the village, and agreed that he should be thanked for his efforts and regret expressed that he was unable to continue.

It was considered that it was noticeable that Whissendine did not have the support of a Ward Councillor. In terms of positive outcome liaison with RCC (min:11815 a,b,c,e,f) had deteriorated significantly. There would now an interim of some weeks of electoral process.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact RCC for a designated Councillor to be responsible for the Whissendine Ward. This person would then be contacted to be invited to the next PC meeting, and for the Clerk to raise concern at the lack of progress on outstanding matters.

12015 Planning matters

a) New planning applications

2015/0936FUL: two storey extension, sedum flat roof and the garage repositioned at 11 The Nook

Councillors observed that the design lacked character, but would have no impact on either the street scene or the neighbouring properties. Therefore there was no objection to be made.

2015/0941FUL: single storey extension and creation of a separate double garage at Millbank, 14 Melton Road

It was agreed that the extension did not significantly alter the style and character of the bungalow, simply made it larger. The plot would have less garden, but as it was not raised it would not affect the neighbouring properties or the street scene. It was noted English Heritage would comment in respect of the nearby Grade 1 listed windmill, but not thought this building, or views of it, would be affected. Therefore there would be no objection.

b) Planning updates: None received.

c) Wymondham & Edmondthorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation

There was appreciation that Wymondham & Edmondthorpe had sent information and website link details of the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the purpose of consultation. However, where the parish boundaries met with that of Whissendine was open countryside, and it was considered there would be no direct impact. It was also noted that their local authority area was Melton Borough rather than Rutland. It was agreed a note of thanks should be sent, but there was no other comment.

d) Neighbourhood Development Plan Group for Whissendine

There was further discussion on whether making a plan would serve a useful purpose. It was remembered that the Village Design Statement and Parish Plan had both entailed a lot of work, but were now seldom referred to. It was agreed that Mrs Moss should be given the contact details of the Langham co-ordinator and learn more about what was involved, particularly the topics to be covered, the number of people needed and the timescale. When she had this information she would put it into the Grapevine and invite interest.

12115: Whissendine Grapevine

a) Update from liaison with the editor

It was noted that the Grapevine was now published and distributed. It was very much as it was in style and content before lack of administration for the annual advertising had meant it could no longer be printed. The editorial section would depend very much on contributors, but the essential service of providing information to be shared amongst the community was now functioning again.

b) Report from the Clerk Grapevine advertising

The Clerk reported that there was a total of 33 adverts and 75% of these had been paid for. There were eight advertisers to chase. These and the occasional adverts would bring in about £600 giving an approximate income of £2500 in all. However, when 12 copies of the Grapevine were printed the cost would be £3888 so there was a considerable subsidy from the PC for the benefit of the community.

c) Plans for the December grapevine

It was hoped this would proceed as normal. However, it was agreed that liaison should continue with the editor, particularly as the deadline approached, to offer any support necessary.

122015: The Banks

a) The installation of the new signs

The signs were liked for their design and clarity, and it was considered they were well made. However, concern was expressed that the plastic would discolour or be damaged. Regular replacement could become necessary. It was agreed to take the opinion of Mr Edmunds on the most suitable time for installation, as weather factors could be involved.

b) Routine maintenance

Mr Hatton confirmed that Mr Prentice had been given the specifications required for the work near the Cow Lane entrance, and would do this when practical.

12315: Highways & village maintenance

a) Speed reactor sign for Ashwell Road

There was no progress to report. Further contact with RCC was required.

b) Proposed speed restriction in Pickwell Lane and Oakham Road

The proposed 40mph limit in Pickwell lane had been proposed by the Parish Council to RCC Highwaysearlier in the year and there was satisfaction that this had been progressed.

The Clerk had queried the reason for the limit being applied in the Wrights Lodge area but not received a response. The parish Council concluded that if was for the purpose of keeping horse riders safer, then the 40 mph limit should be applied all the way through to the 30mph limit near the village boundary, as it was a dangerous stretch of road for the most part without verges.

c) Maintenance matters: None noted.

12415: Financial business

a) Financial Report for November 2015

All of the October income (£1575) was from Grapevine adverts, and only the £50 Neighbourhood Watch donation had not been drawn from the account. The Clerk noted that just over 50% of planned spending had been made and salary payments, the cost of the speed reactor and street lighting maintenance were still to come that would take much of the rest.

The Clerk was requested to add a charge for extra hours given to Grapevine advertising to the office expenses sheet presented in December.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£324
• Litter bin & installation (RCC)	£255
• Cory Environmental (mowing)	£194.75
• Caretaker	£ 45. 49

During the period between meetings the Clerk had paid:

• New signage for The Banks	£1793.83
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c) Gift for local artist: It was agreed unanimously that £50 of vouchers should be purchased to thank Mrs Raymond for the artwork she had produced for the signs.

12415: Correspondence

a) Grant information

The Councillors acknowledged the information in relation to falls but knew of no village organisation able to make use of the grants available for prevention or assistance.

Mr Comber agreed to explore further with WEG the costing of a project for disabled access to the Cow Lane side of The Banks in suitable weather, and the installation of a new bridge. Benches for rest and as viewpoints were also suggested. Once a project was put together substantial funding from Tesco could be applied for.

b) L&RLPC news sheet This had been printed for circulation.

c) Newsletters and general information: These would also be circulated.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

Long Clawson Land Charity 2015 payments: £100 per recipient in £10 vouchers for the village shop.

7 December	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
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