

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 7th March 2016, in the
Village Hall, Whissendine

Present

Chairman: Mr W Farr
Mr T Edmunds Mr D Hatton
Mrs P Lake Dr S Lammin
Mrs C Moss

In attendance

Mr K Thomas - Ward Councillor
Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

2716: Public time.

There were no members of the public present.

2816: Apologies for absence: None received.

2916: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None received.

3016: Minutes Parish Council Meetings of 8 February 2016

These were approved on the proposal of Mr Edmunds.

3116a: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 1916 a) the name of the footpath

Receipt of the request for the name of Chapel Walk had been acknowledged by email on 15 February with the message that it would be passed to RDCC Highways for signage to be considered. There had been no further message. A reminder would be sent.

b) 2016a) Parish Council Forum

The minutes had been received and it seemed that the referral route to Cabinet for requests to RCC applied particularly to integrated transport schemes rather than report of any minor matter that needed attention. Mrs Lake and Mr Edmunds were both sure that this was not the impression given and further clarification would be sought at the next meeting. The document would be circulated for Councillor information

c) 2216c) Letter from the printer of the Grapevine

Mr Carter had been pleased to learn that Parish Councillors were happy with the quality of the magazine.

d) 2416b) RCC Highways & street lighting

The street-lighting inventory had been sent to Mr Tomlinson on 14 February. There had been no acknowledgement of receipt. The Clerk had noted it was not very different from the record supplied by RCC Highways. The responsibility on a street by street basis tallied. It seemed from the Parish Forum minutes that the PC would no longer have the responsibility or cost of maintenance, but it would be charged a standard rate for the running costs of community lighting which would seem to include all Whissendine lamps as there are no main roads in the parish. As yet there seemed no timescale for action on the matter.

It was noted that the lamp in Station Road had been repaired, and so had one in Ashwell Road which had been damaged by an air rifle.

e) 1916b) Ashwell Road footway and road surface

Dr Lammin reported that the work had been carried out and the footway surface was vastly improved. However, parked vehicles meant that those in wheelchairs, or with pushchairs, could not use it. The matter would be discussed with the police representative at the APM.

f) 1716c) Sherrard Close car parks

The Clerk had been unable to speak directly to the Spire homes representative responsible for the area, and there had been no follow up to previous emails. The hedges and undergrowth in the car parks would become more invasive as the year progressed. Mr Thomas said that he would visit the office in Oakham to get the matter resolved for action.

3116: Reports from Councillors

a) A welcome to the new Ward Councillor

Mr Thomas was congratulated on his election win and welcomed to the meeting. Councillors observed that a good ward representative was beneficial for village, and hoped he would be able to make progress on the good start Sam Asplin had made. Councillor Thomas said that was certainly his intention. He looked forward to working with the PC when representing the community.

He offered help in discovering why there had been no recent progress with the Ashwell Road speed reactor sign, and had already investigated traffic problems in Cow Lane.

b) Reports from Councillors

No meetings had been attended since the February PC meeting.

3216: Planning Matters

a) New planning applications:

2016/0034/FUL To replace 2 existing concrete building with a new building in concrete blockwork & relocate the existing buildings 10m east to replace wooden sheds. On land to the rear of the Sports Club (model railways club).

There were no objections. The club was known to have negotiated a new lease on the land and it was considered would have additional security.

2016/0100/FUL Alteration to form attic accommodation and the remodelling of the entrance porch at Millbank, 14 Melton Road

It was considered that removal of the old porch and subsequent remodelling would be a considerable improvement, and noted that the roof height would remain unchanged so there would be no impact on the windmill. There were no recommendations.

2016/0126/FUL A two storey stand alone extension to the rear of Whissendine Primary School

There was objection to this because of the impact brought to the village by intensification of use of the site over the past few years. It was noted:

- the majority of children attending the school lived outside the village and were brought there in cars
- 4 parking bays had served all staff when the school was built, now five times the number were employed
- the delivery of education had changed so that there were more visiting teachers for part of the day
- the school was having difficulties gaining access for its own minibuses, and the number of vehicles meant the caretaker had to park where his van could be an obstruction
- the school grounds could not accommodate the number of vehicles and there was extensive parking on Main Street. (This was supported by a count of vehicles made by Mrs Moss to demonstrate the difference between the number there in term time compared to school holidays).
- due to congestion in the Main Street area there was an increase of all types of vehicles using Cow Lane, and causing problems at that location.
- there was an increased risk of accidents near the school

These points to be put to the planning department with an insistence that any future development should include parking provision. The Clerk would circulate comment to Councillors.

2016/0166/FUL A two storey dwelling to the rear of 3 Stapleford Road

It was observed that a new building at this location would be in keeping with the other house behind the school and have no impact on the street scene. It would be close to the neighbouring property in Stapleford Road, but did not block windows as there were none on that side. It was noted there would be sufficient parking for the present and the new property.

