

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on **Monday 5 October 2020**
7.15 pm, virtually via Zoom

Present.	Mr Will Farr (Chairman) Mrs Moss, Mrs Lake, Mrs Arnold, Mr Greenlay, Mr Hatton and Mr Comber.
In attendance	Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk) County Councillor Mrs Rosemary Powell
Also in attendance.	Mr Keith Fairbrother, Mr Mike Harman and Mr Bob Terry – public observers

Meeting opened at 19.16 hrs

13316 To take any questions or comments from the public: None

13317 Apologies for absence: Mrs Arnold sent apologies as she expected to be late.

Mrs Arnold joined the meeting 19.17 hrs

13318 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None

13319 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020: Proposed by Mr Hatton and seconded by Mrs Arnold.

13320 Reports from Councillors:

- a. Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor
RCC have responded to the Government's White Paper on Planning Reforms. They noted the reforms would increase the number of houses required to be built in the county from c150 pa to c300 pa.
Local issues raised this month have concerned: parking and an archeological survey. Matters still to be resolved include an expected tree-planting scheme and maintenance of the finger-posts.
In response to a question it was confirmed Cottesmore CA site remains closed with no plans to reopen but regular reviews of the decision.

- b. Reports of meetings attended by Parish Councillors. None

Mrs Lake joined the meeting 19.21 hrs no interest to declare

13321 Planning matters

- a. To consider plans received, but not yet determined between 7 September 2020 and 5 October 2020.
 - Listed building Approval: **2020/1097/LBA** 4 Stapleford Rd – increasing height of existing building and reroofing (planning application considered at September meeting). The Parish Council were concerned there should be no overlooking of neighbouring property and wished to stress that there should be no windows on the north elevation of the development. They felt all materials used should match, or be sympathetic with the existing.
 - **2020/0969/FUL** 29 The Nook – single-storey extensions, first floor extension and balcony. (Revised plans). No comments offered.

b. Planning updates received:

- Decision on **2020/1007/NMA** 17 Hall Close- amendment non-material and approved by RCC.
- **2020/0803/FUL** 2 Mill Grove – extension and garage conversion. Permission granted by RCC.

13322 The Banks

a. Feedback from investigations following suggestions for changes:

- Proposal to introduce area of flower meadow, report from Mrs Moss:
To create a sustainable flower meadow would require removing the grass in the area and sowing meadow flower seeds and yellow rattle; to keep the grass-growth weak. Removal of the tough rye grass in the Banks would leave the ground very vulnerable to erosion; this is made-ground with various slopes that is subject to flooding up to 0.5m deep with a vigorous flow multiple times each Autumn, Winter and early Spring. It is the mat of coarse grass roots that holds the ground. A very small area, c 0.5 to 0.75sq m, behind the teen shelter could be managed with meadow flowers. Mrs Moss approached WEG to ask if they would wish to remove the thistles and nettles, sow the flowers and strim/scythe the patch at the end of the growing season. Without management the area would revert after one season. WEG Chairman's view had been to leave consideration to the spring of 2021.
- Proposal to increase seating in the teen-area, update from Clerk
The Clerk has researched the cost of seating. Costs range from £129.99 for a small steel bench, £144 for a form-style plastic bench to £290 for a form-style teak bench. While picnic benches range from £375 to £540 each. Any purchase will also incur costs for assembly, installation and fixing. A site survey has revealed that there is likely to be insufficient space for a picnic bench although a shallow bench may fit in. A survey was included in the October Grapevine to test the wishes of teenage users of the area. At the time of the meeting no responses had been received. The Clerk also advised that no provision had been included in this year's budget for additional seating. The Chairman reported feedback from some residents against more seating. A wide ranging discussion ensued. It was AGREED there is no pressing need and the item should be included in the January agenda so it can be included in the 2021/2 budget if the Parish Councillors wish it.

b. Any other matters arising on the Banks.

- The neighbour who was concerned about logs near their boundary has decided that they will move the logs further into the Banks.
- Cutting of the hedges around the Banks was started in September. It had to be halted due to breakdown of a shredder.
- A brass plaque has been attached to the gate to recognize the Wissendine6ix contribution for the 'Springer'.
- It was AGREED the Clerk should acquire a replacement no-fouling sign and fix it near the vehicle-gate from The Nook.

13323 Highways and village maintenance:

a. Matters for report and to agree any necessary action None

- b. Update on RCC investigation into Parking Controls in village: A position report went to RCC's Highways and Transport Working Group on 15th September. The informal feedback of views to RCC's Parking Manager seemed to be a 50:50 split, for v. against yellow lines. Some respondents held strong but contrary views. To move this issue to a conclusion a survey was put into the October Grapevine, with a dedicated RCC email address; to allow a time limited survey so that the majority view could be

ascertained. Unless there is a strong preference for yellow lines expressed within the October survey it is unlikely the Parking Manager will press RCC to install them. There ensued a broad discussion of the issues. It was AGREED the item should go on the December agenda when the survey results could be reported. The Clerk will invite the Principal of Whissendine Primary School to attend that (virtual) meeting.

13324 Financial Business

- a. To receive financial report for September 2020:
The accounts for September have been reconciled. On 10 September Whissendine6ix granted the Parish Council £877 to cover the cost of purchasing the 'Springer' in the small children's play area. There will be £19155.16 available within the budget if this month's invoices are approved for payment. There are significant expenses for matters already agreed expected before the end of the financial year amounting to c£6000.
- b. To consider invoices received in September & approve payments, as appropriate.
The following were approved:
£1806.25 Rutland County Council for Q1 salary + on costs + payroll admin. + VAT
£ 360.00 Banks maintenance in September
£ 27.14 Brass plaque recognizing Whissendine6ix grant (reclaimed by clerk)
- c. To consider request from Whissendine Sports Club for grant of £660 (principal agreed 6 December 2016 [Minute 12827]). (s137 Local Government Act 1972)
It was noted that £3000 in grant had been approved for legal fees and a structural survey of the Clubhouse. An initial grant of £1137 was given in September 2020 for legal fees to that point. This grant-request is to cover the final payment for legal fees to establish the trust. After this grant this leaves £1197 of the £3000 that has been earmarked. It was AGREED the grant of £660 be made.
- d. To consider request from Whissendine Craft and Produce Show for grant of £150 (s137 Local Government Act 1972).
Due to Covid19 the Annual Craft and Produce Show had to be cancelled for 2020. The schedules had already been produced. This request is to cover the printing costs of schedules for the 2021 show. It was AGREED that a grant of £150 be made.

13325 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda.

- Local Plan: The deadline for submissions has been extended by RCC to Friday 6 November 2020 at 4.15pm. Mrs Moss requested that the consultation feedback agreed in September should be supplemented and it was AGREED the comments should include reference to St Georges Barracks: The basis being 'The inclusion of this very large commuter village renders the draft Local Plan unsound. The basis of the Plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. It has not positively prepared because the inclusion of this site yields more housing than is required by objective assessment. It is not justified as RCC gifted 650 dwellings, that should have been counted within the Rutland allocation, to a neighbouring Authority (South Kesteven); including these homes would have reduced the assessed need. The plan is inconsistent with National Policy in that the St Georges Barracks development is car-dependent which is contrary to the Government's stated aims in relation to climate change and sustainability.' The Clerk will paraphrase.
- Neighbourhood Plan (NP): RCC has accepted the area designation for a Neighbourhood Plan for Whissendine. The Parish Council must now establish a Steering Group with Terms of Reference. Ensure adequate financial resources are available to pursue the process. Arrange an initial (virtual) meeting of the steering group. Prepare a project plan and provide a copy to RCC. Manage the project

according to the plan. Provide 6-monthly updates to RCC and brief the RCC Planning Policy Support Officer prior to finalizing the initial draft plan. The Chairman must sign a service level agreement with RCC once the Parish Council can fulfil these obligations. The Chairman volunteered to lead on this and Mr Greenlay offered to participate. It was AGREED that the Clerk should be furnished with the contact details of those volunteering to develop the NP, she will then set up an initial (Zoom) meeting for November 2020 so that the way forward can be refined. It was also AGREED that this item shall be included on the January 2021 agenda so budgetary provision can be made for 2021/22 to undertake this work.

- Works to the Village Pump: The village pump was repainted in September. The Parish Council wished to record their thanks to a resident for facilitating and paying for this. The Clerk will write to the resident.
- Internal Audit: The person contemplating a role as internal auditor for the Parish Council has discovered that they cannot maintain the degree of separation, due to familial links, to demonstrate the independence they would have wished. They are not going to put their name forward.
- Village Christmas Tree: It was AGREED the Chairman will seek to make arrangements to acquire a tree with the pub landlord.

13326 Correspondence:

18/9 Letter from Stella Law re possible changes to the highway, outside the village- suggestion now withdrawn

25/9 Email from Richard Drabble re his Local Plan s19 response

30/9 Email from Allan Singer re a concern that his earlier email (25/7) was misrepresented in the Minutes of 3 August. It was recorded as expressing disagreement with a WPC decision. Mr Singer would rather the record showed he conveyed 'astonishment and concern'.

30/9 onwards multiple emails from Richard Drabble regarding an ongoing archeological survey

30/9 onwards multiple emails from Robert Terry regarding an ongoing archeological survey

30/9 onwards multiple emails from Mr Hodgett, RCC Planner re: archeological survey

Meeting closed 20.38hrs

Any member of the public may view copies of letters and documents held by the parish council by appointment with the Clerk: whisspcclerk@gmail.com