

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4th April 2016, in the
Village Hall, Whissendine

Present

Chairman: Mr W Farr
Mrs R Comber Mrs L Arnold
Mr T Edmunds Mrs P Lake
Dr S Lammin Mrs C Moss

In attendance

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

3916: Public time.

Mr Farr welcomed members at 7.24pm. There were no members of the public present.

4016: Apologies for absence: Mr David Hatton.

4116: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None received.

4216: Minutes of Meetings

- a) The Parish Council meeting of 7 March 2016: approved on the proposal of Mrs Lake.
- b) The Annual Parish Meeting of 16 March 2016: approved for website publication as draft minutes.

4316a: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 3116 a) speed reactor

This had been promised by the end of March and was now in place and working. There was a query on the height the pole, but thought this was a fixture unless it attracted unwanted attention.

b) 3116b) the name of the footpath

RCC had acknowledged receipt of the request for the sign, and it was to be installed following the receipt of the next order for signage, probably during April.

c) 3516a) A passing place in Cow Lane

This had been submitted to Mr Brown of RCC Highways in the form of a written request, but no acknowledgement had been received. Mr Thomas reported that he had discussed it briefly with Mr Brown, and was aware that it would be passed to Cabinet for consideration as a capital project.

d) 3516b) Highways matters

Road surfaces in the village, and the Oakham & Ashwell lanes, were due to receive attention in the coming month. RCC had scheduled the moss on footpaths for clearance by Cory.

e) The bank outside 93 & 95 Main Street

As the resident could no longer attend to this a request had been made to RCC for it to be included on the mowing schedule, and this had been agreed.

4416: Reports from Councillors

a) The Village Hall

Mrs Moss reported that the next improvements planned were for carpeting to be laid on the stairs and in the changing room, and for the floor of the main hall to be resurfaced to make it suitable for dancing. Advice on the best treatment was being sought, and then a request for a grant would be made to the Parish Council. Fund raising events were planned over the coming months, one to be held in conjunction with the RNLI.

b) WEG

Minutes had been circulated.

The report on plans for the footbridge at The Banks was welcomed. However, advice was that the concrete post should be left in the stream.

There was concern about the effect of the recent mowing on the wild flowers growing in the bank outside the bungalows opposite Station Road. The daffodils had been left, but the top area of the bank had been cut so it was probable there would be no flowers.

It was noted particularly that Harborough Close had not been cut on the last visit and RCC would be informed.

It was requested that out of date information on the website should be removed.

4616:Planning Matters

This was not agreed. It was recognised that there were too few people willing to share the considerable amount of work that would have to be undertaken for at least three years. There was no clear objective for residents to focus on that would be a motivating force. It was agreed that the idea would be considered again in eighteen months.

4716: Whissendine Grapevine - Update from the Acting Editor

Mr Lake had received further contact from a possible replacement editor. She had now found a partner for the project who was willing to look after the magazine when she was away from the village. It was possible that she would take on the June edition. The backup replacement who could begin in October was also known to still be available.

It was agreed that it would be part of the Clerk's job in future to handle the magazine advertising booking and invoices,

4816: The Banks

a) The footbridge: a progress report from Mr Edmunds

Mr Edmunds had obtained two quotes from the contractor of approximately £2,500 to take the existing bridge to a site a short way down stream to repair and refurbish it, and to install a new steel bridge would cost in the region of £6000. Both included the necessary groundwork and bank support.

Councillors were agreed that they did not want a stainless steel structure.

The alternative to a repair to the existing bridge was a flat pack kit bridge in wood. It was agreed that estimates for its installation would be obtained from the existing contractor and the Wooden Bridge Company (provider). The Clerk would check to see if a third estimate should be sought.

Also, the Clerk would contact the Environment Agency to report the new site planned for the bridge, and ensure there were no objections, and to take advice on whether the concrete post should be left in the stream or removed. There was disagreement on whether it would cause more damage to do this than to leave it to cause further eddying that could undermine the bank.

b) Routine maintenance

Mr Edmunds would check a rail on the fence near the entrance to The Nook was secured.

At the same time he would check on whether a fallen tree branch from Foss Hill grounds had been removed (as requested), or whether this needed to be done and he was able to carry out the job.

The Clerk would contact Cory to do bark renewal under the swings. as soon as possible.

c) It was agreed that the ROSPA inspection would take place with the Walland Procurement Group, as in previous years. The cost would be £49.50 + VAT.

4916: Highways & village maintenance

a) Electricity contract with Opus

Present tariffs: 7.06p per day x 2 standing charge + 10.425p & 9.999p per unit

Variable rate contract: 32.23p per day x 2 + 16.38 per kW/h

Npower offer: £8 per month standing charge and 12.357 & 12.098 per kW/h

Opus new fixed term (1 year) 7.06p x 2 standing charge & 10.025 & 9.614 per unit.

The Opus fixed term had been accepted.

A further quote for comparison had been sought from Scottish Power, but they were not taking new unmetered supply contracts.

b) Maintenance matters:

A check to be made that the dip near the Oakham Road bus shelter was being attended to with the other remedial work being done in the village.

5016: Financial business

a) Financial Report for March 2016

The year had ended with £21,272.12 to be carried forward. Almost £5000 of that was because the speed reactor had not been paid for as expected, and under 75% of the amount budgeted for community action had been taken up. Earmarked reserves noted were £5000 for the speed reactor and £5000 towards replacing existing play equipment. It was considered that in future the precept should be gradually increased so that more reserves could be built to fund larger capital projects. At present Whissendine with a precept of £20,000 (including a grant) did not draw an amount from the community that was commensurate with Ketton, Cottesmore or Langham.

b) Presentation of the draft annual accounts and the appointment of an internal auditor

There were no queries on the accounts. The Clerk noted that those for the Long Clawson Land Charity were not as presented at the Annual Parish meeting as £180 had been added from the Hurst-Jackson Trust. This meant that there was an excess of income to expenditure of just over £150 instead of a small deficit. It was agreed that Lammin & White should carry out the internal audit.

c) Subscription renewals

It was agreed that the subscription renewal to L&RALC should be made, as advice was available and training for a replacement clerk could be required during the course of the year. The amount was £293.39.

Also agreed £50 for membership of the Rural Community Council for information on grants and support for Village Halls, but it was thought the Sports Club was a member of the Playing Fields association. This would be checked.

d) Caretaker's hourly rate

The minimum required for the 'living' wage was £7.20. The Caretaker currently received £6.75. It was agreed this should be increased to £7.50 for hours worked after 1/4/2016.

e) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Impressions	£283.00
• R. Prentice	£281.00
• A. Rushton (GV delivery)	23.00
• Village caretaker	£ 60.21
• Whissendine Primary School (room hire)	£ 25.00
• P Lake (APM expenses)	£ 26.34

5116: Correspondence

a) Vista: Information on meetings, but not close to Whissendine

b) Parish Council Forum: The agenda had been received. Dr Lammin hoped to attend

Much other correspondence for circulation now arrived and was distributed electronically.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm

11 April	Meeting at the school (parking problems in Main Street)	2.00pm
18 April	Parish Council Forum	Catmose 7.00pm
9 May	Parish Council Meeting (AGM)	Village Hall 7.15pm
	(Apologies from Mr K Thomas)	