

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4th January 2016, 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

Mr Tim Hiskens (Melton & Rutland Fire & Rescue Services Manager)
Dr S Lammin (candidate for co-option to the Parish Council)
Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

0116: Fire & Rescue Service Home Safety Checks

Mr Hiskens informed Councillors that one responsibility of the Fire & Rescue Service was the provision of free home safety for vulnerable people. Usually these were elderly or disabled, but could include single parents or others that had special needs. What was important was making the first contact with those for whom help could be provided. On occasions general calling in targeted areas could do this, but it was preferred if information could be provided by organisations so there could be a direct outreach. He hoped the parish Council could help by providing the contact details of relevant village groups.

It was agreed that the Clerk should provide details for: the Whissendine Good Neighbour Scheme (who would most probably have the best local knowledge) and also for the WI, Happy Circle and Church.

Mr Hiskens thanked the Councillors for their time and left the meeting. He left information sheets to be put into the shop and the church.

0216: Public time.

Dr Lammin had provided some personal background and her reason for being interested in becoming a Councillor, verbally and by completing an information form. She had lived in Whissendine for over 25 years and now had more free time available. Councillors welcomed her interest and invited informal participation in the meeting. RCC had to confirm the formal co-option procedure following a long term vacancy and it was expected that the official co-option would be completed at the February Meeting.

0316: Apologies for absence:

All were present.

0416: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

None.

0516: Minutes Parish Council Meetings of 7 December

These were approved on the proposal of Mrs Lake.

0616: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 13415a the name of the footpath

Dr Moyce had been informed that the Parish Council was happy that the choice of Chapel Walk, as suggested by WEG, should go forward, and was pleased to acknowledge the approval.

b) 13515b) Mr Billsdon's worksheet

A copy had been obtained from the caretaker so that his salary could be paid before Christmas.

c) 13615c Christmas tree

The Clerk reported there had been many compliments on quality of this year's tree and its lights and decorations, some intimating that it was the best ever. One resident had made special request that her thanks went into the Grapevine. It was agreed that there should be note of gratitude to all concerned, that included a mention of the Ernest Cook Trust (Manager Jonathan Stebbing) who had donated the tree to the village.

d) 12915e) Ward Councillor

It was confirmed there had been no further news from RCC on the election of a Ward Councillor.

0716: Reports from Councillors

Mrs Lake had attended meetings of the newly formed Produce and Craft Show group. The event was planned for 3 September in the church, though early publicity was essential so that those who wished to enter had time to prepare. Cups and rosettes were needed for classes, though a number had already been promised. It was agreed that information on the schedule and prize requirements would be circulated to Councillors after the meeting and a proposal should be on the February agenda for PC support in respect of one or more trophies and/or rosettes. (NB The Clerk had some redundant cat show cups that could be suitable).

Mrs Moss had circulated an electronic copy of the Village Hall Committee meeting minutes to councillors. She had been unable to attend, but noted that there were no major changes.

0816 Planning matters

a) New planning applications: None

b) Planning updates:

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

2015/0936/FUL Two storey extension, sedum flat roof and the garage repositioned – 11 The Nook

These applications were approved.

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

2015/0935/FUL: conversion of existing barns to a dwelling at Grange Farm, Hortons Lane.

Permission had been refused for these applications. Details of the reasons for refusal would be circulated.

c) Neighbourhood Development Plan Group for Whissendine

Mrs Moss reported that Mr Comber had expressed an interest in this project and she had been contacted by one village resident after the Grapevine notice. She was aware that three people could not do the work, but planned contact with village organisations for documentation and ideas, and further liaison with the Langham NPD group for an outline of the initial steps to be taken.

Dr Lammin had knowledge of what was required and advised that it was essential first to determine Whissendine's aspirations, that could be different from those of Langham or other groups. She would assist Mrs Moss with further information and support. A report of the outcome of these discussions would be made to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

It was agreed that the NDP should be a topic at the Annual Parish Meeting to gain insight into needs and expectations for the next 15 years.

0916: Whissendine Grapevine

a) Update on the existing situation

Mr Lake had been able to put together a December edition in the 36 hours available before the deadline for printing and distribution ahead of Christmas. The content had been only what was available from the electronic mailbox, which meant that some copy, including seasonal greetings and advertisements, had been missed. However, publication of the church event announcements had been achieved. Mr Penny had not supplied Mr Lake with anything on paper he still held, though this had been promised.

Mr Lake was committed to producing the February edition, and it was hoped he would remain as editor for at least a few months while a reliable permanent replacement was sought. There had been a website announcement to inform the residents of the change, and it was hoped to re-establish the magazine again as the regular provider of all village information.

It was noted that Mr Carter (Impressions) had printed the advertising pages for January, although there would be no magazine. It was agreed that he should be informed that an invoice for these would be expected. Mrs Lake reported that some distributors were no longer available. Councillors agreed to support where necessary to ensure all households continued to receive the Grapevine.

b) Grapevine Advertising

The Clerk reported that all annual advertisers would now have eleven editions, if the year was completed in October, although the contract had been for the provision of twelve. It was thought that the end of the year should not be changed and options of reimbursement or a discount for 2016-17 should be offered. A proposal to effect this would be on the agenda in preparation for the new season.

Two advertisers had not been included in the December edition as their adverts were in the editorial section and it had not been clear that were to be repeated,. They would have paid for twelve and receive only ten editions and would therefore require additional compensation. This was agreed.

One advertisement had not appeared at all. It was agreed that the advertiser should be reimbursed the full amount (£60), and if she wished to pay for adverts in future additions this would be at the annual rate. She should not be disadvantaged any further.

(Mrs Arnold gave apologies and left the meeting).

1016: The Banks

a) The installation of the new signs

The ground was currently unsuitable and it was agreed installation should now wait until the spring.

b) Repairs to the bridge

Information had been received from residents that there was further deterioration to the structure over the holiday period, and reports after inspection by councillors and the contractor stated that flooding and the force of water in the brook had caused further bank erosion.

Further work than that given in the estimate (min:13315b) would be required. A price quoted for suitable ballast was £550.70 + labour. The total replacement of the bridge with a galvanised steel structure would be very approximately £3000. However, because of the state of the ground a lot of damage could occur if any work was carried out in the wet conditions which would be expensive to repair.

After discussion Councillors agreed that several possible options should be examined. The risk of adding further stone to the stream at that point had to be considered, and the type of replacement structure had to be in keeping with the site as well as be fit for purpose. A non-slip surface was priority for any renewal or replacement. It was resolved:

- no work should be carried out immediately
- details and costs would be requested to repair to the existing bridge, its removal and repair at a different crossing point, and its replacement with different types of structure. WEG would be updated on changed situation and asked for input.
- Mr Edmunds would liaise with the contractor
- the existing bridge would be closed (designated by tape) as soon as the Clerk had obtained suitable signage (A5 x 3 @£5) and Mr Edmunds had fixed it place on both entrance gates and the play area stile.
- information to be given to residents on the website and in the February Grapevine.

c) Routine maintenance

It was reported that the gate in Cow Lane was off its hinges and secured only by the chain. Mr Edmunds would make a check on this and carry out a repair if this was possible.

Mr Hatton reported that further clearance work in the Cow Lane area would be carried out in the spring.

d) Further improvements

WEG would be consulted on the planting of willows and/or alders on the boundary adjacent with the field above the Cow Lane flooded area. Mr Comber would check the availability of willow slips.

1116: Highways & village maintenance

a) Main Street parking update

It was considered that the response from the school's Chairman of Governors was positive as the suggestion put forward would be explored in discussion with the Sports Club and parents. It was noted that the shopkeeper was encouraging owners not to park vehicles for long periods outside the shop, and that the number of cars parked on the street during school holidays was considerably less than in term time. Mrs Moss would prepare data that could be passed to RCC's Parking Officer.

b) Maintenance matters:

None noted for referral to RCC.

Mrs Lake noted that the uneven edge to the speed table in Harborough Close had been reported to RCC Highways on the morning of the meeting.

Dr Lammin observed that Ashwell Road pavement had been marked so that it seemed repairs could be imminent, as had been requested in September (min:9915d).

It was suggested that estimates be obtained for repairs to the casing and repainting of the village pump. This was agreed. Mr Edmunds, Mr Smith and one other to be asked.

1216: Financial business

a) Financial Report for December 2015

The Clerk reported no bank statement for January had been received yet. The figures given were as in the bank reconciliation prepared ahead of the preliminary discussions on the 2016-17 budget. At present it was difficult to be certain of the amount to be carried forward at the end of the financial year. The speed reactor sign for Ashwell Road would take £4500 if installed, and there was still £2000 for community action not spent with the possibility that the Village Hall or Sports Club would make a further request for a grant. Also more money would have to be spent on the footbridge than had been expected, but it was not certain this would be before 31 March 2016. It was probable that money would be carried forward and earmarked for these more expensive projects.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Clerks salary and admin (RCC)	£931.61
• Village caretaker	£ 62.10
• Street light repair	£ 28.16
• Advertising reimbursement (min:0916b)	£ 60.00

c) The setting of a budget and precept for 2016-17

It was agreed that the total required would remain at £20,000. It was unknown whether there would be a grant from RCC to make the actual amount levied from ratepayers £19,041.

d) The future of the external audit from 2017

Information had been circulated. It was estimated the cost would remain at £200.

1316: The Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the date to be requested was 9 March at the school. Alternatives would be accepted if this was unavailable, and circulated to Councillors.

RCC's parking officer would be invited, and it was expected the police and speakers from village organisations would participate as usual.

There would be public consultation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the refurbishment of the Village Green posts and a new seat to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

Correspondence

a) Citizen's Advice: appeal for new volunteers. Councillors were requested to contact the Clerk.

b) Healthcare app information: leaflets to go into the shop

The meeting finished at 9.10 pm

8 February	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
9 March	Annual Parish Meeting	School	7.30pm (provisional)

There was the possibility of the March meeting being moved to February 29th, depending on the date of the APM