

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th May 2016, in the
Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

Mr W Farr (Chairman)	
Mrs R Comber	Mrs L Arnold
Mr T Edmunds	Mr D Hatton
Mrs P Lake	Dr S Lammin

In attendance

Mrs Jen Lacey - Parish Clerk

5216: Public time.

Mr Farr (as retiring Chairman) welcomed members at 7.20pm. There were no members of the public present.

5316: The Election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman

a) Chairman: Mr Hatton, 2nd by Dr Lammin, proposed Mr Farr as Chairman. He accepted nomination. There being no other nominations, Mr Will Farr was declared elected.

b) Vice-Chairman: Mrs Lake, 2nd by Mrs Arnold proposed Mr Comber as Vice-Chairman. He accepted nomination. There being no other nominations, Mr Rob Comber was declared elected.
Declarations of Office were signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

5416: Apologies for absence: Mrs Cynthia Moss.

5516: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: None received.

5616: Appointment to positions of responsibility:

a) The Planning Committee: Mr Edmunds, Mrs Lake and Mrs Moss with the Chairman & Vice Chairman.

b) Representatives to the Parish Council Forum: Mrs Lake and Dr Lammin

c) Representatives to other organisations: Village Hall - Mrs Moss, WEG - Mrs Lake, Sports Club - Mr Edmunds and Mr Comber both volunteered to go if information was available on when meetings were scheduled and they were available to attend that evening.

d) Other responsibilities: all Councillors undertook to visit the play area from time to time and to report any problems, as they would for other areas of the village, particularly with regard to trees and footpaths. It was also recognised that members of the public passed on concerns when observed and these could be dealt with directly by the PC or passed to the appropriate authority.

5716: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th April 2016

These were approved without amendment on the proposal of Mr Edmunds.

5816: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 2416 a) village pump

The casing had been repaired and painted to the specification given, after hedging had been trimmed back. Mr Edmunds reported that residents nearby were pleased with the result.

b) 4916b) road maintenance

The repair to potholes and top dressing of the lanes to Oakham and Ashwell had been carried out towards the end of April, as scheduled. Information sent about the re-routing of the bus had been passed to the webmaster for publication. It was noted that a deep rut had not been filled properly, but was full of chippings. This was in Ashwell Road almost opposite to the entry to Loodal Farm. The Clerk was asked to pass a report of this observation through to RCC Highways so that action could be taken.

c) 4516)Grass cutting (RCC)

The Clerk now had map of the village that showed the areas of grass that RCC was responsible for. These reached the 30mph limits at the village exits. Councillors noted one area that was shown as grass where none existed, but all areas where there had been some problem were now clearly marked, and were reported as being kept mown. It was hoped that issues were resolved for the rest of the season.

5916: Reports from Councillors

a) The Parish Council Forum

Dr Lammin had represented Whissendine PC. Some considerable time had been given to future RCC finances. There would no longer be any government grant of which the parishes received a share (Whissendine £958.99) towards the precept. Also the authority would lose some of the business rates raised in Rutland and only receive partial return in payments for social services. Overall a £2million deficit was expected this year and more the next. It would be met partially from using reserves, but savings in expenditure would also need to be made. Some of this would come from the take over of street lighting planned, but the budget for 'places' (including highways) would be reduced. Dr Lammin concluded that the message for the evening was that parishes could put up their precepts and so were expected to fend for themselves.

Other news was that a questionnaire was being distributed on defibrillators so that a register could be compiled, and that RCC was to have a new website that was scheduled to go live in about 12 months.

6016: Ward Councillor's report

Mr Thomas had sent a written report as he was attending a meeting at Catmose. There was discussion on the points made.

a) A cycle path between Whissendine and Langham.

It was agreed by all that there should be a dedicated cycle path to Langham as Whissendine was one of the few villages without such a link. However, after consideration of the routes to Langham, along the road side and via the bridleway/footpath system it was concluded that these were going to be too costly or impractical, and that it did not seem sensible to ask for something that would be almost certainly turned down on these grounds.

It was concluded that the only possible route was the longer way via Whissendine to Ashwell. The Clerk was requested to ascertain that RCC Highways owned the verges as a first step, and to inform Mr Thomas that negotiation with Langham was unnecessary currently.

b) Main Street parking

Mr Comber reported that the school was prepared to allow land to be used for additional parking spaces, but would not pay for the construction. It seemed that RCC Highways was also reluctant to be involved but there could be investigation into what was possible. The Parish Council was asked to express an interest and it was agreed that this was a project that should be carried out, but it needed to have an idea of the cost, and have the authority from Highways that it was legal for the Parish Council to contribute funding to a facility that would benefit the village, but was not directly in public ownership or control.

The Clerk would inform Mr Thomas of the outcome of the discussions.

c) Cow Lane

It was agreed that the Council did not wish to change the site of the passing place. It was considered that the alternative suggested could have a negative impact on the bank of the brook. Therefore there would be no change to the plan put forward to RCC (ITCP).

d) The information on Rutland Local Plan Review, Cow Lane usage and flooding were noted, but no actions were determined.

6116:Planning Matters

a) New planning applications:

2016/0277/FUL: conversion of barns to a single dwelling house & parking (resubmission following refusal)

There were no objections. It was considered that it was preferable to have a building replace derelict barns and that properties overlooking the site from a distance would find it preferable to see a dwelling rather than unused agricultural buildings and silos. It was considered that the private drive from Hortons Lane to the new property did not compromise access for any other dwelling.

2016/0185/LBA: Demolition & replacement of garage at 89 Main Street.

Included were work on the roof to make it water tight, replacement of doors & windows, lowering driveway removal of gate, and renewal wiring & the addition of plumbing. The stairway would be removed and replaced. It was considered that this was much needed to restore a neglected property. It was considered that the work planned would improve the outlook at this location for neighbouring properties. There were no objections.

b) Planning updates: there was approval for:

2016/0182/FUL: variations of conditions on permission granted for work at 11 The Nook.

there was refusal of:

2016/0116/FUL: two storey dwelling to the rear of 3 Stapleford Road

This was considered cramped on the site and detrimental to neighbouring properties.

6216: The annual risk assessment

a) Insurance policy renewal

The policy schedule and its terms and conditions had been circulated to Councillors electronically. There were no queries. It was proposed by Mr Hatton that renewal should be for this year and the next three to take advantage of the discount offered. The Clerk advised that the company was well respected in the public sector both for the cover provided and its promptness in dealing with queries. The quote was well below the amount the Council was paying previously. Therefore it was agreed.

b) Risk assessment check

The Model Parish Council Risk Assessment Guide was considered point by point, as applicable. It was considered that as the Council had a responsibility to be transparent in its transactions and put information into the public domain there should be a check that this was as happening as required. The assessment was then signed by the Chairman as proposed by Dr Lammin.

c) Completion of the Annual Governance Statement

Each requirement was considered. It was resolved that confirmation could be given on each point, following no queries being raised on the accounts by the internal auditor, and the annual audit document was signed to this effect by the Chairman and Clerk, as proposed by Mrs Lake.

6316: The Banks

a) The footbridge: costing for replacement by a new wooden bridge

Replacement of the footbridge by a new wooden structure was £2180 in the size preferred with £200 for delivery. The groundwork for installation was £2703. This compared with approximately £2500 to repair the existing structure, but replacement was for a far longer term (wood 30 year guarantee). It was therefore resolved that the new bridge would be purchased and the contractor asked to install it as soon as it was practical.

b) Request from a neighbour to install boundary fencing via access through parish owned land.

This was agreed as long as consideration was given to the ground condition before work was started, and that all was left as it was found on completion of the job. The resident would be informed.

c) Routine maintenance

Mr Edmunds reported that a broken fence rail had been repaired and a fallen branch from a neighbouring property had been cut off and returned to the adjoining land.

The Clerk had contacted Cory for bark renewal under the swings, but as there had been no response would need to do so again.

6416: Highways & village maintenance

a) Upgrade of the Village Green

It was agreed ideal if this could be done this summer in commemoration of the Queen's 90th birthday, as was put forward at the Annual Parish Meeting. Mrs Lake proposed that 2 quotes should be obtained and this was agreed. The specifications were:

- a replacement hexagonal seat around the tree, in wood engraved with for commemoration
- the slabs beneath to be levelled and refined
- posts to replace those existing, to match with the wood for the seating.

Mr Prentice and Mr Edmunds to be asked for quotations and a decision would then be made on whether the work could all be scheduled for this year, or the seat only would be replaced.

b) Maintenance matters:

The street light in Ashwell Road near the speed reactor was reported to be on all the time. It was also noted that the reactor was not functioning properly on all occasions as sometimes pixels failed to light. It was agreed that the maintenance company would be asked to check both.

6516: Financial business

a) Adoption of the audited accounts for 2015-26

The accounts had been returned from the internal audit at Lamin & White shortly before the meeting. The Clerk explained that the Neighbourhood Watch cheque had now been written off and £180 in the current account discounted as it belonged to the Long Clawson Land Charity. Therefore there was a variation in the final figures, but the internal auditor had raised no queries. Adoption was proposed by Mr Edmunds and agreed. They were signed off by the Chairman in preparation for the external audit.

b) Financial Report for April 2016

The precept had been received and a small amount of money for advertising still came in from time to time. The VAT reclaim had been made. All cheques but one paid in April had been cleared. There were no queries.

c) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Came & Co	£596.83
• Impressions	£324.00
• T. Edmunds (pump)	£350.00
• Cory Environmental	£194.75
• Lamin & White	£192.00
• Produce & Craft trophy	& 60.00
• Village caretaker	£ 60.21

6616: Correspondence

a) Defibrillator request:

This had been received from a resident, but the Parish Council remained of the opinion that Whissendine was not a suitable location, and believed this to be supported by medical and research opinion. This information would be put into the Grapevine.

b) The Post Office:

A letter had been received to say the village would have a modern style post office in the shop from 31 May. The hours would be those of the business. Macs Stores would be offered the Council's congratulations in the Grapevine.

Other information, newsletters and advertising were put into circulation, together with updates, with correspondence received electronically being distributed soon after receipt.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm

6 June Parish Council Meeting (AGM) Village Hall 7.15pm