2016/0182/FUL Variation of condition 2 for planning application 2014/0520/FUL (11 The Nook)

It was observed that the detail of the building had changed rather than the structure. It would be plainer, with less stonework and a cheaper type of window. There were no objections.

2016/0129/FUL A single storey side extension to 80 Main Street

It was considered that there was no impact on the street scene or neighbouring properties, and there would be a sufficient amount of off street parking. There were no recommendations.

b) Planning updates:

There was approval for:

2016/0046/FUL A new garage to replace a dilapidated building on the same footprint at 89 Main Street
2015/1154/LBA The repair of the office at Whissendine Mill, using old materials.

c) Neighbourhood Development Plan Group for Whissendine

Mrs Moss read through the presentation prepared for the APM. She gave a definition of the NPD and how it could be used for guiding and shaping of development in Whissendine until 2036. It would have more impact than either the Village Design Statement or Parish Plan as, once approved, it would be a statutory part of the Rutland Structure Plan.

However, because of its eventual importance a considerable amount of work would go into the preparation and a team of around twenty people would need to commit for about three years. This was achievable when there was clear goal, such as Langham's aim to keep green space between the village and Oakham, but there was no such driving force for Whissendine. It was estimated that there would be a small number of new homes built in the village in the coming years, an average of three per year.

RCC was prioritising funding and support based on need. Mrs Moss had concluded from recent correspondence with David Troy (RCC Planning Dept) that Whissendine would not rank highly. She considered that it had been useful to explore what an NPD involved and would consult with those present at the APM, but that it was questionable whether it could be achieved at present.

Feedback from the APM to be given at the April PC meeting and a decision to be taken on proceeding.

3316: Whissendine Grapevine - Update from the Acting Editor

Mr Lake had not reported any problems, but there had been no further contact from one person interested in becoming editor. The other could not take on the role until October.

There had been no further comment on the correspondence sent in January.

3416: The Banks

a) The footbridge: a progress report from Mr Edmunds

Mr Edmunds had visited the site recently with the contractor. They had concluded there was a good possibility of repairing the existing bridge and relocating it slightly downstream. If a new bridge was purchased in kit pack form there would still need to be the additional work to secure the bank. When this was done the concrete post, cause of the destructive eddy, could be moved to avoid future erosion.

Specifications and cost would be provided for Council consideration.

b) Routine maintenance

Mr Hatton reported that tree work was due to be carried out near the Cow Lane gate.

The Clerk had authorised a minor fencing repair after a report from Mrs Moss.

3516: Highways & village maintenance

a) Proposal for a passing place in Cow Lane

There was some discussion with the Ward Councillor on traffic problems in Cow Lane. Councillors had concluded that most users were local and use was intentional rather than accidental, therefore additional signage would be ignored as it was known it was not enforced.

It was resolved that RCC should be asked to construct a pull in area outside the gate to the play area to provide a passing place. It was hoped this would assist in preventing further driveway and verge damage.

b) Maintenance matters:

Potholes in Oakham Road and Pickwell Lane - at the village entrance - were marked for attention.

The drain near the Oakham Road bus stop was sinking, therefore not functioning properly.

Moss needed to be cleared from the path at the Sherrard Close/Stapleford Road junction (north) and on footpaths in Hall Close and Foxhill, particularly under trees.

3616: Financial business

a) Financial Report for February 2016

The Clerk reported that the Long Clawson Land Charity had paid out £2000 through the current account to reimburse Mace Stores for vouchers used. (All had been cashed). The transfer had been made from the charity account. There had been no other income and expenditure was as agreed at the last meeting. The bank had advised that stopping the check to Neighbourhood Watch would be £12 and suggested that it was unnecessary in a low risk situation. The internal auditor would need to be informed.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£28300
• Whissendine Village Hall (6 months room hire)	£126.75
• Street lighting (maintenance & repair)	£310.77
• Village caretaker	£ 45.23
• T Edmunds - fence repair	£ 30.00
• J A Lacey (office expenses)	£ 18.63

c) Subscription renewals

Requests had been received from Fields In Trust (£50), the Rural Community Council (£50) and the Leicester Playing-fields Association (£30). The payment for Fields in Trust was authorised. Information of the others would be circulated as it had not been received in time for the agenda.

d) Allocation of funding for awards for children's classes at the Flower and Produce show.

It was agreed that Mr Digby could purchase a cup of his choosing, and that the cost of this and the engraving should be no more than £60.

3716: The Annual Parish Meeting - finalisation of the agenda

3816: Correspondence

a) Rutland Grows : It was concluded that this was for information only.

b) Details of a commemorative medal for schools for 90th birthday of the Queen
The majority of the children at the school were not resident in the parish.

c) RCC information: further travel survey forms for distribution
and an invitation to the Annual Thanksgiving Service at Uppingham on 10 April'

General and advertising information and charity news to be circulated

The meeting finished at 10.05pm

16 March	Annual Parish Meeting	School	7.30pm
4 April	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm