

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 7th December 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
2 village residents

12515: Public time.

Residents of Main Street (opposite the school to the Village Green) and Oakham Road & Stapleford Road, in the area of the junction with Main Street, had received a letter of consultation about the proposed double yellow lines on the school side of Main Street, the Stapleford Road, Oakham Road and Melton Road junctions and around the St Andrews Close junction. From the description given it seemed that what was proposed was more extensive than on the map received by the Parish Council and discussed in September, but paperwork was not available to make a comparison.

Those attending (and they were representing others, including Mr Modhvadiya, of the village shop) believed that the lines would exacerbate the parking problems in the vicinity of the school rather than alleviate them.

- If vehicles could not park in all the areas currently used it was thought they might block resident access, ignoring driveway markings more than at present.
- It was feared that reduced parking space in St Andrews Close could have a negative impact on the shop.
- It was unnecessary to have lines along Main Street on the school side to the Village Green area as this was not used for parking anyway and could be intrusive on the village street scene.
- However, it was acknowledged that double yellow lines in the junction areas could be necessary for safety.

Residents present suggested that a better method of preventing parking problems was to have resident designated parking areas, with strict enforcement of the highway code, and reserved space parking for the shop. It was also stated that the school needed to have far more staff parking areas made available. Councillors observed that if planning permission for additional school facilities was sought the need for extra parking could be stipulated.

Residents left the meeting at 7.45pm.

12615: Apologies for absence:

All were present.

12715: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

None.

12815: Minutes Parish Council Meetings of 3 November

These were approved on the proposal of Mr Hatton.

12915: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 11415a Fire & Rescue Service

The Clerk had given Mr Hiskens Tuesday's date for the meeting by mistake. She had apologised and arranged for him to come in January.

b) 11815a) speed reactor sign

A further apology had been received from Mr Slater on 10 November with specifications and costs for the installation. The Clerk had confirmed that the Parish Council was paying for the work and funds were reserved for this purpose. This had been acknowledged, but no start date had been set.

c) 11815b & c) road and car park maintenance

There were no updates from RCC or Spire Homes.

d) 11415g: Camelot terminal in the Village Shop

A letter of support had been written but the terminal had not been upgraded to take the new games, so it was presumed the appeal had been lost.

e) Ward Councillor

The Clerk had requested the allocation of Ward Councillor support, but had been informed by RCC Democratic Services that this could not be given before nominations had been received for an election as it could be politically prejudicial. Until then liaison had to be with the officers of the Council with the support of DS. However, it was noted that in his published farewell message Sam Asplin had said his Liberal colleague, Gail Waller, would be prepared to act for Whissendine Ward if necessary.

Notices calling for nominations for Ward Councillor had been received from RCC and posted. It wasn't known if there any candidates, but presumed that the political parties would make nominations.

13015: Reports from Councillors

No meetings had been attended in November

13115 Planning matters

a) New planning applications

2015/1018/FUL: a new bungalow on land east of 27 The Nook

The previous application for this site, received in May 2015, had been withdrawn. Councillors had no observations on the location or structure as the street scene and neighbouring properties were not thought to be affected. The request that any damage during the construction to the road surface or bridges should be made good would be carried forward.

2015/1020/FUL: extension and internal alterations and an open sided car port at Aesculus House, 2 The Nook.

It was agreed that the extension did not impact on the style and character of the building, and that neighbouring properties would not be affected. There were no further observations or recommendations.

b) Planning updates:

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

c) Neighbourhood Development Plan Group for Whissendine

Mrs Moss had contacted representatives of Langham NDP group who had promised to give advice and assistance if a Whissendine group was formed so that a start could be made. She had also found the information on the RCC website provided a route map for what needed to be done and support was offered. There would be a cost implication as printed surveys were required to go out to homes, as well as facilities for meetings and document copying.

A notice had been prepared for the December Grapevine and Mrs Moss hoped that by the next meeting in January she would have an idea of whether there was sufficient interest for a viable group to be formed.

13215: Whissendine Grapevine

a) Update from liaison with the editor

The December Grapevine had not been published and the printer had made it clear that there had not been any contact from the Editor to explain this or make apologies. He had alerted the Council, and Mr Edmunds had investigated to discover there were family problems, but the magazine was close to being completed.

There was concern that this was reliable information as Mr Penny had not informed the PC that he would be unable to meet the deadline, but let things drift. Doubt was expressed that there would be any publication in December if no action was taken.

b) It was resolved:

- Mr Penny should not continue as editor.
- Mr Lake should be asked to produce a December Grapevine from accessible information.
- Mr Edmunds would request that the Grapevine mailbox password and any hard copy be made available.
- All Councillors and the clerk would assist with distribution if necessary.

c) Future editions

It was hoped that Mr Lake could produce the editorial quickly and Impressions would have time to print it so that distribution could happen before Christmas.

