

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 6th June 2016, in the  
Village Hall , Whissendine

Present

Mr W Farr (Chairman)  
Mrs R Comber                      Mr T Edmunds  
Mr D Hatton                      Dr S Lammin  
Ms C Moss

In attendance

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

6716: Public time.

Mr Farr welcomed Parish Councillors and the Ward Councillor at 7.20pm. There was one member of the public present who did not wish to speak. Another resident came to the meeting later and with the permission of the Council gave information on the purpose of a defibrillator in the village.

6816: Apologies for absence:     Mrs Linda Arnold and Mrs Pat Lake had sent apologies which were accepted.

6916: Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:                      None received.

7016: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th May 2016

These were approved without amendment on the proposal of Mr Hatton. The Clerk reported that the amount the caretaker received in April had been corrected to £36.23 after the minutes were circulated to councillors.

7116: updates on ongoing business not covered by agenda items

a) 5816b) road maintenance

The Clerk had sent notice of the rut that remained in Ashwell Road following the surface repairs. Receipt had been acknowledged with the information that the road had not yet been inspected so that this would be noted for checking. However, Councillors reported that no action had been taken and Clerk was asked to query this with RCC Highways .

b) 6216a) insurance policy renewal

It was reported that the policy schedule and certificate of 'employers' liability' had been received as electronic documents. Acknowledgement was also given that the policy would be renewed at the same rate (excluding additional items and tax increases) for the three years following. The pdfs and policy information would be circulated to Councillors.

c) 6216b) boundary fencing

The resident would be replacing the boundary fencing according to the permission given at the last meeting. Work was due to start the next day and be completed by the end of the week.

d) 6416b) speed reactor maintenance

EON Solutions had been asked to check the speed reactor but could not carry out the work as the contract that existed with the Parish Council was for street lights only. It was agreed that as the fault (middle row of bulbs not lighting) continued on an intermittent basis this should be reported through to RCC Highways as the reactor should still be under warranty.

e) 6616a) defibrillator request

A letter had been recently received from a resident (also be included in the Grapevine) that expressed the opinion that a defibrillator should be affordable. Councillors agreed that the cost was not the issue, their concern was accessibility within the time limit in which the device would be useful. When he arrived the Council listened to expert evidence from Sean Thuis (Principal Cardiac Physiologist at Kettering General Hospital) who explained that a defibrillator gave the best chance of survival for treatment, and that it would be ideal if local responders could access one and take it to the person in need if called. He was prepared to give volunteers some training.

Councillors agreed this seemed a sensible way forward. There would be a brief article in the Grapevine to give the information and ask for those interested to give their names and contact details.

It was envisaged that the Parish Council would be responsible for funding the project (with the aid of any available grant), but it was hoped that a voluntary group could organise and administer it in a similar way to the Good Neighbour Scheme.

f) 6616b) the post office in the village shop

This was now open, and although there had been a fairly slow start it was expected that more use would be made of the facility once residents became familiar with the services available.

7216: Reports from Councillors

Mrs Moss confirmed that she would continue to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee. The minutes of the Whissendine Environmental Group would be circulated.

7316: Ward Councillor's report

Mr Thomas reported on issues in the village that he was concerned with. There had been a blockage in a land drain on Mill Grove, but this was being resolved with assistance of RCC and Severn-Trent. He had had further discussions with those who owned land around the brook above and below the village and was insisting that RCC should review its flood risk management according to current definitions of flooding. An inspection of all roads in the village was due in two months and he would be present when this was carried out, reporting on problems that had been brought to his attention by residents.

Unfortunately, Mr Thomas had not had computer access via his official email address, due to work carried out by RCC, and the minutes and agenda for the PC meeting had not been received. Therefore he was unaware of the request to obtain from Highways information of the legality of the Parish contributing to extending the school's car park, and an approximate estimate for this project. It was noted that other suggestions for the alleviation of parking on Main Street (use of the Sports Club and 'adopt a teacher's car') had not received any enthusiastic response.

7416: Planning Matters

a) New planning applications: None.

b) Planning updates: None.

c) Information on the Local Plan Review.

It was noted that most of the edge of the village site put forward by landowners had been proposed on the previous call for sites. One exception was the proposal of a site to the south of Pickwell Lane, as previously the location was on land to the north behind Mill Grove. It was considered that as far more sites had been offered than were needed in Rutland, and the prediction for development in Whissendine remained at two or three dwellings annually it should be expected that this would be by infill rather than major development. Therefore the report was accepted for information rather than action.

7516: The Banks

a) Project reports: footbridge upgrade and the installation of the new notice boards

The footbridge had been ordered at the end of May and was expected by the end of June for installation. The notice boards had been scheduled for installation, but the weather had again been very wet, making the ground unsuitable. Mr Edmunds hoped to be able to do the work shortly.

b) Routine maintenance

The hawthorn bush on the track between the bridge and small play area had a large dead branch that needed to be removed. Also the branch cut on the western boundary had been thrown back onto the public footpath. It was agreed that LBD Treecare should be contracted to remove both.

Bindweed was beginning to grow under the swings. The contractors would be asked if they could treat this and then re-bark the swing area. If they could not deal with pesticides then Farm & Garden would be asked to undertake this work.

7616: Highways & village maintenance

a) Upgrade of the Village Green

There were no estimates for the work as those asked had not had time to provide quotation. Mr Prentice had notified the Council that he was busy for the rest of the year. Mr Edmunds said that his approximation after some costing was that the seat, engraving and posts would be in the region of £5000.

It was agreed that an engraved plaque to commemorate the Queen's 90th should be placed on the bridge and the work on the Village Green would be put on hold for a time. WEG would have to be informed so that tidying plant growth beneath the seat could recommence, and a note of explanation would also need to go into the Grapevine.

b) Signage at the end of Cow Lane at the junction with The Nook

It was agreed that RCC Highways should be asked to reinstate the signage that was now worn away, so that right of way at the junction was not clear. There should be a solid white line across the Cow Lane carriageway at the junction and STOP painted onto the road.

c) Cycle Track from Whissendine to Ashwell

RCC had confirmed that it held 'highways rights' over the verges throughout the lane linking the villages. It was noted there had been no response from the residents concerning the need for the track and resolved that it should be noted in the Grapevine again with direction to the internet survey with a deadline in advance of the next meeting.

d) Correspondence from RCC on the lighting upgrades and transfer of responsibility to RCC

It was noted that the takeover of responsibility would save the parish about £500 per annum, and the lighting would be upgraded, although any additional installation would be at the PC's expense. The plan of existing lights had been circulated and it was considered that all had been included.

e) Maintenance matters for report:

The surface of The Nook needed attention. It was agreed with the Ward Councillor that he would be bringing this to the attention of RCC Highways at the road inspection due shortly (min:7316).

7716: Financial business

a) Financial Report for May 2016

The VAT refund had been received and cheques written in May had been cleared except for one (Cory). The rent for the Long Clawson land was now being paid directly into the charity's bank account, and a statement for this account was presented which also showed the donation (£180) and VAT had been transferred from the PC's current account. There were no queries.

b) Payment was agreed for the following accounts:

• Farm & Garden (footbridge)	£2856.00
• Impressions	£ 388.00
• EON Energy Solutions	£ 282.61
• Cory Environmental	£ 194.75
• Village caretaker	£ 51.23

c) Churchyard maintenance grant

Financial information to support a request for a grant of £900 to St Andrews PCC for churchyard maintenance had been circulated. The Clerk informed the Council that doubt about the legality of grants for open churchyards had been expressed by the SLCC, and was not advised, but was aware that other parishes made a similar contribution, and that there had been no court action to provide a definitive ruling. Council opinion was that the churchyard was a feature of the community in a village and support was expected. Money had been provided in the budget for the grant and it was approved.

d) Donations to organisations that support the community

A budget of £750 had been agreed for the donations in 2016. £675 was allocated as set out below with £75 held in reserve to support any other donation request during the course of the year.

The donation schedule for 2016 to be:

• East Midlands Air Ambulance (DLRAA)	£200
• EMICS	£150
• Whissendine Good Neighbour Scheme	£175
• LOROS	£100
• Citizens Advice Rutland	£50

## 7816: Correspondence

a) Parish Forum notes: for circulation

b) School transport consultation:

Information had been sent by email to inform parish councils that this consultation was taking place, so that they could assist by passing on information if requested. It was agreed that notice of it should be on the website, together with the documents for download.

c) Clerk's resignation

Mrs Lacey gave three months notice. She would finish working for the Parish Council after completing the business for September's meeting and preparing the invoices for Grapevine advertising to be sent out at the beginning of October. An advertisement would be placed in the next Grapevine and a job description and terms and conditions prepared for applicants.

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 9.00pm

18 July	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm
6 September	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.15pm

No PC meeting is scheduled for August.