It was thought that the next edition would have to be at the beginning of February as there would not be sufficient time to get another out in January with the Christmas holiday intervening.

It was hoped Mr Lake could produce this and advertise for a new editor, or volunteers for an editorial team/committee. It was accepted that there could be some cost involved in this, but the future of the magazine should be secured.

The Clerk would liaise with the website managers to update them, and see if they had any material that had been submitted for the December edition.

Report from the Clerk on Grapevine advertising

The Clerk reported that all but two of the annual advertisers had now paid. The total income was £2363, with about £200 outstanding and there would be revenue from occasional adverts.

It was agreed that it would have to be allowed that a month had been missed, and so the next annual invoices would need to be dated from December, rather than November.

133015: The Banks

a) The installation of the new signs

Mr Edmunds would assess the ground and decide when to get the signs fixed into position.

b) Repairs to the bridge

An estimate of £223.62 (VAT inclusive) had been received from Farm & Garden for repair and safety measures. It was agreed that this should be accepted and the work put in hand.

c) Routine maintenance

None noted. (Mr Edmunds had repaired the catch on the gate).

d) Mowing for 2016 season

It was agreed that CORY should be approached early in January for an estimate for grass cutting and re-barking in the swings area. They had given another year of very satisfactory service at a fair price, and it was hoped that renewal of the contract would be possible.

13415: Highways & village maintenance

a) Proposal from WEG for naming the footpath by the old chapel.

It was agreed that the WEG suggestion of Chapel Walk was very suitable and WEG would be informed.

b) Main Street parking proposals

A request had been received from the shop for support for reserved parking. It was noted that several vehicles parked outside or close to the shop belonged to those living or working in the same building. There would have to be further information from Mr Modhvadiya to show casual users were blocking the area for any length of time before any action could be considered.

Mrs Moss reported she was gathering data on the number of vehicles parked in the area in school hours during term time to compare with those in the holiday period. It would give some indication of how many staff from the school were parking on the street. It had been estimated that this had increased considerably in recent years and was a main reason there were problems, but had to be substantiated ahead of discussions with RCC Highways.

A Main Street resident had sent in a suggestion that the Sports Club car park should be used as a meeting point for a walking bus so that children did not have to be dropped so close to the school. It was considered that idea had some merit, and the Sports Club had no objection in principle, but it would for the school and parents to actually make it work as there could be no compulsion.

It was agreed the suggestion should be forwarded to the school with a recommendation that it be given some consideration.

c) Maintenance matters: None noted.

The Clerk reported drain cleaning and street light repairs had been carried out since the November meeting.

13515: Financial business

a) Financial Report for December 2015

The Clerk reported that all November payments had been cleared, though the cheque for Neighbourhood Watch had not been drawn. Income received had been from Grapevine advertising and the total amount for the year now exceeded £25,000 so the Council would be categorised as intermediate, rather than small, for audit purposes regardless of total expenditure.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Street light maintenance	£254.45
• Subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 88.00
• Office expenses and additional hours (Clerk)	£ 66.56
• Artist's gift	£ 50.00

Mr Billsdon's worksheet was not available. He would be sent a copy to submit and it was agreed payment would be made for the hours worked.

The RCC account for the Clerk's salary and Eon's for street light repairs were expected shortly and it was agreed these would be paid.

c) Appointment of budget working group to plan for 2016-17

It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would meet with Mrs Arnold, Mrs Lake and Mr Edmunds at Harborough Close at 3pm on 29th December. A precept and budget would be set to propose to the Council at its January meeting.

d) Notice of a sector led body for the audit from 2017

Information of the new statutory audit arrangements had been circulated. It was agreed that Whissendine PC did not wish to be exempt from the group being established by NALC. This meant that no action was required at the present time.

13615: Correspondence

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| a) <u>Parish Forum notes:</u> | to be circulated |
| b) <u>Changes to the integrated transport programme from RCC:</u> | for information |
| c) <u>Newsletters and charity information:</u> | to be circulated. |

The Christmas tree had received many favourable comments for its appearance, and that it had withstood winter gales. All concerned in its erection and decoration were thanked.

The meeting finished at 9.35pm

29 December	Budget Working Group	8 Harborough Close	3.00pm
4 January	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
The Parking Officer to be invited			
9 February	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm